

WEST COAST COLLEGE OF TAFE, CARINE CAMPUS, CLOSURE

238. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Carine Campus of TAFE site is to be closed and sold?
- (2) Has the Minister directed or has the EPA conducted an assessment of the bushland vegetation on the Carine Campus site?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If an assessment has not yet been conducted, when will it be carried out?
- (5) What percentage of the Carine Campus site is natural vegetation and what percentage is regrowth (more than three years old)?
- (6) What restrictions are in-place, or will be put in-place, regarding the clearing of bushland on the Carine Campus site?
- (7) Have there been any consultations with local residents regarding the bushland vegetation on the Carine Campus site?
- (8) As the Carine Campus site is surplus to Government needs, does the bushland vegetation now come under the Bush Forever program?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes. Cabinet considered a range of recommendations relating to the realignments of the TAFE college network in April 2002. The Submission to Cabinet recommended the closure of the Carine Campus by 2004 and the subsequent sale of this site. The proceeds of the sale are to be used for the establishment of the administrative headquarters of Swan TAFE at the Westrail Workshops in Midland.  
Since then, the Minister for Training has also agreed to excise the part of the site having the Carine Child Care Centre and to transfer the land and buildings to the Department for Community Development to ensure the continuation of this much need community service.
- (2) No.
- (3) Plans to sell, clear, and develop the bushland on the Carine TAFE Campus have not been referred to the EPA. This area retains only small patches of native vegetation that are not recognised as areas of regionally significant bushland.
- (4) If an EPA assessment is to be carried out it would normally be at the time of rezoning prior to subdivision and development.
- (5) It is estimated that less than 15% of the campus is naturally vegetated. It is not known how much of this may be regrowth.
- (6) As the TAFE site is currently zoned Public Purposes, it would need to be rezoned in the Metropolitan Region Scheme before it can be redeveloped. All amendments to the Metropolitan Region Scheme are referred to the EPA for possible assessment.
- (7) I am not aware of any consultation taking place.
- (8) No. The area was not identified as regionally significant in Bush Forever, nor was it nominated as a proposed addition when the draft Perth's Bushplan was released for public comment.

An assessment of the quality of the bushland within the Carine TAFE Campus would be required to determine whether the bushland met the regional significance criteria as outlined in Bush Forever. As this site was not identified through the Bush Forever process to date, is small, fragmented and representative of a vegetation complex that is reasonably well conserved in the Metropolitan area, it is considered unlikely that it contains bushland of regional significance.