



Shelter WA

PROMOTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SHELTER WA SUBMISSION TO THE FREO ALTERNATIVE – STAGE TWO

Ref: 218/069 SA001.5 – Shaun Bruere

To: Chief Executive Officer of the City of Fremantle

State how your interests are affected: Other – Social service organisation

Submission response: Shelter WA supports this initiative.

Shelter WA welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on 'The Freo Alternative – Stage Two' by the City of Fremantle. Shelter WA is an independent peak body for social and affordable housing in Western Australia, also working towards ending homelessness in our State. Shelter WA is a trusted leader and expert in social and affordable housing and homelessness issues committed to enabling greater housing accessibility, affordability, choice and stability for all Western Australians.

Overall, Shelter WA is supportive of the 'Freo Alternative' scheme amendment as it demonstrates a planning change that will encourage new and diverse housing in the City of Fremantle. It also has the potential to improve overall affordability in the area. New housing developed through this initiative can assist in meeting the diverse needs of a range of households. This need for more diversity across Perth was clearly identified in research undertaken by Department of Communities (Housing), REIWA and Shelter WA in 2017, which showed that more than 70% of the metropolitan housing stock available had three or more bedrooms.

Shelter WA is also supportive of the way in which the City of Fremantle has undertaken the community engagement process for this initiative, and believes this has led to a more robust planning scheme amendment. As part of this engagement, Shelter WA co-hosted a forum with the City of Fremantle, the Planning Institute of Australia and the Property Council. This event revealed the interest and support that this initiative had, including a verbal endorsement by Eric Lumsden, the outgoing Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission. This project demonstrated a comprehensive engagement process with the local community, seemingly built on a commitment by the City of Fremantle to actively take on feedback and make changes when favourable suggestions were made.

Overall, Shelter WA believes that this is a great local government led initiative that identifies and responds to local housing need. Shelter WA has and will continue to encourage local governments to consider planning scheme and policy changes that encourage greater affordability and diversity of housing stock, to meet demographical needs.

If you have any queries in relation to this submission, please email us at shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au or call on 9325 6660.

King regards,

Eric Dillon
Interim Chief Executive Officer.