

PONY CLUBS — WHITEMAN PARK

**878. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Planning:**

As the minister is aware, the Whiteman Park Board of Management has given notice to the Horsemen's Pony Club and the Perth Regional Appaloosa Club to terminate their activities at Whiteman Park, which has upset the membership who have put a lot into their respective clubs for more than 20 years. Please advise what the department is doing to resolve the issue.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:**

I thank the member for the question. I know he had a strong interest in seeking a resolution to this issue.

It is the case that the Horsemen's Pony Club and Appaloosa pony club have had leases on an area of land at the north western section of Whiteman Park for some years. They have conducted their gymkhanas and other activities on that site for some time. The Whiteman Park area is of course a conservation reserve above a very important groundwater source for drinking water for Perth and the south west part of the state. It is important that the area is protected from pollution. As a result of that, the Whiteman Park Board of Management, which acts on behalf of the WA Planning Commission, of course, had formed a view that it was necessary to bring to an end the leases of the pony clubs on that site and for the clubs to be relocated to another site. That obviously had significant implications for the clubs. In particular, there would have been a substantial cost to them and/or the state in assisting them to move.

I asked the chairman of the WA Planning Commission to consider the issue further and to meet with the president of the Horsemen's Pony Club and the president of the Appaloosa pony club. Those meetings occurred and the Planning Commission has sought further advice from the Department of Water on its view about what is necessary from the point of view of groundwater protection. The Department of Water has advised that it has no objection to the pony clubs continuing their lease on the basis there is no intensification of their activities.

Therefore, on behalf of the Planning Commission, the Whiteman Park Board of Management has now resolved to grant an additional five-year lease to the two pony clubs up to the end of December 2014 so they can continue their operations on that site.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Another achievement of the Barnett government! It is a good achievement.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** It is a very important issue for members of those two pony clubs. I know it has been of substantial concern to them. The issue has been taken up very strongly with the government. There is now a commonsense outcome. There will be a balance between the protection of the groundwater source in the Whiteman Park area and the ability for the two pony clubs to continue their operations.