

ALBION TOWN, HENLEY BROOK

746. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Housing and Works:

- (1) Does the Department of Housing and Works, or Homeswest as it is frequently known, have a continuing commitment to the urban development known as Albion Town in Henley Brook?
- (2) To what stage has that development proposal progressed?
- (3) Does the commission have a preferred timeframe for commencement of the construction of infrastructure and the release of land for sale and housing construction?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I thank the member for his question, for which there was some notice, although it was not the formal notice that is required by the conventions that have developed in this place. I am more than happy to accommodate the member and provide a full answer to his question.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: You are a minister in this House. I can ask you a question without notice at any time.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Of course the member can. In dramatic contrast to the replies I received when I sat opposite from the member's frontbench colleagues, when the response was something like "Stick it up your jumper," I now provide the following response.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: That is why I gave you some notice of the question.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The minister is earnestly trying to get to the answer.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The response is as follows -

- (1) The Department of Housing and Works considers that the land at Albion Town represents an important part of the urbanisation of the north-east corridor.
- (2) The proposal is currently subject to the planning and environmental approval process. The department has prepared a draft water management strategy, which is currently being assessed by the Water and Rivers Commission and the City of Swan. This forms an integral part of the structure plan and the environmental management plan. These proposals will be subject to public comment in the later part of this year, and I expect it to be approval by mid 2004.
- (3) The timeframe for the commencement of the project is linked to the acquisition of the Department of Defence land at Caversham, which is expected to occur in December 2004. It is likely that the development works will commence on the Department of Defence land in the 2005-06 financial year, subject to the department gaining interest from a joint venture partner. This indicates that the sale of land and housing construction is likely to occur around mid 2006.

I am delighted to be able to assist the member in a rapid manner with a question with limited notice.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: I thank the minister for the very thorough answer.