

“ELEMENTS” SUSTAINABLE HOME

228. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

Will the minister advise the house of any state government initiatives to deliver energy and water savings in new housing developments?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for his question and his passionate interest in sustainable housing. Members would be aware that many of the starter castles being built around Perth unfortunately do not deliver great energy and water efficiency results. Indeed, this is an issue that we as a community must come to terms with. We believe that government land development agencies have a role to play in resolving these issues. I am very pleased to say that LandCorp has taken a proactive role by showing industry leadership and de-risking some of the technology for the private sector with the development of the beautiful Elements home. The interesting thing about the Elements home is that it is a project home. Quite often sustainable houses have a somewhat hippy ambience that is not of great appeal.

Ms J.A. Radisich: There is nothing wrong with that!

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Perhaps it appeals to the member for Swan Hills, but to the average punter it does not deliver the aesthetic circumstances with which they want to surround themselves. It is fantastic that we have been able to develop a product that both addresses the aesthetic requirements of the average home buyer and is affordable. I encourage members on both sides of the house to look at this home. I am happy to arrange for members to view the Elements home with LandCorp representatives. I have brochures of the Elements home.

Dr G.I. Gallop: Liberal Party members are not exactly enthusiastic about reading.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: We will take them through it. I know that a couple of members on the other side of the house are interested. I will hand a copy of the brochure to the member for Darling Range.

This home has been designed in conjunction with National Homes, a BGC Pty Ltd company. Once again, the government has shown its desire to embrace all elements of the business community. BGC is a major beneficiary of government contracts and has received a lot of support and encouragement from the government. One element of the Elements home that I want to highlight is that it has been designed in such a way that it can maintain a temperature throughout the entire year of between 18 and 28 degrees Celsius without any artificial heating or cooling. That will deliver to home buyers extraordinary whole-of-lifecycle cost savings. It will also mean great savings for my comrades the Minister for Energy and the Minister Assisting the Minister for Water Resources.

Several opposition members interjected.

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN: Members opposite are a little nervous about the word “comrade”.

Members on both sides of the house who visit Harvest Lakes - I will hand out the brochures - to see what can be done with a bit of thought and intelligence will find it an interesting experience.