

HOUSING — PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN SITE

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [12.27 pm]: I update the house on the progression of the former Princess Margaret Hospital for Children site. The Cook government is committed to maximising housing supply and infill in key areas, and the development of a new inner-city residential precinct on this site will mark a significant contribution to this goal. Named 1909 in honour of the former children’s hospital’s opening 114 years ago, the precinct will provide approximately 1 000 new apartments and serve as a celebration of the hospital’s history and heritage. The approval of design guidelines for the 1909 precinct marks a crucial milestone in the Subiaco East redevelopment project, bringing us one step closer to creating a connected and vibrant residential community. This development holds great promise, bringing important housing density to one of the state’s most appealing areas nestled close to the CBD, West Perth’s business hub and the vibrant entertainment districts of Subiaco and West Leederville.

In response to community feedback, we have refined the future development sites’ land uses to ensure compatibility with existing nearby premises, such as Perth Modern School. Throughout the demolition works, we have preserved two state heritage-listed buildings, Godfrey House and the Old Outpatients Building, as a testament to the site’s history. These buildings will form a significant part of our celebration of the former Princess Margaret Hospital at 1909. To further honour the hospital’s legacy, we will integrate text, images and artefacts into public spaces and paved areas to acknowledge its notable accomplishments, events and stories. In remembrance of the children and families who have been part of this institution, we will establish a dedicated children’s memorial next to the Old Outpatients Building providing a space for reflection. Upon completion, 1909 will encompass more than 5 500 square metres of public open space enriching the Subiaco community with green areas to enjoy. Although they are not heritage-listed buildings, we have made a conscious decision to retain the boiler house and chimney stack building, and we intend to repurpose the boiler house as part of the integrated public realm works. A public art mural will also be painted on the tall chimney.

We are committed to boosting the supply of housing throughout the state. This incredible precinct, as I said, will facilitate more infill and more apartment developments.