

ACCOMMODATION HOSTELS, RELOCATION

1009. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth:

I refer to the minister's media statement released on 5 July 2001 under the heading "Plans for relocation of accommodation hostels announced".

- (1) Will the minister reaffirm her previously announced decisions that -
 - (a) "... Tudor Lodge and Bedford Hostel will be re-located within the existing local government areas as soon as suitable alternative sites can be found"; and
 - (b) "... I want the project completed in 18 to 24 months"?
- (2) Have alternative sites been identified and evaluated; and, if so, where are the alternative sites located?
- (3) If there has been no decision on preferred sites, when will the decision be made?
- (4) Does the minister expect to have replacements for Tudor Lodge and Bedford Hostel operational by August 2003?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)(a)-(b) The minister announced on 5 July 2001 that "I have decided Tudor Lodge and Bedford Hostel will be re-located within the existing local government areas as soon as suitable alternative sites can be found." I have been advised that a project of this kind could take up to three years, including identifying a site, gaining planning approvals, construction and relocation. Although I have told the department that I want the project completed in 18 to 24 months, this will be achievable only with the active cooperation of local government and the community in assisting us to locate and approve appropriate sites. Additional sites in other locations are also being considered with a view to long-term planning.
- (2) A number of sites have been examined, but no decision has been made on location of an alternative site.
- (3) When suitable alternatives have been identified.
- (4) See (1)(a) and (b).