

Land releases to be expedited

NATIONAL Party WA president and Mining and Pastoral MLC Wendy Duncan was in Hedland last week for a meeting with representatives from the Town of Port Hedland, the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, FMG and BHP in the offices of the Pilbara Development Corporation.

The hour-long meeting focused on development issues in Hedland, and Ms Duncan said Town of Port Hedland chief executive Chris Adams put forward several proposals on how government could help Hedland overcome some of the barriers currently constricting development in the town. "There's no doubt that housing is on



Deputy Mayor Arnold Carter, PHCCI president and ToPH councillor Bill Dziombak, FMG's Tony Swierczuk, Town of Port Hedland chief executive Chris Adams, PDC chief executive Stephen Webster, BHPB's Patrik Melberg, National Party WA president Wendy Duncan, ToPH Mayor Kelly Howlett and UDLA architect Anna Duncan

top of the list and something we need to knuckle down on and sort out as quickly as possible," Ms Duncan said.

"The issue as Mr Adams presented it is that there is land available for development.

"The council has gone to great lengths to do an audit of all available vacant land and they've identified upfront 40 lots they think can be brought on to the market very quickly and have passed that information on to my counterpart Brendon Grylls.

"My job is to now go back to Perth and follow that through.

"There's no doubt that the incredible growth happening in the entire Pilbara has put incredible pressure on the resources of the State Lands Department, so the council and the PDC came up with some really good suggestions as to how to deal with that."

One of the suggestions was that a State Lands Department officer should be stationed in Hedland to deal exclusively with land releases in Hedland, an idea that Ms Duncan said

had great potential to ease constraints on land release.

"They suggested that and it certainly has great potential.

"They also suggested that while there are extreme pressures on Pilbara towns, we should adopt a redevelopment authority model that has been used with great success in other areas of WA, where all agencies come together to work in a coordinated fashion to get things done.

"I certainly think that [this idea] has merit."