

Media Statement

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Position statement provides clarity to decision makers on MRS exemptions

The Western Australian Planning Commission has released a position statement to provide greater clarity on exemptions under local planning schemes and approvals under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS).

The statement follows the Commission's review of the recent decision by the State Administrative Tribunal in relation to the ongoing matter between the City of Joondalup and Shalom House.

The *Position Statement: Exemptions under local planning schemes and approvals under the Metropolitan Region Scheme* will help local governments in their determination if development approval is required under the MRS for a proposal that does not need approval under their local planning scheme.

The MRS defines how land in the Perth metropolitan region can be used by dividing it into broad zones and reservations.

Region planning schemes and local planning schemes play different roles in the State's planning system – region schemes, such as the MRS, address matters of State or regional importance, whereas local schemes provide the detail about what land can be used for in specific local government areas.

The decision or position statement does not impact the Peel and Greater Bunbury Region Schemes as most developments are already exempt from the need for approval under the relevant region scheme.

Local government is encouraged to contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage if they have any specific queries related to the position statement on 6551 8002. The statement can be found at wa.gov.au/MRSpositionstatement.

Comments from the Western Australian Planning Commission Chairman David Caddy:

"The Commission has considered the SAT decision and released this position statement to provide clarity to decision makers while the State Government progresses a number of proposed amendments to the MRS."

"The proposed amendments to the MRS, will remove any doubt as to when approval under the MRS is required."

"The MRS was drafted in 1963 and has not had any wholesale text updates or rewrites since this time. The proposed amendments will bring the MRS into line with the Peel and Greater Bunbury Region Schemes and ensure it reflects the current planning system."

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“The Commission noted that much of the development that is exempt under a local planning scheme is unlikely to meet the threshold for development approval under the MRS – meaning the development is unlikely to be of state or regional significance.”

“For example, patios, pergolas, cubbyhouses, swimming pools and home renovations are connected to a single house under a local planning scheme and will usually not require approval under the MRS.”

“Until the MRS amendments come into effect, I encourage local governments and decision-makers to continue to use common sense when considering proposals and whether they meet the requirements for consideration under the MRS. If you have a question about a specific scenario, please contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.”

“The Commission will continue to monitor the on-going proceedings before SAT between the City of Joondalup and Shalom House.”

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