

PLANNING APPEALS AND SCHEME AMENDMENTS, NUMBER TO BE DETERMINED

**218. Mrs C.L. EDWARDES to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

- (1) How many ministerial planning appeals and scheme amendments currently remain to be determined?
- (2) How many planning appeals referred to in (1) have completed the assessment process by the appeals committee and are awaiting the minister's determination?
- (3) How many planning appeals referred to in (1) are in the process of being assessed and of those, will the assessment process continue and will the minister still decide those planning appeals?
- (4) How many planning appeals referred to in (1) have not yet started the assessment process, and of those, how many have been received since 24 September 2002?
- (5) How many planning appeals referred to in (1) will be sent to the Planning Appeals Tribunal and by what date will the new Planning Appeals Tribunal commence its work?
- (6) How many planning appeals with the existing Planning Appeals Tribunal remain undetermined?

**Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) When I took office 370 appeals were outstanding. There are now only 139 appeals. There are currently in the order of 500 scheme amendments in various stages of progress. Some amendments have just commenced being advertised and others are ready to be finalised.
- (2)-(4) Of the 139 outstanding ministerial appeals, 56 have been assessed and are awaiting determination; and 34 are in the process of being assessed by the town planning appeals committee. I will continue to decide those appeals until the Planning Appeals Amendment Act has been proclaimed. I will then decide how many of those undetermined appeals will be divided between me and the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, depending on the capacity of the tribunal to take on that work. Assessments have not yet commenced of 49 appeals, seven of which were received after 24 September 2002, whatever the significance of that date is.

Mrs C.L. Edwardes: It is the date of royal assent.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: My intention is that all 49 appeals will be sent off to the tribunal.

- (5) As I have stated, the ministerial appeal process will continue until at least such time as the new Planning Appeals Amendment Act has been proclaimed. I find the Opposition's questions on this somewhat hypocritical, given that the intransigence of the Opposition in the upper House, not in this Chamber, saw the introduction of this tribunal delayed by approximately one year. We hope that the new tribunal will be up and running at the latest in January 2003.
- (6) Around 103 undetermined planning appeals are before the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal.