

SUNSET HOSPITAL SITE — GOVERNMENT PLANS

4198. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance

Referring to my Question on Notice No. 3786 on the Sunset Hospital Site, Dalkeith to the Minister for Heritage, I ask —

- (1) When will the Minister present a plan compatible with the site's heritage values and commit to preservation of the site as a whole?
- (2) Has the Minister, or the Department, had any discussions with the University of Western Australia about the future of the site?
- (3) If yes to (2), please provide details?
- (4) Has the Minister, or the Department, had any discussions with any other individuals, or organisations, about the future of the site?
- (5) If yes to (4), please provide details?
- (6) What barriers are there to securing a future for the site that protects its heritage value?
- (7) Will the Minister ensure that remnant native vegetation is protected in any future development?
- (8) Can the Minister please provide an update on any progress toward a resolution of the conservation of this heritage asset?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) The Government will submit a plan for the Sunset Hospital site when it is satisfied that arrangements are appropriate and sustainable for the conservation of the site.
- (2) Yes
- (3) The Department of Treasury and Finance had some discussions with the University of Western Australia, to ascertain whether it has any interest in the Sunset Hospital site.
- (4) Yes
- (5) Over the years, there have been discussions with a range of parties interested in the Sunset Hospital site for a variety of potential purposes including residential, aged care, retirement village, private step-down hospital facility, education, Local Government community use, commercial office and art gallery.
- (6) There are a number of issues that must be addressed to secure a future for the site that protects its heritage value. The first is financial viability — the need to ensure that the future use of the site is sustainable economically, while not compromising its heritage significance. Secondly, the capability of the future management body — the need to make sure the entity entrusted with the site has the necessary expertise to look after it. Thirdly, there is the upfront expense — the need to make sure any funding that may be required to transition the site into a new use is both available and justifiable. Finally, there must be public benefit — the broader community needs to be comfortable that the solution is appropriate.
- (7) It is intended that remnant vegetation will be retained and properly managed.
- (8) The planning for the future of the Sunset Hospital site is still at a formative stage, but the Government is keen to progress a strategy for the Sunset site.