



Blitz on red tape

THE DEPARTMENT of Industry and Resources (DOIR) and the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (DOCEP) will be restructured in a move that Premier Colin Barnett hopes will help speed up the State's approvals process for mining developments.

The Liberal party committed to creating a specialist department for the mining and petroleum industry at the election.

"The previous structure of DOIR and DOCEP was confused and the confusion was felt by industry and business," Mr Barnett said.

DOIR and DOCEP will be reconstituted as the Department of Mines and Petroleum, Department of State Development and Department of Commerce. The changes are expected to be in place early next year.

Local Upper House MP Brian Ellis, who has been championing the need for parallel approvals processing through 2007-08, welcomed the announcement.