

PERTH AND PEEL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT —  
NATURE POSITIVE — COMMONWEALTH REFORM

**78. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:**

On 22 December 2022, the Minister for Environment announced via media release that the state government would discontinue the strategic assessment of the Perth and Peel regions—SAPPR.

- (1) Did the intention of the federal Labor government to introduce Nature Positive reforms have any bearing on the decision to abandon longstanding and bipartisan attempts to reduce duplication between the state and federal environmental approvals processes?
- (2) Is the abandonment of the SAPPR an acknowledgement that the state has given up on environmental approvals reform?

**Hon DARREN WEST replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1) No.
- (2) Improving environmental approvals systems under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is a key focus of the Cook government. In December last year, the Cook government endorsed a review of the environmental approvals system undertaken by Dr Paul Vogel and Mr David McFerran. The review found that approvals processes have become overly complex, time-consuming and costly, holding back economic development without any benefit to the environment.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**Hon DARREN WEST:** Recommendations made by the review will overhaul the environmental approvals system and unlock billions of dollars of investment into major job-creating projects. The government has commenced implementation of the recommendations, many of which build on existing work.