



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Planning**



Our ref: DoP/10/00211/1  
Enquiries: Ben Harvey

Ms Margaret Quirk MLA  
Chair  
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
PERTH 6000 WA

Dear Ms Quirk

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF AN AGEING COMMUNITY**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 September seeking an update on progress towards meeting the planning-related requirements of an age friendly community as set out in the *Seniors Strategic Planning Framework 2012-2017*. Thank you for providing an extended time within which to respond.

The primary aim of planning is to provide for the sustainable use and development of land. Access to essential services and well planned communities are pertinent to the current and future plans of the Department of Planning (DoP). DoP anticipates and responds to the needs of the community as a whole rather than particular groups or elements within the community.

A key aim of planning is to contribute towards more sustainable communities by integrating land use and transport planning and promoting patterns of land use which promote the use of public transport.

The *Seniors Strategic Planning Framework* appropriately acknowledges and supports DoP's key strategies and policy provisions including the aims of *Directions 2031 and beyond* and *Liveable Neighbourhoods*.

### *Directions 2031 and beyond*

*Directions 2031 and beyond* is a high level spatial framework and strategic plan that establishes a vision for future growth of the metropolitan Perth and Peel region.

A key objective of *Directions 2031 and beyond* is to support and enable effective inclusion and participation in the community for all residents by designing accessible and well-connected neighbourhoods. This includes ensuring availability of a variety of housing types within local government areas that will allow people to remain in their communities throughout their life.

Housing diversity targets have been implemented for the Outer Sub-Region comprising: Joondalup, Wanneroo, Kalamunda, Mundaring, Swan, Armadale, Gosnells, Serpentine Jarrahdale, Kwinana, Rockingham and Peel. The accumulative progress is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Housing Diversity Target for the Outer Sub-Region

| BED   | TARGET | CURRENT |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 1 BED | 10%    | 3%      |
| 2 BED | 15-20% | 9%      |
| 3 BED | 30-40% | 35%     |
| 4 BED | 35-40% | 51%     |

(*Directions Annual Report Card*, 2013, page 52).

#### *Liveable Neighbourhoods*

The Western Australian Planning Commission's *Liveable Neighbourhoods* policy advocates an urban structure based on walkable, accessible mixed use neighbourhoods with an interconnected street layout facilitating healthier communities. Greater emphasis is placed on local community needs being accessible by local public transport, walking and cycling rather than over reliance on private motor vehicles. The following design principles benefit seniors:

- Draft Design Principle 2 for Lot Design: Ensure urban form and lot design facilitate safe and convenient access to services, facilities and employment in mixed use "main-street format" activity centres.
- Requirement 2.5 stipulates institutional uses and retirement complexes are to be designed in an efficient urban layout, well connected by streets into the core of centres and to the main public transport services serving the centre. Lot layouts enable buildings to front streets, be multi storey whenever practical, and allow parking behind building (E7/R46-47).
- Draft Design Principle 2: Movement Network: Create safe and efficient walkable communities that encourage the use of public transport and active travel for pedestrians and cyclists
- Requirement 2.1 Provide a safe, convenient, permeable and legible pedestrian and bicycle network provided for all users (R38)
- Requirement 3.5 stipulates pram/wheelchair crossing be provided at all intersections with a maximum grade of 1:10 (R32)
- Well located, connected open space positively encourages a healthy lifestyle, contributing to the health and wellbeing of the community and

approval is required for single houses. It is anticipated that these changes will provide more housing choice and diversity to suit the needs of our population.

DoP recognises the ability of the *Seniors Strategic Planning Framework* and the Senior Officers Group to focus attention on the needs of seniors, in particular the need to provide a range of housing types and guiding the monitoring of the policy implications of our ageing community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Gail McGowan  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

28 / 10 / 2014