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## 0150—ENVIRONMENT—ASA SITE AT CRANEBROOK

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**Mr Cohen to the Minister for Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Vice President of the Executive Council representing the Attorney General, Minister for the Environment, and Minister for the Arts—**

1. Has the developer IFC Capital Ltd, who now owns the 181 hectare former Air Services Australia (ASA) site at Cranebrook, recently lodged a rezoning application for the site?
2. Does the ASA site contain many rare and vulnerable flora and fauna species and have immense conservation value?
3. Are funds available from the \$315 million Growth Centres Conservation Fund for the State to acquire and protect important Western Sydney bushland remnants outside of the Growth Centres such as the ASA site at Cranebrook?
4.
  - a. Will the Minister intervene in the rezoning of the ASA site and take steps to acquire the site for conservation by including it in the NSW National Parks Reserve System?
  - b. If not, why not?
5.
  - a. Should the entire site be conserved as it forms an essential part of a biodiversity corridor throughout North West Sydney?
  - b. If not, why not?

### Answer—

I am advised by the Minister for the Environment that the answer to the honourable member's question is:

The current owner of the ASA site has submitted a rezoning application to Penrith Council. I understand Council is considering the future land use options for the site as part of the preparation of the new local environmental plan for Penrith, rather than as an individual proposal.

I understand that the site contains a number of threatened species and endangered vegetation communities. As is standard practice, the conservation values of the site, including its potential role as a biodiversity corridor or linkage, will be considered during the planning process.

The purchase of high-conservation value lands using funding from Special Infrastructure Contributions is administered by the Growth Centres Commission. Accordingly, this question should be directed to my colleague, the Honourable Frank Sartor MP, Minister for Planning.

Any proposals to rezone lands are primarily the responsibility of the relevant council and the Department of Planning. However, I am advised that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has already provided advice to Penrith Council on the conservation values of the site and appropriate land use. DEC will continue to provide further advice as planning for the site progresses.

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Question asked on 6 September 2006 (session 532) and published in Questions & Answers Paper No. 12.  
No answer has been published

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