



Private Property Rights & Resources

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<p style="text-align: center;">WA PLANNING COMMISSION</p> <p>The WA Planning Commission has released three planning strategies for future development in WA. The Property Rights Committee met with Cath Meaghan from the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) to discuss the strategies proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy (2) State Planning Policy (SPP) 2.5; and (3) Development Control Policy 3.4. <p>The Committee has noted that there had been eight (8) changes in the policies for public comment since their release in 2008. Our previous objections raised with the Department have been mostly ignored in the latest document. We believe that the latest changes mostly add constraints and tighten the criteria for subdivision and boundary adjustments. Government intervention will hamper regional development and have a negative effect on our members and their businesses.</p> <p>The Committee has written to Minister John Day expressing our concerns regarding the Wheatbelt Land Use Strategy and urging him to scrap the introduction of the proposed policy.</p> <p>The draft reports can be viewed on the Planning WA website at www.planning.wa.gov.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS</p> <p>The Parliament has introduced new legislative provisions for the introduction of Development Assessment Panels in WA.</p> <p>These are panels comprising of a mix of technical and Local Government representatives with the power to determine applications for development approvals of more than \$15M in the city of Perth and \$7M across the rest of the State. In addition, applicants will have the option for panel determination for applications between \$10M and \$15M in the City of Perth, and \$3M to \$7M across the rest of the State.</p> <p>Development Assessment panels are operating in SA, NSW and Victoria. The Minister has recently announced the appointment of 27 specialist members to 15 development panels across WA which will come into effect from July 2011.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Land Clearing</p> <p>At a meeting with the Environmental Minister Bill Marmion on 29th March the PGA requested information on the total number of clearing applications received by DEC and the resultant outcomes. The data received provided information and numbers of applications received for clearing permits in the agricultural regions since 1986. The figures indicated that there was a total of 188,000 hectares cleared between 1986 until 1991.</p>	<p>Following the announcement in 1995 by Monty House of the Government's intention to protect remnant vegetation on private land in WA the amount of hectares cleared has been below 1000 hectares per year.</p> <p>Since 2004 until 2010 (6 years) there has been a total of 518 applications for permits to clear of which 114 were withdrawn or declined and 301 have been successful (75%). It is worth noting that there have been 32 appeals against the granting of a permit to clear by DEC of which 17 have been successful. (54%).</p> <p>Average area of Vegetation cleared per application since 2004 was 11 ha..</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD NOMINATIONS</p> <p>The State Government is calling for nominations to recognise the efforts of West Australians who care for and preserve the natural environment. PGA is aware that many of our members have made a valuable contribution in protecting the natural environment on their properties and we would encourage those members to apply.</p> <p>Entry is Free. The 2011 awards nomination period closes on Friday, July 29. Entry forms and further information can be found at DEC's website: www.dec.wa.gov.au or contact Zak at PGA on 9479 4599.</p> <p>Meetings Executive – Thursday 14 July. Western Graingrowers: 24th June</p>
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