

BUSSELTON HOSPITAL SITE WORKS — THREAT TO WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM

1969. 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 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) How does the Government propose to maintain and enhance the value of the existing habitat, particularly for breeding and build a new hospital on this site?
- (2) What steps will the Government take to maintain and create habitat connections that allow strong movement of individual possums (in order to maintain genetic representation between local populations) between the current hospital site habitat and other surrounding Western Ringtail Possum habitats?
- (3) What steps will the Government take to compensate for any loss of habitat on the current hospital site and to expand habitat for the Western Ringtail Possum?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1)-(3) A report titled Significant Fauna and Flora Values — Busselton Hospital Redevelopment Site dated 18 August 2009 by Coffey Environments outlines the current habitat values and possum population on the Busselton Hospital Site.

Coffey Environments has provided a report identifying the environment values of the site. When a master building footprint has been determined a second report will be prepared by Coffey Environments. This report will be based on an assessment of the potential impact of the redevelopment based on the specified development scenario or master plan option.

A final third report will then be prepared by Coffey Environments providing recommendations for mitigation strategies.