

MAYLANDS POLICE ACADEMY SITE

Mr OMODEI to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

In response to a question on 24 May 2001 concerning her responsibilities as Minister for the Environment and Heritage in relation to the Labor Party's promise to rip up the former Government's plans to redevelop the Maylands police academy site, the minister stated -

My comments were made as the member for Maylands . . . As the . . . Minister for the Environment, I have had discussions with my ministerial colleagues . . . decisions are up to other ministers and not up to me alone . . .

- (1) How, then, does the minister explain a half-page advertisement in the *Voice News* dated 3 February 2001, in which the following Labor Party-endorsed election promise was made, which reads -

A Gallop Labor Government will abandon these Government plans and recommence the planning process.

This new planning process will involve -

Widespread community consultation.

Examination of other options for the site's use.

Protection of the Swan River and its cultural and environmental heritage.

Only allowing limited development on the site.

The SPEAKER: The purpose of question time is to ask questions that are shorter than the answers. If the member is quoting from a newspaper, the quote should be short, and he should then move on to the substantive question. I ask the member to finish his question so that the minister can answer it.

Point of Order

Mr KOBELKE: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to Standing Order No 77. This Opposition does not believe the standing orders mean anything. I quote -

- (1) Questions should not contain -

(a) preambles, opinions, statements of facts or names of persons unless they are necessary to render the question intelligible, extracts from newspapers . . .

Those things are not allowed under Standing Order No 77.

The SPEAKER: It is my understanding that quoting from newspapers is allowable in a question; however, the quote should not be separate from the question. I suggest that when the member for Warren-Blackwood next wishes to quote from a newspaper, he include it in his question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr OMODEI: The advertisement said that a Labor Government's planning process would involve widespread community consultation, examination of other options for the site's use, protection of the Swan River and its cultural and environmental heritage, and the possibility of allowing only limited development of the site.

- (2) Can the minister inform the House whether the Government intends to honour its election promise to the people of Maylands; and, if not, why not?

Dr EDWARDS replied:

- (1)-(2) The answer is unequivocally yes. I stand by the commitments I made as the member for Maylands. I would like the member for Warren-Blackwood to be my next campaign manager; I could not have a better advertisement. I thank him for laying out everything we promised for my electorate, and I look forward to delivering on that in the near future.