

EAST PERTH POWER STATION

415. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Thank you, Premier. Given that the Premier said it has been 42 years, can he advise when the sale is due to be completed and construction will begin?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The issues are being worked through. There have been some issues, obviously, because it is a difficult site. We have been working on it for five years now to get to a conclusion. I have indicated to the agencies involved that I want to get to a conclusion as soon as possible so that work on the remediation of the site in particular and the redevelopment of the power station can occur as soon as possible. The relevant agencies have been advised of that. I understand that they are working with the proponents to get to that position. Once it is done—it may well take years to get to completion—that site will be marvellous. It will be an adornment to the city. It will be a bit like when going to the heart of the world's great cities. People will be attracted to it and will want to experience and enjoy it. That will be a good thing. It is often quite incredible how appealing and attractive old buildings like that are when they are redone, particularly as it is on the river with access for cyclists and pedestrians and what have you, into a part of Perth that has been neglected. I personally think that is a good project, particularly as a state government investment, because it will enliven around 10 times the investment in private sector development. The value of the private sector development is around 10 times the state government's investment. That is not a bad thing. It is a relatively good investment for a state government to get that level of activity from building and construction and then accommodation and public access for its investment. Personally, I think that is a good investment. If the Leader of the Opposition has a different view, she should say so.