

**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09 HEARING 1 DECEMBER 2009**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**

Birrigai and Jerrabomberra wetlands

MS BRESNAN - asked the Minister for Education and Training on 20 January 2010.

- (1) There have been a number of questions raised in the Assembly and placed on notice in relation to amalgamating the Birrigai with Tidbinbilla facilities. Can you give us an update on:
- (a) what is planned in each of these areas in the coming year/s
 - (b) the withdrawal of sustainability education programs for students at Jerrabomberra.

MR BARR - the answer to Ms Bresnan's question is:

(1) (a) & (b) A recommendation of the 2004 *Shaping our Territory – Tidbinbilla Business Case and Master Plan* was to bring Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Birrigai together under one management entity.

On 19 January 2008, the Chief Minister and the Minister for Education agreed to the establishment of a single entity to jointly manage Tidbinbilla and Birrigai informed by a common plan of management and business plan, the establishment of a Management Committee to oversee the management of the combined entity and for the joint arrangements to commence operations on 1 July 2008.

In July 2008, the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) announced that Tidbinbilla and Birrigai had begun operations under an amalgamated governance structure. Since this announcement the Tidbinbilla/Birrigai Board of Management has been in operation, comprising senior executives from TAMS, the Department of Education and Training and community and business representatives.

A Strategic Business Plan for the Tidbinbilla precinct has been developed together with a report on future governance options to develop a fully amalgamated Tidbinbilla precinct. The Tidbinbilla business planning process has identified a number of areas to be addressed in order to realise the full potential of the Tidbinbilla precinct.

Government decisions on these matters, including both Birrigai and the Jerrabomberra wetlands, will be made in the near future. This will ensure future expansion of the educational services currently provided to meet ACT schools' curriculum needs.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Education and Training

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