

MEEKATHARRA SCHOOL OF THE AIR

873. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Education and Training:

- (1) Will the minister move the School of the Air from Meekatharra?
- (2) Will the minister consider moving the school to Geraldton?
- (3) Can the minister assure the house that the School of the Air will not be relocated to the metropolitan area?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

- (1)-(3) The Meekatharra School of the Air will operate in the short term - up to four weeks - with the principal, the registrar and two to three teachers located at the Department of Agriculture and Food site in Meekatharra. Remaining staff will be accommodated at the Schools of Isolated and Distance Education in Leederville to enable the delivery of SatWeb lessons in the interim period. The School of the Air will resume full operation from Meekatharra as soon as accommodation, information and communications technology infrastructure and services are established on the Department of Agriculture and Food site in the town. The future location of the Meekatharra School of the Air in the longer term will be the subject of a comprehensive planning process. Geraldton will be considered as one of the options.