

UNCORRECTED PROOF ISSUE

Mr DEAN (Question) - My question is in the form of a supplementary to the honourable Minister for Education. The position of Mr Wenn at Launceston College is stable I take it? Will he be required to moderate the position that he has adopted relative to promoting his college in the future?

Ms THORP - Madam President, I would prefer not to comment on the employment status of permanent public servants. Mr Wenn is a public servant, that is what he is doing. Mr Wenn is the principal of Launceston College. What the honourable member is referring to is speculation in the media late last week referring to events around the enrolment of students at the end of 2009 at Launceston College and the then Newstead College.

Mr Dean - What about the promotion of the college, will that change - Launceston College?

Ms THORP - I do not think that you understand the question that you are asking. I do not think that you do because it is the role and the responsibility of all levels of the post-year 10 sector to make sure that course guides go out to students, that students are provided with proper and appropriate counselling into pathways, and I would assume that everyone in that area will act professionally and responsibly and in the best interests of the students.

SCHOOL SITES - SALE OF LAND

[2.48 p.m.]

Mrs TAYLOR (Question) - Madam President, I am a little scared to get up and ask the question. This morning I had the temerity to laugh at a response that the Treasurer made. I was a little shocked and a bit intimidated by the severity of his reaction.

Dr Goodwin - He can be a bit scary, but it's all bluff.

Mr Wilkinson - It depends on whether the lights are out.

Madam PRESIDENT - Order. My only advice to you is never be intimidated in this place.

Mrs TAYLOR - I went for a long walk at lunchtime and I regained my confidence and I see he has regained his good humour.

Mr Wilkinson - I thought you were a bit shaky when you walked out the door.

Mrs TAYLOR - I was actually. It is a bit intimidating when someone glares at you and says, 'Don't you laugh, don't you laugh' because I did not know that you were not allowed to laugh in here. I will try to be better in future. My question is to the Minister for Education.

Mr Aird - After that build-up I wanted a question.

Mrs TAYLOR - I am too scared to ask you a question as yet. I have to build up to ask you a question.

Mr Wilkinson - Are you really a nice person, is that the question?

Madam PRESIDENT - The Minister for Education is waiting for the question, thank you, members.

Mrs TAYLOR - Thank you for the response I received today about the disposal of the school sites that are going to be surplus to requirements after amalgamation. I asked you about that a couple of weeks ago, so thank you for that. I understand, as do the school communities, that the excess land will be disposed of and the funds will go into the new school buildings. My question is about the communities. I am well aware, and they are well aware, that the ground will not be left as green space because you need the funds to put into the other buildings.

Ms Thorp - One of the ovals is.

Mrs TAYLOR - Yes, I understand that, one of the ovals of which we share ownership. My question was more about some of the community groups expressing a great deal of concern about what will happen to that land. They know it is not going to be green space or kept for community use, but they would like to have a say in what kind of development goes on there. They would like to hear from you or some other State departments and perhaps have some say in the kind of development that goes on there; if it is housing, that it be a particular style, or whatever. Will your department or another talk with those communities to put their minds at rest? Keeping in mind that rezoning will be required in any case and there has to be community consultation for that to happen.

Ms THORP - I thank the honourable member for her question. She has pretty well answered her own question. The land that is surplus to need through the amalgamation and disposal of school sites will be put up for sale, that which is not directly acquired by Housing or whatever. Through that sale process, whoever wants to develop it has to go through the same rules, regulations and hurdles that any other person wishing to develop land would do, by putting in a planning application. If a particular community decided, for example, that they wanted a particular area kept for a greenfield site, it would be up to that community to come up with some way in which they could fund the purchase thereof because those funds are required for building projects for Education. The valuation of that land has been built into the cost estimates - that is where the money is coming from. Anyone at any time has the opportunity as a community group to say, 'We would like to see this happen upon the sale of the land', or they could simply wait until the land has been sold and then have their input through the planning process. That is the best advice I could give.

CYCLEWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY

[2.53 p.m.]

Mr HALL (Question) - My question is to the honourable Leader. Were the Premier and his cycling buddy, Mr McKim, really serious when they recently announced \$150 000 to be spent on a feasibility study of a cycleway from Hobart to Smithton alongside the main railway line?

Mr PARKINSON - I thank the honourable member for his question. The Premier and the Sustainable Transport minister announced a feasibility study and they were serious about it. There is \$150 000 for a feasibility study and details of the specific route are yet to be determined. The Government is devoted to helping all Tasmanians live healthy and fulfilling lives and access to sustainable transport is central to that. If we want more Tasmanians to think about leaving the car at home and embrace sustainable alternatives such as cycling we have to keep improving their