

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Good afternoon Commission Members and members of the public.

I am David Caddy, Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission.

In opening today's meeting, I wish to make a brief statement.

This meeting of the Commission is to determine an application considered a **significant development** under Part 17 of the *Planning & Development Act*.

Part 17 granted the Commission temporary decision-making powers to determine proposals that can generate investment in the State to assist with economic recovery as we respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Whilst Part 17 of the legislation bestows upon the Commission a perceived unlimited level of discretion, the reality is that the discretion must be exercised responsibly.

Under the Act, the Commission must have **due regard** for:

- the purpose and intent of the local planning scheme and local planning policies;
- the need to ensure orderly and proper planning, and the preservation of the amenity of a locality;
- the need to facilitate development in response to the economic effects of COVID-19; and
- any relevant Region Planning Schemes, State planning policies, and any other relevant WAPC policies.

As with any planning application, we have the option to:

- approve the application, subject to conditions;
- approve the application, subject to minor modifications and conditions;
- defer determination pending further information; or
- refuse the application.

This is a considerable responsibility which the Commission takes very seriously.

I wish to advise observers that Commission members may refer to technical devices, such as phones and laptops, throughout the meeting to assist them in considering the information before them.

This meeting is not being recorded and I advise all participants that you are not permitted to use any electronic, visual or audio recording device or instrument to record this meeting.

On behalf of the Commission, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will respond to any media enquiries relating to the assessment and determination of this application, or the process, in consultation with the Minister for Planning's office.



In opening the meeting, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, and I pay our respects to elders past and present, and extend solidarity and hope for a just and dignified future for us all of us.