



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Issue date: Thursday, 12 April 2018

Sprawl costs taxpayers

The City of Fremantle has called for the hidden costs of fringe urban development to be made explicit in its submission to the [House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) inquiry into the development of cities.

The City claimed that it costs the Western Australian Government, '\$150 000 to provide infrastructure for every new lot in outer developments [in Perth] against \$55 000 for infill development'.

"By extension WA taxpayers are paying \$94.5 million for every 1 000 homes built on the fringe of Perth. A return to a 60 per cent density target (from the current 47 per cent - the lowest in Australia) would save WA \$23 billion to 2050 which is enough for nine new Fiona Stanley hospitals, or the entire MAX light rail project 12 times over," the City of Fremantle said.

"A 100 per cent infill target, focussing our entire growth in areas already earmarked for development, would save \$30 billion to 2050."

Committee Chair, [Mr John Alexander OAM MP](#) said that despite the benefits of a more compact urban form being well recognised by governments at all levels, low density development at the fringes of existing communities continues to occur around the country.

"The Committee is very focussed on uncovering the barriers to a more compact urban form and effective solutions," Mr Alexander said.

"A business as usual approach to urban development will not resolve significant issues such as traffic congestion and spatial inequality. It is simply not good enough."

Public hearing details: 9.00 am – 2.00 pm, Friday, 13 April 2018, committee room two, Legislative Council Committee Offices, 18-32 Parliament Place, Perth

9.00 am: [Government of Western Australia](#)

9.40 am: [City of Fremantle](#)

10.40 am [Curtin University of Sustainability Policy Institute](#)

11.20 am: [Sustainable Transport Coalition of Western Australia](#)

12.40 pm: [Mr Jon Strachan and Ms Cathy Hall](#)

1.20 pm: City of Perth

2.00 pm: *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live



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Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the [Committee website](#).

Media enquiries:

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For background:

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the inquiry via the Committee's [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.