

## **PLANNING LEGISLATION**

### *Statement by Minister for Planning*

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister for Planning) [9.09 am]: A commitment of the coalition Government on its election to office in 1996 was to introduce new planning legislation to consolidate the Town Planning and Development Act 1928, the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act 1959 and the Western Australian Planning Commission Act 1985.

Western Australia has been well served by its planning legislation since the Town Planning and Development Act was proclaimed in 1928. While the legislation has been kept up-to-date through various amendments and the creation of additional Acts to reflect the evolution of planning in this State, it has become necessary to consolidate the separate pieces of legislation into a single Act, rewritten in plain English, with a coherent structure that is easier to comprehend. To effect the consolidation, a legislative advisory group chaired by Hon Richard Lewis, a former Minister for Planning, and including members from a diversity of backgrounds from local government to industry, with knowledge and experience in planning, was formed to recommend minor improvements and refinements to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the planning system.

The group released a public discussion paper in October 1998 outlining a program for the consolidation, and invited comments on the suggested refinements. Extensive consultation was undertaken with state government agencies, local government, industry groups, the public and other relevant bodies, resulting in over 90 submissions. A final report on the submissions was subsequently prepared and publicly released, which forms the basis of the Bills to be tabled in Parliament today.

The Bills will introduce important improvements for local government by streamlining the processes for the review and examination of town planning schemes, introducing consistency and certainty in compensation provisions and improving enforcement measures for planning offences. For industry, improvements to the subdivision approval process will reduce red tape for the approval of leases, extend the appeal period for the determination of subdivision conditions and extend the scope of cost-recovery measures from landowners who benefit from developers who introduce services into a development area at an early stage. Overall, the consolidation of the Acts will simplify the administration of the planning system and, with the associated improvements, streamline approval procedures, which will benefit both the public and private sector through the cost and timeliness of decision making.

Given the extent of adjustments associated with consolidating the Acts, it is considered worthwhile to seek further comment on the Bills in a consolidated form prior to the matter being further considered in Parliament. To meet the coalition's commitment to planning, I commend the Urban and Regional Planning Bill 2000 and the Urban and Regional Planning (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2000 to the House as Green Bills for the purpose of undertaking further consultation for a period of three months.

[See papers Nos 494A and 494B.]