

DEANMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, MANAGEMENT

52. Mr P.D. Omodei to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

I refer the Minister to the proposal to place the DeanMill Primary School site under the management of the Manjimup Aboriginal Corporation (MAC), and ask -

- (a) why has the Minister not called for expressions of interest in regard to the future use of the DeanMill Primary School site;
- (b) what consideration has been given to alternative uses for the DeanMill Primary School site;
- (c) at any time, was consideration given to transferring the DeanMill Primary School site to the Department of Land Administration for clearance and disposal via public auction;
- (d) if so, why was this course of action abandoned;
- (e) is the Minister aware of the strong community desire for this site to incorporate facilities that reflect the cultural heritage of the community, particularly the history of the timber industry and the area's renowned sporting identities;
- (f) will the Minister commit to ensuring that any future use of the site does incorporate facilities that reflect the cultural heritage of the community;
- (g) has the Minister considered providing alternative facilities to the MAC within the Manjimup town site;
- (h) if so, what action has been taken to assess alternate facilities;
- (i) if not why not;
- (j) will the Minister provide the community with additional time to develop alternative proposals for the future of the DeanMill Primary School;
- (k) if not, why not; and
- (l) what involvement did Mr Jay Cook, a staffer for Hon John Kobelke, have in formulating the proposal to place the site under the management of the MAC?

Ms A.J.G. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (a) The future use of the Deanmill Primary School was investigated by the Department of Education and Training (DET) and after investigating a number of options recommended to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) that the MAC proposal be supported.
- (b) DET in considering other options, was advised by the former timber mill operator that neither it nor the community were interested in the site.
- (c) This was one consideration given by DET in 1999 but not favoured and therefore was not referred to the then Department of Land Administration now DPI.
- (d) DET continued to consider options for the site culminating in support for the MAC proposal.
- (e) There are a range of views within the community on this issue.
- (f) The placement of management of the reserve with MAC will be subject to a number of conditions one of which will require MAC to undertake a feasibility study for the site in consultation with the Deanmill community, mill operator and the Shire. This study is to include how the requirements of the Deanmill community may be accommodated.
- (g) No.
- (h) Not applicable.
- (i) I was only requested to consider MAC's proposal for the particular site.
- (j) The process referred to in (f) provides an opportunity for the community to pursue its proposals.
- (k) Not applicable.
- (l) Mr Jay Cook is an officer of the Department of Indigenous Affairs and in that role has been assisting MAC on this proposal.