

POLICE ACADEMY SITE, MAYLANDS

348. Hon C L Edwardes to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

- (1) I refer to question without notice No 65 and ask has the minister had discussions with the Minister for the Environment in respect to overturning the plans to redevelop the police academy site at Maylands and 'rip up' the Metropolitan Region Scheme Agreement that would have allowed for a housing development?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) what advice has the minister sought on the Minister for the Environment's proposal, and from whom;
 - (b) will the minister table that advice; and
 - (c) if not, why not?
- (3) Has the minister taken any steps whatsoever to limit, stop, or restrict in any way, the plans to redevelop this site?

Ms MacTIERNAN replied:

- (1) I have had discussions with the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Police in relation to the Maylands Police Academy site. The Minister for the Environment has expressed her understandable concerns that the process adopted by the previous Government in relation to intentions to develop the site did not involve an adequate public consultation mechanism. I concur with the minister's concern.
- (2)-(3) I have not sought any other advice at this stage. I note that the process initiated under the previous Government has not proceeded.

The Western Australian Planning Commission has not proceeded with the amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme beyond its initiation and referral to the Environmental Protection Authority. At its 9 May 2000 meeting, the commission acknowledged the public concern and resolved to seek further information in relation to a number of factors including: traffic, structure planning, heritage issues, environmental issues, regional open space (including interface and relationship of the site to adjacent land) and foreshore management issues, prior to seeking the former minister's consent to advertise the amendment for public submissions.

Development of the site will be dependent on the results of the studies to be undertaken by the Ministry for Planning and the result of public consultation with local residents and the wider community. At the end of that process the Government is confident that a solution can be found which will balance competing needs and interests.