



WESTERN AUSTRALIA PARTY

CHARLES SMITH MLC

MEMBER FOR EAST METRO

Putting Western Australians First

MEDIA RELEASE

Smith rejects planning Bill and developer takeover of WA

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Upper House Western Australia Party MP Charles Smith rejected the Planning and Development Amendment Bill 2020 in Parliament today, stating the move is an attempt to grant developers unprecedented power at the expense of residents and local government.

The Bill looks to streamline planning approvals by removing local government planning approvals and public consultation, handing power to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC).

The Eastern Metropolitan MP says the Bill is concerning and stated the major parties have removed local democratic processes so developers can get the go-ahead with projects valued at over \$30 million, using COVID-19 as the red-herring.

“I find it very concerning that the Premier can defer planning decisions to an unelected institution such as the WAPC, which has very strong links with Satterley property developments.

“Additionally, the Bill gives enormous power to the Minister for Planning, essentially removing local democracy that would address issues such as traffic, local amenity, environment and adequate infrastructure,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the Bill is an assault on federalism, whereby power is divided into local, state and federal levels of governing which avoids centralised Soviet-style power blocs.

“It is also worthy to note in Western Australia there are no third party appeals processes for affected people; only developers.

“Essentially the voices of locals are being drowned out by a bureaucratic take over.”

Mr Smith said he will introduce an amendment to give third party appeals for affected residents and says the power of unelected institutions such as WAPC needs serious introspection.

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