

EAST PERTH POWER STATION, MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**1180. Mr EDWARDS to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

I refer to a media statement dated 9 August 2001 in which the minister announced the formation of a ministerial council to consider the future of the Western Power-owned East Perth power station.

- (1) Given that the council was to make a recommendation to Cabinet by November 2001, will the minister explain the reason for the long delay in the ministerial council's recommendations being made public?
- (2) Given the ministerial council has now had 10 months to consult with the stakeholders in this process and to submit a recommendation to Cabinet, can the minister advise whether Western Power has indicated support for the council's recommendations; and, if not, why not?

**Ms MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)-(2) No decision has been made by Cabinet. The ministerial council has had many meetings during which it has looked at the various proposals for the East Perth power station. As the member can appreciate, this property has been left to deteriorate over a very long period. Even to secure the exterior of the building would cost something in the order of \$10 million. We are working our way through the process with a wide variety of stakeholders to see whether we can come up with a proposal that will conserve the building, give it an effective use and be reasonably within the financial capacity of government.

We are looking very laterally at how we might resolve the problem; however, it is not an easy problem to address. It is obviously one on which the previous Government had been unable to make any progress whatsoever during its eight years in government. I assure the member that we will not take eight years to do something. I hope that within the next three months or so, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and I will be able to negotiate a proposition that is workable.