

ATWELL COLLEGE AND HAMMOND PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE — CATCHMENT AREAS

765. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the ongoing issue of the future catchment areas of the Atwell and Hammond Park high schools, which is fundamentally about whether the respective catchments will span the Kwinana Freeway. Has this matter now been settled or has the minister asked the Department of Education to review its position?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question.

At my request, a community forum was conducted by the Department of Education for local communities in July, maybe three or four weeks ago. At that meeting, departmental officers explained the setting of local intake areas for the new school, including the difficulties of the border, if you like, of part of the catchment areas effectively being the freeway, and the difficulties of changing that and the impact on potential catchment areas. Whenever the catchment area of one school is changed, there is a flow-on effect for other schools. Therefore, the department's decision stands—that is, to proceed with the catchment areas that were originally designed. The point of the forum was to give people an opportunity to understand why the department had made that decision. I understand that the forum was cordial and successful, and that people appreciated the opportunity to understand the reasoning for the decision. I am sure some people will probably still prefer that the decision was otherwise, but the decision on the catchment areas remains.