

BUSSELTON HOSPITAL SITE WORKS — THREAT TO WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM

1968. Hon Adele Farina to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health

I refer to the proposed new Busselton Hospital. Noting that the current hospital site is within Core Habitat for Western Ringtail Possum and that the Western Ringtail Possum is listed as a threatened species in Schedule 1 under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* and further noting that under the *EPBC Act* Policy Statement 3.10 the aim for Core Habitat protection is to maintain and enhance the value of the existing habitat, particularly for breeding, I ask —

- (1) Has the Department of Health inquired with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) whether a formal section 38 of the *Environment Protection Act (EP Act)* assessment of the proposed new hospital works will be required?
- (2) If yes to (1), what was the EPA's advice?
- (3) Has the Department of Health or its Agent referred the proposed new Busselton Hospital works to the EPA for assessment?
- (4) If no to (3), when does the Minister expect that the project will be referred to the EPA?
- (5) Has the EPA issued a permit to clear native vegetation on the current hospital site for the proposed works for the new hospital?
- (6) If no to (5), has the Department of Health or its Agent applied to the EPA for a permit to clear native vegetation on the current hospital site for the proposed works for the new Busselton Hospital?
- (7) If no to (6), when does the Minister expect that such an application will be lodged by the Department of Health or its Agent?
- (8) Have the proposed works been referred to the federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts under the *EPBC Act* Policy Statement 3.10?
- (9) If no to (8), will the Minister give an undertaking that such referral will be made and necessary approvals secured before any works are undertaken on the current hospital site?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The Department of Health (DOH) has received advice from the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in relation to this matter.
- (2) DEC have advised that once DOH has developed a master plan for the proposal a referral should be made to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The EPA will then determine if an assessment is required.
- (3) No.
- (4) The project will be referred to the EPA once the building master plan for the campus is finalised.
- (5)-(6) No.
- (7) Once DOH has developed a master plan for the proposal a referral should be made to the EPA. The EPA will then determine if an assessment is required.
- (8) No.
- (9) Yes.