

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSIONER — COMMENTS — PLANNING LAW

**200. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Planning:**

In an article published in *The Australian Financial Review* on 8 March this year, titled “WA anti-corruption chief cites misconduct risk over new planning laws”, the head of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Mr John McKechnie, is quoted as saying that the minister’s planning law changes have created new risks for misconduct.

- (1) Has the minister discussed Mr McKechnie’s concerns directly with him?
- (2) Does the minister agree with the assessment of Mr McKechnie; and, if not, why not?
- (3) What steps are the minister and government taking to ensure that corruption is not influencing planning decisions?

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for some notice of the question. I actually expected it from the member given that he has peddled wrong information via the *Subiaco Post* to the Western Australian community. I do want to put this on the record because the member said that CEOs of local governments could approve high-density buildings. That is false.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Read your own CIDs.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Would the member like me to answer the question?

**Dr D.J. Honey:** You’re not answering it. You’re on another tangent.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I appreciate the member gets agitated because he is being replaced by the leader of the Property Council of Australia, and he is on his way out, but he has said —

**Dr D.J. Honey:** That does not agitate me. You’re not doing your job.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** You are agitated.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** We know you are being replaced by the leader of the Property Council of Western Australia, who advocated in the complete opposite direction to yourself, and I appreciate that is embarrassing.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Will you answer the question or not?

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** See the agitation. He is very embarrassed. He is out the door, replaced by the properties sector. He is out the door.

Let us be clear that this member has peddled wrong information that fuelled some fears in the western suburbs community. Let us be very clear about our planning reforms. Our planning reforms do not give me, as the Minister for Planning, powers to make decisions on major projects. I want to be very clear. On major projects, through the development assessment panel system, it is either the Western Australian Planning Commission or a development assessment panel where there are planning experts—or in terms of the DAP system, actual community members. That contrasts with the east coast, where planning ministers have far greater powers and direct intervention in improving major projects. There is a very clear difference on the east coast and west coast. I am very proud of our planning reforms, which are about streamlining approvals to get housing supply delivered in Western Australia.