

SOUTH BUSSELTON, NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

343. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

Following a meeting of stakeholders involved with the new south Busselton primary school at the Busselton Shire Council on 1 September last year, it was agreed that the plans would be redrawn to allow for the sensible development of shared school-community facilities, such as playing fields and hard courts, in the general interest of the whole Busselton community. The Busselton Shire Council has reneged on its commitment to this arrangement, and it looks as though the building of the primary school will proceed. Thus, the opportunity to maximise the potential of shared school-community facilities will be lost.

- (1) Will the minister take action to ensure that the best outcome is achieved for state taxpayers, ratepayers and the Busselton community?
- (2) Does the minister endorse the development of shared facilities between local authorities and government departments, especially the Department of Education, to achieve the best educational, social, economic and environmental outcomes?
- (3) If yes, what does he intend to do to ensure this outcome is achieved in the future?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) This question has an interestingly inflated view of the role of the Minister for Local Government with reference to local councils.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The question the member has asked is one way for him to raise an issue that is clearly of concern to him, as a local member. That is the way I take the question. I undertake to have my department look at the issue raised by the member and to provide me with some action steps to address his concerns, so that they are understood by all the agencies of the State that work with that local authority.