

HILLVIEW HOSPITAL SITE, FUTURE USE

313. Mr J.P.D. Edwards to the Minister representing the Minister for Housing and Works

In relation to the Government's intentions for the future of Hillview Hospital, and noting the Labor Party's election commitment to heritage as stated in its Heritage Policy, I refer to the summary of key findings for the future of Hillview on page 21 of the Report of Stakeholder Consultation conducted for the Department of Housing and Works and ask -

- (a) does the Minister recognise that the number one key finding was 'the retention and protection of the heritage of the site as an entity';
- (b) does the Minister recognise that the entire site, being entered on the State Heritage Register, is protected under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990;
- (c) does the Minister recognise that the Town of Victoria Park resolved that 'Subdivision and/or development of parts of the Edward Millen [Hillview Hospital] site for residential purposes is not appropriate given the historic and townscape qualities of the Edward Millen site. Public or community uses and development should be considered which would retain public access to the whole of the site'; and
- (d) given that the report states 'The community supports the retention of the site as a single entity, jointly funded and managed by residents, special interest groups, community based service organisations, Local and State Government agencies', and in light of answers to (a), (b) and (c), what are the Government's intentions for the future of this State heritage asset?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a) I recognise that 'the retention and protection of the heritage of the site as an entity' was the first listed of the key findings. It needs to be read in the context of all 13 key findings.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) I recognise that the Town of Victoria Park has adopted such a resolution. This occurred in August 2001, prior to the consultation process which was conducted by the Department of Housing and Works (DHW) early this year. There have been subsequent discussions between the DHW and the Council and its officers. In the context of the Government's objectives for the site, which were supported by community interests through the consultation process, the circumstances have changed and there is now an expectation that DHW will put a proposal to Council for its further consideration.
- (d) The Government's intentions for the site were expressed in the objectives which were stated at the commencement of the consultation process. These included:
 - 1 to develop the site in a manner which offsets the cost of conserving the heritage buildings, ie a cost neutral outcome ;
 - 2 to integrate development in harmony with the heritage and community values of the site; and
 - 3 to ensure community access to parts of the site.

In keeping with the key findings of the Report of Stakeholder Consultation the DHW has now prepared a Business Plan which assesses how well each of the options which were derived from the consultation process meet the Government's objectives. The Business Plan involved further discussions with key stakeholder representatives and considered matters such as financial viability, heritage values, community opinion and site accessibility. It is the Government's intention to communicate the findings of the Business Plan to the stakeholders over the forthcoming months as a basis for resolving the future use and management of the site.