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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL Question On Notice

Thursday, 16 April 2020

2925. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Environment representing the Minister for Planning

I refer to the historic Pilbara town of Cossack, the 2017 WA Labor document 'Plan for the Pilbara', and the City of Karratha's Local Planning Scheme No. 8, Amendment No. 44, relating to developments in the town, and I ask:

- (a) can the Minister please advise what progress, in a general sense, has been made in revitalising the town:
- (i) specifically in relation to the lands' designation with a view to development; and
 - (ii) specifically in relation to the ability of landholders to develop their freehold properties;
- (b) would the Minister give reason as to why the Planning Scheme Amendment, by the City of Karratha, allowing development and investment opportunity at Cossack, was rejected by Government:
- (i) if no to (b), why not; and
 - (ii) can the Minister confirm that the proposed amendment was sound in regard to administrative procedures and environmental considerations;
- (c) at present, can Cossack landowners apply to construct small-scale, temporary facilities such as caravan parks and campsites:
- (i) if no to (c), does the Government intend to permit such developments in the future;
 - (d) does the Minister consider the restrictions on development to represent an opportunity-cost for persons who invested in land in Cossack;
- (e) would the Minister give comment on the Government's plan for Cossack town, in regards to recreational, tourism, or heritage opportunities; and
- (f) has the Department liaised with local Indigenous representatives to discuss the future of Cossack:
- (i) if yes to (f), which group or persons did the Department contact; and
 - (ii) if yes to (f), can the Minister advise of the outcomes?

Answer

- (a) (i)-(ii) Development in Cossack needs to be in accordance with the local planning scheme, which includes requirements for connection to reticulated power, water and sewer, and to address relevant state planning policies.
- (b) The amendment did not demonstrate that certain factors such as coastal hazards, protection of environmental and heritage values, servicing requirements and bushfire risk could be adequately managed in accordance with state planning policies.
- (i) Not applicable
- (ii) This amendment was correctly administered, and the Minister for Planning took into account environmental considerations in determining the amendment.



(c) Yes. Any development application would need to address, and be assessed against, the requirements of the local planning scheme, and relevant state planning policies and applicable legislation.

(i) Not applicable

(d) No

(e) The State Government continues to work closely with the City of Karratha to progress future planning and use of the township.

(f) No

(i)-(ii) Not applicable.
