

**NORTH WEST DISTRICTS OMNIBUS NO 4 METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME AMENDMENT  
NO 1012/33**

*Motion for Disallowance*

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara) [7.43 pm]: I move -

That this House disallows North West Districts Omnibus No 4 Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment No 1012/33, a copy of which was laid upon the Table of the Legislative Assembly on 10 October 2000.

This motion was put on notice by the member for Armadale, the Labor Party's spokesperson for planning matters, but it is an issue with which I have some familiarity. I lived close to the Scarborough Senior High School and was a teacher there for a number of years. I am well aware of the importance of the playing fields and surrounding parklands to the area. I am also aware of the grave misgivings local residents had about the Court Government's move to close the school. However, rather than recount those issues, I will discuss why metropolitan region scheme amendment No 1012/33 should be disallowed.

The amendment primarily deals with the zoning of the Scarborough Senior High School site. The current zoning is for educational purposes. However, the Government proposes to sell the land as broadacre land so that it can be subdivided and the money returned to the government coffers. The concern is not that the school has been lost; that is a fact, and we must get on with things and understand that the wonderful facility is no more. The issue is that people want, as some form of compensation, the developments on that site to include adequate public space and other facilities. The surrounding residents have been robbed of their school, a venue for a range of community facilities and their access to the public open space on the site. The disallowance does not say that the new development should not proceed; it must. There is now a need to change the metropolitan region scheme and put in place a proper zoning and scheme to ensure the land is used to maximise the return to government and, more importantly, provide facilities that will benefit the local residents.

The proposal in the scheme amendment is not acceptable to the Labor Party for two reasons: First, when the Minister for Education moved to close the school and convert the site, in large part, to residential blocks, he gave a clear undertaking that the gymnasium, hall and pool would be retained and would be available to the local community, and that a large part of the site would be put aside as public open space. That is not part of the planning scheme we seek to disallow.

Secondly, thorough consultation with the community has not occurred. The Government should not only stick to its commitment to retain those buildings and a large amount of public open space, but also it should engage in thorough consultation with the local residents to ensure they, in large part, accept its proposals for the site. Consulting thoroughly and properly with the local people would still have provided a good return to the Government once the sale of the land was progressed. However, it would also have ensured that the community was happy with the facilities and the amount of public open space. The local community is still hostile and most unhappy with the process. We understand that some people will not get over the fact that the Government has taken the high school - a wonderful facility - away from them, their community and their families. The Labor Party has moved beyond that and accepts that it is a fait accompli. However, we must now look to the future and ensure that the planning scheme and the new zoning meet the needs of all local residents, both those who will move into the new residential blocks on the site and the wider community.

This amendment to the town planning scheme is not adequate. Not only has the Government broken its promise, but also it has not undertaken the required level of consultation. It knew this was a sensitive issue that met with strong objection from the local community. The Government has not done the job properly, and it should go back and do it again. For those reasons, this amendment should be disallowed.

**MR KIERATH** (Riverton - Minister for Planning) [7.49 pm]: Although I appreciate the member for Nollamara's comments, the opposite has happened. This has been an interesting development. It is an important issue to the local member, Hon George Strickland, and one in which he has played an active part. I cannot remember an issue that has come before me as minister on which I have had so much lobbying and involvement from a local member. I disagree with the member for Nollamara's remarks and will oppose the disallowance motion.

This amendment has been through the proper processes and public consultation. The views raised by the public at the time have been adequately addressed. A letter from the Minister for Education to the Mayor of the City of Stirling stated -

I have now agreed to increase the public open space from 20 per cent to 30 per cent, exclusive of the redevelopments that will proceed on the Newborough Primary School site, which will also be available for community use.

The Government's commitment to grant the City of Stirling \$2.2 million is based upon the disposal of the site and the grant being utilised to provide recreational facilities for the Scarborough community.

I recognise the location of the recreational facility is the decision of the City of Stirling.

Numerous press releases have been issued by the City of Stirling. I will quote from one titled "Mayor backs sport and school groups" -

"I totally back Basketball Club President Chris Tatam in his call for both the State Government and the Opposition to support the urban rezoning proposal put forward by the Education Department.

In a letter dated 9 August 2000, the Newborough Primary School P&C Association states -

To whom it may concern:

Whilst the P&C committee would like to see public open space considered at the Scarborough High School grounds, we do believe that a compromise needs to occur between selling some of the land for residential purposes . . . and maintaining some area for public open space.

A note by Chris Tatam, the president of the Scarborough Junior Basketball club states -

The Scarborough Junior Basketball Club (SJBC) supports the rezoning and redevelopment of the Scarborough High School site, with retention of an appropriate level of public open space, and with replacement sporting/recreational facilities to be provided adjacent to Newborough Primary School . . .

We call on the Opposition to support the MRS amendment, recognising that community consultation about redevelopment of the high school site and the amount of public open space to be retained will occur during the ensuing Town Planning Scheme (TPS) amendment and subdivision approval process.

That is the appropriate place to have some of the debates that we would otherwise have had in this Chamber. Recommendation six states -

We call on the Scarborough High Open Space Action Group to recognise that redevelopment of the high school site should proceed with an appropriate level of public open space to be retained, and for the Group to continue supporting the SJBC and Newborough Primary School in working toward provision of replacement sporting/recreational facilities adjacent to the school.

A press release was issued by Chris Tatam, the President of the Scarborough Junior Basketball Club, and Leanne Pearce, the President of Newborough Primary School. The last paragraph states -

Both bodies have stated that the current situation is having a negative impact and that the adoption of broad recommendations will advance this matter in the interests of the local community.

It is with the support of all of the people involved, including the local member of Parliament and those various community groups, that we oppose the disallowance motion.

**MR BARNETT** (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [7.53 pm]: I will make a couple of brief comments in support of what the Minister for Planning has said. The consultation about the Scarborough Senior High School site began in 1997, and the decision that the school would close was made in mid-1998. There had been extensive discussions that continued with the community about the relocation of school children to Carine, Churchlands and some other schools. There were also discussions with the City of Stirling. Originally we discussed providing 20 per cent of public open space and retaining the gymnasium and the pool. After an assessment, the City of Stirling decided that that was not worth doing. Figures of \$1.2m were discussed which eventually became \$2.2m, and the amount of public open space grew to 30 per cent. That must go through a formal planning process at a state and local government level.

I stress to members that I attended half a dozen meetings over that period. As the Minister for Planning has said, Newborough Primary School, the local community groups and the local council strongly support what is being done. These decisions have not been rushed - they were made in 1998. Some people in the community are opposed to it. They probably feel bitter about the closure of Scarborough Senior High School, which, sadly, had reached the end of its day. It had few students, the buildings were old and it was not able to provide a full curriculum. Most of the people in the community recognised that it was time to move on. The majority of students have started to move to other schools. It is never easy to make a decision to close a school, particularly a senior high school with as good a history as the Scarborough Senior High School. However, I am convinced that it was the right decision. The community will have an improved area for the primary school, new playground equipment, a full sized oval, new community facilities and substantial areas of public open space. The matter has been handled carefully and with sensitivity. I endorse what the minister said: This disallowance motion should not be supported. The member for Innaloo, the Speaker of this Chamber, has been involved

throughout. He has been close to the community. I am sure that what has been done is the right result for everyone.

Question thus negatived.

*House adjourned at 7.58 pm*

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