



Speech by

## Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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### ECONOMIC AND POPULATION GROWTH

**Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (10.16 pm): It may surprise some members of this House, but Queensland is not the only state in the federation experiencing substantial economic and population growth. Western Australia is also in the midst of substantial growth following the economic boom in that state on the back of the resources sector.

Last week in my role as parliamentary secretary to the minister for planning I led a delegation of some 32 mayors, senior councillors, CEOs and head town planners from 10 councils in a visit to Perth and surrounds to examine how they are handling that rapid growth. We also had the opportunity to spend a day in Sydney examining a number of greenfield and brownfield sites to look at how we build communities for the future. Participants in this trip had the opportunity to see firsthand some of the urban planning success stories of the past 10 years. These included the New Rouse Hill in Sydney, where we saw a shopping centre with an ecological footprint of at least 25 per cent less than a normal big box retail outlet. It was designed to bring back a 'main street' integrated with the local community.

**Ms Stone** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I take that interjection from the member for Springwood. It is indeed a fantastic centre and is well designed. We also visited Vale in Perth's Swan Valley, a master planned community that will be home to 15,000 residents when completed in 2014 and a multi-award winner for its environmental excellence. Finally, we also visited Subi Centro at Subiaco, a nationally recognised transit oriented development in Perth.

In all, the delegation visited 10 different greenfield and transport oriented development sites and met with developers, planners and government officials. Both state and local government realise the challenges of growth facing Queensland and that they are issues that we have to tackle together. Given that no one level of government can adequately address these issues on its own, as I discussed with the mayors and councillors who were with me, I welcome the fact that we once again have a federal government that is interested in cities and urban environments. We must work together. That is why the state has a strong Integrated Planning Act that gives councils the power to implement and enforce a planning scheme that has teeth. That is why we are doing the population projections and regional planning that will help us manage a growing state.

As elected officials, we need to lead the way in providing sustainable development and infrastructure that supports growing communities. I would particularly like to thank the mayors who took time out of their very busy schedules to join the trip. I thank Mayor Melva Hobson of Redland City Council, Mayor Allan Sutherland of Moreton Bay Regional Council and also Mayor Pam Parker of Logan City Council. There were very senior people from a range of councils across south-east Queensland and also councils in the north such as Mackay, Townsville and Cairns Regional Council.

Time expired.