

LANDGATE — LAND REGISTRATION SYSTEM

827. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to media reports of housing developments being held up by excessive delays of up to 135 days to register land title changes, notwithstanding that the budget shows Landgate's expenses rising 17.8 per cent, or nearly \$19 million last financial year, along with 31 additional staff, and with further funding and staffing increases budgeted.

- (1) What is the minister's understanding of the problems behind these excessive delays?
- (2) Why have the budget and staffing increases failed to improve Landgate's performance?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for his question. It is well on the record that we have an unprecedented level of housing construction and housing approvals. This is well known. In fact, multiple ministers have been on the record about the impact of that accelerated delivery. It has affected all tiers of government—local, state and federal—on a range of approvals. Where we see an acceleration in subdivision and housing approvals, that clearly creates pressure in the system. As the member stated, Landgate has provided additional resources to address this issue and it is working through it as quickly as it can. I will say this: this is why our government is looking across the board at measures and reforms to assist with the acceleration of delivery, whether it is land or housing supply. That is why I am looking forward to the opposition's response on planning reform, given that at the recent roundtable, as stated by the Premier, there was widespread support from small to large builders and developers for our planning reform.

To date, we know that the opposition supports more red tape. I will be very clear: in the most challenging housing environment in Western Australia and Australia, it supports more red tape. In fact, on ABC radio news, the Leader of the Liberal Party clearly did not understand the issue. She was tongue-tied on planning reform and was unable to give a coherent —

Ms L. Mettam: I did give a response.

Mr J.N. CAREY: No, you did not! It was not a coherent answer. That is because you do not have a position. That is because you have no position. That is because you allow the member for Cottesloe to dictate your policy! You are very weak on planning reform. You are missing in action on planning reform. The Leader of the Liberal Party supports more red tape!

During the Aboriginal cultural heritage debate, she talked about private property rights and held them close to her chest. Yet on planning reform, she wants to make it harder for Western Australian families to get approval for single homes. There is a clear line here. The Leader of the Liberal Party supports more red tape for families to build their homes. That is where you stand! You have no understanding or detail on planning! Every time you get on a radio, you shut yourself up with your lack of basic understanding of planning in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Enough.