

EDUCATION CENTRAL — SECONDARY SCHOOL — KITCHENER PARK

142. Hon PETER COLLIER to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer the minister to her backflip on the Labor Party's Education Central policy and to the decision to build a new secondary school on Kitchener Park. Which groups did the minister consult before making the decision to build the secondary school on Kitchener Park?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I was hoping that I would get asked this question. I did anticipate that it would be by the opposition shadow Minister for Education and Training, but I am pleased that it is first-up, because a couple of things have happened today. One is that, of course, the department has drawn to my attention the longstanding practice that, in fact, it is not the department's practice, nor, indeed, previous governments' practice, to consult with the community about the acquisition of sites for public schools.

Hon Peter Collier interjected.

Hon SUE ELLERY: It is not the practice. More importantly, I was really pleased to see today the City of Subiaco come out with an announcement in the name of the mayor welcoming the announcement and looking forward to working with us.

I want to go back to the first part of the question, because I asked the department to give me some advice about the extent of consultation on the acquisition of sites and it has advised me, as I have just been told, that it is not its practice to consult on the acquisition of sites. It is its practice—the former minister would be well aware of this—to appoint principals, in advance of the opening of a new school, to liaise with the prospective school community and, indeed, the local community about things like traffic arrangements, the uniforms of the schools, the values of the schools —

Hon Peter Collier: Did you do that before you made the announcement?

Hon SUE ELLERY: Neither did you, my friend.

I asked the department to advise me about what consultation happened when the announcement was made to move, for example, the International School of Western Australia from the City Beach site to the Doubleview Primary School site. I asked what consultation happened about that and the advice I got back was that there was absolutely zip, none, nada. There was no consultation about that —

Hon Peter Collier: The local members did.

Hon SUE ELLERY: After the announcement —

Hon Nick Goiran: Will you table the advice?

Hon SUE ELLERY: I have notes in front of me, my friend. I asked for the advice over the phone. My notes are my own and they remain my own.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am trying to hear the answer.

Hon SUE ELLERY: However, I am happy to give the member a list of some of the schools for which there was no consultation about the acquisition of land. Let us begin. We could pick a year. Shall we go back to 2009? There was Ashdale Secondary College, Dalyellup College, Fitzroy Valley District High School, Karratha Senior High School, Kingston Primary School, Madeley Primary School, Manea Senior College, Somerly Primary School and Success Primary School. Shall we jump ahead to 2015? There was Broome North Primary School, Golden Bay Primary School, Tuart Rise Primary School and Joseph Banks Secondary College.

Hon Peter Collier: They're new areas—all those new residential areas.

Hon SUE ELLERY: Okay; let us go back. We will talk about a whole range of other areas as well. Let us talk about 2014. There was Byford Secondary College, John Butler Primary College, Treendale Primary School, Hammond Park Primary School, Yanchep Beach Primary School, Wandina Primary School stage 1 and Lakelands Primary School. It is not the practice of either the government or the department to consult on the acquisition of land.

Hon Peter Collier: Garbage!

Hon SUE ELLERY: It is not. We will look forward to adopting the longstanding practice of consulting with the local community and the prospective school community about all the features for how the new school will work. I am looking forward to doing that.