

EDUCATION CENTRAL POLICY — SECONDARY SCHOOL — KITCHENER PARK

150. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the Minister for Education and Training:

Can the minister please explain why the Kitchener Park site is a better site than the alternative site at City Beach high school site than was previously suggested?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the member for the question.

It is better on several counts. Firstly, the area of population growth is occurring on the city side of the western suburbs—that is, the inner-west and the inner–north western suburbs, where higher density is happening and where increasingly people are choosing not only to live, but also to raise their families on smaller blocks, closer to the city; therefore, the need for schools in those areas is increasing. Secondly, it is a better site because it is much better connected to public transport. It has two train stations, with Subiaco train station within a very short distance. It is where the growth is. It is a better site for public transport purposes. It also gives us the opportunity to build a school for 2 000 students. The City Beach high school site proposal was based on the proposition of 1 600 students in an area in which population growth is going backwards. Over the 10 years 2016 to 2026, growth on the coastal strip of the western suburbs will go into negative; it will go backwards. It is much more sensible planning to put a school where the population growth is happening and where we know we will need new schools. It is also the case that the redevelopment of Subiaco north’s master plan envisages, I am advised, a school on that site. Subiaco council envisaged the revitalisation of that whole area, looking at a mix of development. Therefore, we are able to take advantage of that, with all the benefits that go with revitalising that area, to support in particular local businesses on the high street of Subiaco that will go through a pretty serious transition when AFL football moves away from the Subi stadium. For all those reasons, it is a much better site than City Beach ever was.