

Question on Notice

No. 779

Asked on 14 June 2023

DR M ROBINSON asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to housing stress and the urgent need to free up land—
Will the Deputy Premier advise (a) the costs of engaging planning consultants over the last five years (reported separately by year) and (b) if the process can be simplified and expedited so that additional funding can be channelled directly into housing infrastructure?

ANSWER:

- a) The term "planning consultant" is a broad term that encompasses various professionals who provide planning-related services. There is no universally recognised licensing or certification specifically for planning consultants. As the specific professionals or services being referred to are unknown costs cannot be isolated and reported on over the last five financial years.
- b) The Queensland Government is progressing actions from the 2022 Queensland Housing Summit which employ various strategies to free up land for housing development, including:
 1. Land use planning: Through the review of the South East Queensland regional plan, the Queensland Government is ensuring that land and housing supply settings are responsive to current growth and facilitating accelerated housing delivery. This includes underutilised land in the South East Queensland urban footprint.
 2. Repurposing surplus government-owned land: An audit of government properties has been undertaken by the Queensland Government to identify underutilised assets suitable for residential development.
 3. Catalytic infrastructure funding: The \$150 million Catalyst Infrastructure Fund and \$50 million Growth Acceleration Fund provide financial support for essential infrastructure, such as water and sewer systems, to unlock land for residential development.
 4. Streamlined approvals: Priority Development Areas (PDAs) facilitate efficient residential development with streamlined plan making and development assessment processes. PDAs offer shorter timeframes and fewer statutory steps. Additionally, the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) pathway enables

community housing providers and State-funded programs to develop social and affordable housing.

Local governments can also contribute to freeing up land for housing development by rezoning underutilised land, relaxing density restrictions, and conducting planning studies to evaluate housing demand and identify opportunities and challenges for residential development. The Queensland Government stepped in to develop a housing supply and diversity strategy for Redland City following the council's inability to update its outdated strategy over many years.

The Queensland Government funded the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) in preparing local housing action plans for their 22 member councils and has provided funding to the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to develop 38 local housing action plans in collaboration with local governments across Queensland.