

PLANNING — COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

244. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I thought the minister would go on a bit more about her good work!

In August 2016 in an interview with the ABC, and in December 2016 in a meeting with the Property Council of Australia, the Premier stated that he “would like to see more community consultation in planning decisions”.

- (1) Given the Premier’s apparent concerns in 2016 that there was not enough consultation with communities over planning decisions, why has the Premier changed his mind about the need for more consultation with communities over local planning decisions, as evidenced by his recently announced planning law changes?
- (2) Did the Premier mislead the public in 2016 just to gain electoral support at the 2017 election?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) It is interesting that the Liberal Party is now reverting to things I said in—when was it; August 2016?—as part of the member for Cottesloe’s questioning in March 2023, as though I am supposed to remember what I allegedly said in a meeting in August 2016. I make the point that we will be proceeding with our planning changes, which are designed to ensure that there is more affordable housing and a more diverse array of housing for Western Australians without unnecessary inhibition and without nimbyism taking over. The interesting question is whether the Liberals and the Nationals will back it. Will you support our laws?

Dr D.J. Honey: Show us.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Will you support them?

Dr D.J. Honey: Do you want a blank cheque?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Is the answer yes or no? Do you support the removal of red tape?

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Do you support the removal of red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy or do you not? That is your choice. You are on the side of red tape and bureaucracy or you are on the side of getting things done! It appears from the tone of the member’s question that he is on the side of red tape and bureaucracy. You look and sound like a bureaucrat, member for Cottesloe.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just pause for a moment, please, Premier. Members of the opposition, there is likely to be the opportunity for a supplementary question, if we can get the Premier’s answer to the original question completed without too much more interruption.

Mr M. McGOWAN: You are showing every sign of being a bureaucrat who just revels in red tape and masterful inactivity. That is what the Liberal Party is about these days. We are about getting things done. People can see cranes everywhere around our city because things are happening. We want to see things happen. We want projects to occur. That is why we are making the planning changes. When I went and opened ONE Subiaco last week on the old Subiaco market site, there were 500 people there who were happy. There are going to be 500 or 600 people living there in the midst of restaurants, cafes, pubs, bars and things, creating life and vitality near the city. Who opposed that? The Liberal Party. We are going to see the same thing down at The Grove development. The Liberal Party and its friends at the *Post* seem to have a bit of a set against me and the Minister for Planning. The *Post* actually said that the Minister for Planning is responsible for destroying all the gardens in Nedlands.

Ms R. Saffioti: I have destroyed my own.

Mr M. McGOWAN: We all know she’s a bad gardener, but even that is a stretch!

Under the changes the minister has brought in, there is enhanced consultation. Some of the changes we announced were in relation to development assessment panels, which require local government representation. For some of the bigger developments—the over \$20 million developments—there will be a central process that will involve consultation.