

BASSENDAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Petition

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [12.01 pm]: I have a petition from 344 petitioners regarding the destruction of the school oval at Bassendean Primary School. The petition has been certified as meeting the standing orders and it reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We, the undersigned, say

In the 1970's there were six houses on the Bassendean Primary School oval we know today. The houses were purchased and demolished between 1971 and 1973 to add a sports oval to the school to make sure that students had enough play space. The parent group at the time raised a significant amount of money for reticulation for the oval and lobbied the State Government to make sure that water was turned on to the reticulation in January 1974.

Sadly, the expansion of the administration building of the school has put this community space in jeopardy to create a carpark. With smaller and smaller backyards in our suburbs open play space like the school oval have become more important, not less and we should be making sure that this precious space is preserved for the purpose for which it was created in the early 1970's.

Research shows that increased contact with the natural environment is associated with positive outcomes in children's health, behaviour and learning. Students at Bassendean use the oval to play together, play sport and as a community we use the oval to recreate after school and on the weekends. It's important that we maintain this natural play space for our children, and for their children too.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to cease construction on the carpark, restore the oval, and work with staff, parents, students and the wider community to find a solution that preserves our play space.

[See petition 277.]