

HERITAGE, MUNICIPAL INVENTORIES, STANDARD POLICY

315. Mr J.P.D. Edwards to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

I refer to the Minister's announcement in August 2002 that a standard policy is to be developed to guide the preparation of Municipal Inventories, and ask -

- (a) what progress has been made in developing this standard policy and its procedures;
- (b) what organisations and expert bodies have been consulted in the development of the policy and procedures; and
- (c) when is the standard policy for Municipal Inventories expected to be completed and implemented?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

- (a) A Heritage Working Party has been formed to give advice on this issue, comprising representatives from Local and State Government. The working party has met once and appointed a smaller executive sub-group to progress the matter.

The terms of reference of the working party are in fact wider than just Municipal Inventories. They include all the main issues in local heritage protection, including inventory standards, heritage provisions in planning schemes, and the appropriate 'leadership role' for the State Government in this area.
- (b) The Working party comprises representatives from 8 local governments, and from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The working party will be seeking advice from other expert organisations and individuals as required.
- (c) I cannot provide a definitive answer to that question, given the number of factors involved such as the time it may take for any proposed standard practices to be debated and accepted in local government forums. As you would be aware, the Heritage Bill 2000 provided that the Heritage Council and the WA Local Government Association could jointly develop minimum standards for inventories, which would be enforceable by the Council. That bill never became law, and hence that mechanism is not presently available.