

HOUSING — MEDIUM DENSITY — R30 TO R40 ZONES

**569. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:**

I have a supplementary question. Why is it that the minister can hear and immediately act upon developers' concerns, but he has consistently failed to introduce any building standards that protect public amenity?

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

There are two interesting elements here. First of all, our state government has brought in greater design codes—Design WA; in fact, I worked on them personally as parliamentary secretary to the minister at the time. The minister brought in sweeping design changes to improve high-density projects. Any member in this Parliament will tell the member for Cottesloe that was the primary concern of the community. It was introduced at a time when the market was not facing the same cost pressures. Does the member know who welcomed my decision on medium density codes? All of the key people delivering housing, and someone else—Hon Neil Thomson, the Liberal spokesperson for planning! I am very perplexed. Here we have the member for Cottesloe criticising me on this decision, and yet his planning spokesperson absolutely welcomed it on the public record. This is an extraordinary situation—I had that in my back pocket, I was not going to use it in the first part of the response. This is a very clear example of this opposition and its inability to have a basic policy position. The member for Cottesloe criticised my decision to assist with affordable housing, yet the planning spokesperson in the other house welcomed it. They are all over the place. They have no clear position on housing supply in Western Australia. It is very clear that the member for Cottesloe is completely out of step with his own colleague who is responsible for planning in the opposition.