

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice

Tuesday, 16 August 2016

C747. Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson to the Minister for Planning

I refer to the Government's proposal to build a cemetery at the southern end of Whiteman Park as detailed in the Whiteman Park strategic plan released last week and ask:

1. Have any agencies or departments raised issues in relation to the water table and likely impact that would have on cemetery operations?
2. If so, what were the concerns raised in relation to the water table?
3. Does the Department believe this is a suitable place for a cemetery?

Answer:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

1-2. I am advised that no issues relating to the water table at the proposed cemetery site have been raised by any State Government agency or department. However, I understand that the City of Swan wrote to the former Minister for Planning in August 2015 with a request that an alternative site for the cemetery be considered, in part because of concerns the City has about the water table level at the proposed site.

3. The site was identified a number of years ago as a potential location for a cemetery by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, in liaison with the WAPC as landowner. Prior to this, initial site investigations were undertaken to ensure suitability for the potential use and I am advised that no major site constraints were identified.

I understand the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board will be preparing a masterplan, which will consider the detailed design, layout and operation of the cemetery in the context of all relevant environmental issues. The Western Australian Planning Commission and the City of Swan are involved in the master planning process, and relevant State Government agencies including the Department of Water will be consulted throughout the process.

In addition to the further detailed site feasibility studies to be completed as part of the masterplan process, prior to any development or use of the site as a cemetery the land must be appropriately reserved under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This would involve further assessment of the site's suitability for its proposed use, including referral to the EPA, public consultation, and a final decision by the State Government.

