

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE — HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

279. MR S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Water:

I refer the McGowan Labor government's \$55 million investment in water infrastructure to create new housing opportunities in key transport hubs.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will unlock affordable housing development opportunities across Perth?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this vital infrastructure will connect new housing development to new and existing transport links?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

I particularly thank the member for Forrestfield for this question and for his advocacy on behalf of his community on this matter.

- (1)–(2) When it comes to difficult issues facing communities in this economy, this McGowan Labor government has shown its capacity to deal with practical solutions and to be flexible with those solutions for the immediate need, but also to look further down the track to what will be required in five or 10 years. We know that housing availability is a pressing issue in Western Australia, as it is across the country. We have been focused on finalising existing builds, new approvals, workforce availability and materials availability to ensure that housing needed now is delivered. We are also focused on what will be needed five and 10 years down the track. To that end, in the lead-up to the budget, we have announced a \$55 million investment in the water infrastructure needed to create housing opportunities around key transport hubs in eight to 10 years' time. I announced with the Minister of Transport nine locations, seven around Metronet hubs, for which the \$55 million will enable up-front availability of infill sewerage, water and wastewater infrastructure needed for new developments. That will be for around seven Metronet sites. Interestingly, and importantly for the member for Forrestfield, they will be around two existing sites in Kenwick and Maddington. Those two sites are around key transport links, particularly around train stations. It is really exciting to be part of that announcement. This announcement sends a signal to developers and the community that the sort of infrastructure that is needed below the ground—the under-the-hood infrastructure—will be able to be delivered up-front. In both cases, there will be some cost recovery. In the case of Kenwick and Maddington, it will be about \$5 500 per lot. The full cost of the infrastructure at those two sites could be up to \$90 000 per lot, so there will be significant subsidisation. In the case of the Metronet sites, there will be a developer contribution. That will depend on the amount of infrastructure that is required, but it will be somewhere between \$1 500 and \$2 500 per site for the other seven sites.

It was great to be part of that announcement, which was warmly received by the community. As I said, I particularly want to acknowledge the member for Forrestfield for his advocacy. Do not just take my word for it. I want to quote from the front page story of the *Gosnells Examiner* on this matter. The article is headed "Kenwick flushed with success". It states —

Kenwick residents could be forgiven for thinking they are living in a dream this morning with the State Government announcing yesterday their 28-year sewerage nightmare was finally over.

The article also states —

Kenwick will be included in this \$55 million project and will be the first cab off the rank, with works anticipated to start before the end of the year.

This project delivers the good news by confirming that a budget commitment would be made to connect more than 15 000 new homes to water and wastewater infrastructure.

The article also states —

Gosnells Mayor, Teresa Lynes is a Kenwick resident and said the announcement was fantastic news.

I quote —

"They've listened to the community, and it's a no-brainer, that area is in prime position for development being so close to the train station, it's got high-density zoning," she said.

"It's definitely a commitment that should have been made a long time ago but we are grateful it's now been made.

"The residents are extremely happy, I rang one person from the Kenwick Infill Sewerage Action Group to let them know and they were in tears, they were so happy they didn't need to know where their toilet water was going to go any more."

Simone Perkins is an administrator of the Kenwick Infill Sewerage Action Group Facebook page, and she said she was lost for words when Mr Price informed contacted her to inform her of the decision.

“I couldn’t put it into words, I was overwhelmed and thrilled,” she said.

“There were times we thought this would never happen so to get this outcome is amazing.

I am very glad to be part of a government that is listening to the community and doing cooperative work across agencies and ministers to get good outcomes for the community that means we have housing not only immediately and in the near future, but also in the next eight to 10 years.