

CARNARVON POLICE AND JUSTICE COMPLEX

**1022. Hon KEN BASTON to the minister representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:**

I refer to the community forum held in Carnarvon on 25 May 2006 regarding the location of the new police and justice complex.

- (1) What issues were raised at the community information forum in May and what progress have the WA Police and the Department of the Attorney General made towards resolving these issues?
- (2) Why is the Gascoyne Traders site identified by the Shire of Carnarvon as its preferred location for the new complex not seen as suitable for the proposed relocation?
- (3) Will the minister indicate in what way the traders site does not meet the criteria of having a strong civic presence, being readily accessible to the community, being remote from schools or facilities where children play or congregate and being close to other community services?

**Hon JON FORD replied:**

I thank Hon Ken Baston for some notice of the question. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services has provided the following response -

- (1) Concerns were raised relating to the Brockman Park site due to its close proximity to an aged persons village, increased vehicular activity with associated sirens and potential subsoil conditions. Another issue raised was the perceived lack of police officers doing foot patrols within the central business district. WA Police and the Department of the Attorney General undertook extensive consultation with the Shire of Carnarvon and the Department of Housing and Works and noted community concerns regarding the location of the proposed new complex. A public meeting was held on 25 May 2006, which was attended by approximately 90 local residents. The site options were the existing police site, the Gascoyne Traders site at the intersection of Robinson Street and Babbage Island Road, the Brockman Park site and the Van Dongen Park site. A considerable number of attendees were in favour of using the council-owned land, being the Gascoyne Traders site. The remainder were in favour of rebuilding on the existing site.
- (2) On 5 September 2005, a number of key WA Police and Department of the Attorney General staff undertook a site inspection of the council's preferred site - the Gascoyne Traders site - and met with the shire's chief executive officer, Mr Clinton Strugnell, and the shire president, Mr Dudley Maslen.  
  
Following the inspection, WA Police and the Department of the Attorney General advised Messrs Strugnell and Maslen that the Gascoyne Traders site was considered unsuitable from a location perspective as it fails to contribute to the civic importance of the complex, is primarily adjacent to residential areas, is remote from other community facilities such as Department for Community Development and Centrelink offices and is in close proximity to children activity areas.
- (3) In summary, the Gascoyne Traders site does not meet the following criteria. The location does not contribute to the civic presence or importance of the complex. This is particularly important for the courthouse, which is one of the most significant civic buildings of any town centre. It is also imperative that the police station and courthouse remain on the same site to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of law and order services to the Carnarvon community. The police station would not be close to other government support services within the central business district, including the Department for Community Development and Centrelink offices, which would provide convenient interagency and community access. The location is close to the town swimming pool and within 400 metres of a school. The business of police and justice includes the arresting, processing and attendance of certain offenders and, as such, it is not desirable for the facility to be too close to where children play or congregate.