

INNER-CITY PRIMARY SCHOOL — LAND

81. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the minister's comments on 6PR this morning concerning a letter received by the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth about the land associated with the planned inner-city primary school.

The minister stated that there was a letter that the Lord Mayor received that said "purchase". It should not be in there.

- (1) Did the minister read the offer of purchase before it was sent to the City of Perth?
- (2) How can it be that an offer of \$40 million to purchase land was made either without the minister's knowledge or in error?
- (3) Is the minister's government prone to making \$40 million mistakes?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

- (1)–(3) There was a letter with the word "purchase" in there, but there was no \$40 million attached to it. I do not know where the member got that figure from. I have no idea where he got that figure from; \$40 million was not mentioned in that letter. Where did he get that from? He made it up.

Several members interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: You just cannot make things up!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I pointed out yesterday that question time is for the government to answer, not the opposition.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. There is no point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr A.D. BUTI: I think that letter was on 21 November. Straight after that, I got a text from the Lord Mayor seeking clarification. I provided clarification straightaway. We had a meeting in my ministerial office about a week later to clarify any confusion. He was prepared to congratulate us on the original offer and laud it all over his newsletter. What I did not show yesterday was the great photograph; I mean, that is a good photograph there. The Lord Mayor is right in front and very proud of the announcement with the Minister for Lands, the local member and the Minister for Planning, with me behind him. He was very happy with the proposal.

For the member's benefit, we want to build an inner-city primary school that will be of crucial benefit to the next generation of children who will grow up in the inner city. It is a school that the local member has been championing for a long time and that the Lord Mayor has also said is needed. We are also unlocking land that will provide potential economic benefit to the tune of \$27.5 million to the City of Perth. As I said to the member yesterday, under the Chevron–Hilton Hotel Agreement Act, that land can be used only as a car park.

No wonder the Lord Mayor was very happy to put our proposal to the city all over his newsletter last year. It is an incredible offer in which we will build a world-class inner-city primary school, plus unlock a parcel of land that we will not require for the primary school for the economic benefit of at least \$27.5 million, and the social and economic benefits of having the school there will attract people to live in the city and therefore bring rates to the city, so it is a win-win situation. More crucially, as the Minister for Education, I think it is the right thing to do for the education of children who live in the inner city of Perth.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!