

SWAN VALLEY AREA D PROGRESS GROUP

893. Hon JIM SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

- (1) What action has the minister taken to complete its extensive consultation with the Swan Valley area D progress group, as outlined in the media release dated 22 September 2004?
- (2) Has the minister taken into account the plan submitted by the Swan Valley area D progress group; and, if so, what parts of the group's plan have been adopted by the Government?
- (3) Is the minister aware that the Swan Valley area D progress group submission complies with the current Swan Valley Planning Act and is supported by the majority of landowners in the area?
- (4) Will the Government's plan for changes in Swan Valley area D require changes to section 9 of the Swan Valley Planning Act; and, if so, what are those changes?
- (5) Is there a plan to develop in area D with Homeswest; and, if so, in which parts?

Hon KEN TRAVERS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Swan Valley Planning Act review report was tabled in this House on 23 September 2004. The Swan Valley area D progress group has made numerous representations to the City of Swan, the Swan Valley Planning Committee, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and staff of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on the proposal for more intense development of the Herne Hill and Middle Swan area D. This proposal has been taken into account.

Furthermore, as part of the review of the Swan Valley Planning Act 1995 and the area D rural village study, the Government consulted with the Swan Valley Planning Committee, the City of Swan, the Midland Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce (Extractive Industry Committee), the Grape Growers Association of Western Australia, the Western Australian Wine Makers Association and the Swan Valley Residents Association, as well as the general public through state and local newspapers. A number of submissions were made by members of the Swan Valley area D progress group.

- (2) The group's proposal was taken into account, but it was decided that the further subdivision proposed by the group would undermine the rural character of the Swan Valley.
- (3) The subdivision of the Herne Hill and Middle Swan area D into lots of between 2 000 square metres and 4 000 square metres as allowed in the current Act cannot be supported because it would adversely impact on the rural character of the Swan Valley. It has been decided to amend the Act so that existing area D precincts will be reclassified as area C precincts. Area C provides for the maintenance of the rural character of the area and a minimum lot size of four hectares.

The legislative proposals that arise from the minister's review of the Act are broadly supported as protecting the rural character of the Swan Valley.

- (4) The Government intends to introduce the Swan Valley Planning Legislation Amendment Bill 2004 by the end of the October. The Bill will delete area D. No changes are proposed for section 9, which sets out the planning objective for area C.
- (5) No.