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To: Karel Eringa
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Shelter WA Housing News: 25 August 2004

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1. Media Release: Strong Community Support for Managing Urban Sprawl

Claims in the West Australian this morning that a new plan to manage urban sprawl in the Perth metropolitan area would be achieved only by "building on public open space and demolishing community amenities" are inaccurate and overblown, says Nicole Hodgson, Coordinator of the WA Collaboration and Karel Eringa, Executive Officer of Shelter WA. The claim by the City of Wanneroo that "the plan would push land prices within [Wanneroo] to Sydney levels" is overly simplistic, as there are many factors that contribute to housing affordability, with land availability being just one of them.

Go to www.shelterwa.org.au (housing news) to read the full media release by the WA Collaboration and Shelter WA.

2. News: Greg Joyce to Retire

Greg Joyce, the Director General of the Department of Housing and Works, has announced he will be retiring on the 28th of January 2005 (his birthday). Greg joined Homeswest in 1973 and was appointed Executive Director in 1992. He is one of the most senior and respected bureaucrats in Western Australia and will be missed by those within the Department and many in the community sector.

3. News In Brief

- The 2004 National Reconciliation Forum will be held in Kalgoorlie from Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 September 2004. The Forum will consider "the issue of fringe dweller and itinerant people and how the challenges that presents can be addressed with long term solutions to the betterment of all parties". Go to www.reconciliation.biz for more information about the Forum.
- The Premier has announced that an extra \$1million has been allocated this financial year to help build new houses to attract key staff and professionals to regional communities in the form of a subsidy of up to \$50,000 per dwelling. The subsidy will be available to regional local governments and eligible community organisations and priority will be given to projects in high need areas - such as those with significant indigenous communities and those with rapidly growing populations. The Premier highlighted that housing "is often critical in enabling people in these communities to have access to essential services." Go to www.dhw.wa.gov.au/news/news_mr_auto.cfm?item=446 for the full announcement.
- The Premier has also announced reforms as part of the State Government's commitment to implement legal and practical strategies to address racism. A "Racial and Religious Vilification Consultation Paper", has been developed as Government is keen to get community feedback on this issue. The Premier said that it was important for the community to provide feedback on the legislative options to

ensure that the option most suitable to the needs of Western Australians is incorporated in legislation. Go to www.equalopportunity.wa.gov.au/content-news.shtml to download the consultation paper.

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