

Canning welcomes Govt department move

THE City of Canning has welcomed the move of Department of Commerce offices to Cannington.

Canning Commissioner Linton Reynolds said the move would stimulate the local economy and bring new retail and commercial business to the City.

“The City has been planning to implement a range of initiatives for the rejuvenation of the Canning City Centre that over the long term will improve the viability and attractiveness of the area,” Mr Reynolds said.

The Department of Commerce will relocate to existing government offices next to the Cannington train station.

The department was initially going to move to the City of Stirling CBD. However, Finance Minister Dean Nalder said part of the Department of Transport would relocate to the City of Stirling during 2014.

“The relocation of the Department of Commerce to Stirling was carefully considered,” Mr Nalder said.

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“A business case was completed to determine the most value-for-money option for new office accommodation for the Department of Commerce.

“What we found is that over the past year, there have been significant changes in the Perth property market and the State’s financial position, which has impacted on the operational requirements of government.”

Mr Nalder said the successful decommissioning of the Office of Shared Services had also freed up considerable space outside of the CBD.

“(This) has allowed Commerce to relocate to space available within Government’s existing property portfolio, rather than the government taking on additional accommodation space,” he said.

Mr Nalder said a small portion of the Department of Commerce would remain in the CBD, but would be relocated to existing space in Gordon Stephenson House.

The relocation is expected to happen later this year, avoiding costs of about \$44m over 10 years.