

SUBURBAN GROWTH

157. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. When will the Premier accept that the rhetoric he is using to support his thought bubbles is at odds with the Department of Education's advice that the City Beach high school site is the best site for the growth in the number of 10 to 19-year-olds in the western suburbs?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Corrective Services, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

When we made the announcement on Tuesday, we outlined to the people of Western Australia the growth patterns in various areas. I will repeat them to members.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member has difficulty listening.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, do not talk across the chamber, please.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Scarborough was deputy Liberal leader—Deputy Premier all that time, now declining to become the opposition leader. I think that says a lot about the member for Scarborough. She was not prepared to take on the role of the opposition leader! I know a little bit about being the opposition leader; it is actually not easy. To a degree, I admire the member for Riverton and the fact that he was prepared to take on the role that the member for Scarborough was not.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I did outline to the house—or perhaps not to the house—that, from memory, between 2016 and 2026, the population of City Beach is predicted to decline by 0.97 per cent. As members will know, City Beach is an area that has large blocks and expensive houses and, therefore, almost by definition, not large numbers of high school students. The more affordable the land and the more dense the development, we will find larger numbers of students, because families who have school-age kids often have not accumulated the wealth to afford a house in an area like City Beach. That is demographic reality. A location in Subiaco, in the heart of the member for Nedlands' electorate, is the right decision for students of the inner city.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.