

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA — PERTH'S POPULATION

161. Hon CHARLES SMITH to the minister representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to a recent report by Infrastructure Australia forecasting that Perth's population will more than double to 4.4 million by 2046, due largely to high immigration. I assume that Perth will require a commensurate doubling of its stock of infrastructure within less than three decades to accommodate this population growth.

- (1) What steps is the state government taking to finance and build another Perth-worth of infrastructure by 2046?
- (2) Does the state government concede that such rapid population growth risks imposing costs to be borne by incumbent residents, including, but not limited to, greater congestion; overcrowded schools, hospitals and prisons; urban sprawl; loss of amenity; higher housing costs; a faster rate of water and other natural resource depletion; higher public debt levels; and a general decline in living standards?
- (3) If yes to (2), will the state government support One Nation WA's call for a slowdown in immigration-fuelled population growth and the adoption of a long-term population strategy aimed at safeguarding our quality and way of life?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage estimates that approximately 3.5 million people will live in the Perth and Peel regions by 2050. The state government is already working to deliver a significant integrated infrastructure program through a record road program and Metronet.
- (2) The Perth and Peel@3.5 million subregional planning frameworks identify land to provide for future homes, employment and public amenities by making best use of existing and proposed infrastructure.
- (3) Not applicable.