

# PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Home | Hansard & Papers | Legislative Council | Questions

## 1518—PROTECTION OF FORMER AIR SERVICES AUSTRALIA SITE AT CRANEBROOK

**Ms Hale to the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice representing the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)—**

1. Does the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) consider protection of the entire Cranebrook site a priority and has it been identified in DECC mapping as a Western Sydney Priority Area for conservation?
  1. If not, why not?
2. Did former Environment Ministers Mr Debus and Mr Koperberg correspond with local community group leaders stating that protection of the entire site is a government priority?
  1. If so, when?
3. Has DECC consulted with Penrith Council during the making of Councils city wide LEP and advised Council that in DECC's opinion strong preference should be given to ensuring that the city wide LEP delivers protection for the site as a whole?
4.
  1. Is the Biodiversity Certification approval of the Sydney Growth Centres contingent upon DECC using a \$530 million conservation fund to acquire and protect Western Sydney Priority Areas?
  2. Do the conditions attached to Biodiversity Certification require that in using this \$530 million fund, first preference is to go to acquiring and protecting Western Sydney Priority Areas?
  3. If the conditions attached to Biodiversity Certification are not met will Certification from the Growth Centres be withdrawn reverting all planning decision to the former planning process?
5. Are you aware of the proposal being considered by the Planning Minister to list the Cranebrook site, one of DECC's Western Sydney Priority Areas for conservation, on the Metropolitan Development Program (MDP)?
  1. If not, why not?
6.
  1. Did Ms. Lisa Corbyn, the Director General of DECC, represent DECC at the CEO's Land Supply Committee in late November 2007 about the listing of the Cranebrook site on the MDP?
  2. Did Ms Corbyn tell the CEO's Land Supply Committee that DECC's position is that the site should not be listed on the MDP?
    1. If so, what arguments did she raise as to how the Cranebrook development fails to meet the Sustainability Criteria for MDP listing?
  3. Does listing the site on the MDP mean that development of the site will eventually take place?
7. What efforts has DECC made to access the \$15 million the Federal Government committed at the last election to assist create a conservation corridor across Western Sydney?

### Answer—

1. The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has identified the entire former Air Services Australia (ASA) Cranebrook site as a Western Sydney priority area for conservation. However, the site was sold by the former Federal Government to IFC Capital Ltd for \$15 million in 2004, and since then the owners have sought development options for the site.
2. Former Ministers Debus and Koperberg advised community leaders that based on available information, protection of the entire site was a priority. They were advised that DECC supported protection of sites with high conservation and/or biodiversity value, such as the former ASA site at Cranebrook.
3. DECC emphasised the conservation values of the ASA site in response to the draft Penrith LEP and expressed its preference for the whole site to be protected.
4. The Certification Order specifies that at least \$530 million is to be used for biodiversity conservation and regional open space purposes. Of this amount, \$397.5 million is planned for use outside the Growth Centres for the primary purpose of biodiversity conservation. The first preference for use of this funding is the protection of the Western Sydney priority areas. Section 126L of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 provides that the Minister may suspend or revoke the certification of a planning instrument if it fails to make appropriate provision for protecting biodiversity values.
5. Yes.
6.
  1. No, the Director General did not attend the CEO's Land Supply Committee in late November 2007. The Land Supply CEOs Group provides advice to the Minister for Planning in support of a Cabinet subcommittee and therefore advice provided is material developed for the purpose of Cabinet consideration and is therefore Cabinet in confidence.
  2. See answer to question 6a above.
  3. Advice on the listing of sites on the Metropolitan Development Program would need to be sought from Minister Sartor.

7. The NSW Government has had a number of preliminary discussions with the Commonwealth regarding conservation initiatives in Western Sydney.

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Question asked on 6 March 2008 (session 54-1) and printed in [Questions & Answers Paper No. 41](#).  
Answer printed in [Questions & Answers Paper No. 45](#).

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