

Question on Notice
No. 921
Asked on Friday 26 May 2006

Mr Caltabiano asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing
(MR SCHWARTEN) –

QUESTION:

With reference to commitments given by the Government to return Department of Housing land at Oates Hill, Carina Heights and Weekes Road, Carindale to environmental status and ownership to Brisbane City Council now date back almost 12 months –

- (1) When will this land be classified as environmental land under the Brisbane City Plan?
- (2) When will the land be transferred to council ownership?

ANSWER:

- (1) The land is presently zoned Emerging Communities under Brisbane City Plan and any change of zoning to Environmental Protection Area would appropriately occur at such time as council was owner of the land.

Late in 2001, I met with the then Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tim Quinn, and discussed the prospect of handing over this land in exchange for council-owned land more suitable for residential development. At the time, Councillor Quinn committed to a land swap and because of his undertaking I announced to the press that this land would not be developed. Council support for the proposal was later withdrawn.

The Department of Housing has a statutory responsibility to provide affordable housing for Queenslanders in need and to sacrifice the resources of the Department of Housing to other purposes when there is unprecedented demand for housing assistance as people are forced out of the private market, would be negligent. The sale of its land provides funding for the department's Capital Works program.

- (2) Even though studies commissioned by the department confirmed there were no significant environmental issues that would prevent development of this land, and although the land is zoned appropriately for subdivision into very valuable residential lots, my offer to council still stands if they wish to acquire this land. I will be happy to transfer this land to council at a fair price in accordance with government requirements on land disposal. The timing of the transfer of this land to council ownership therefore is in the hands of council. Alternatively I am happy to consider any land Council may offer as suitable for residential development in a swap for the Oates Hill site.