

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION — FACILITIES LEASED BY SPORTING
AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

6427. Hon Barry House to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment

I refer to question without notice No. 485 asked on 15 May 2008, and ask, why have the Bird Observatory's and Scout Camp sites been exempted from the increase in leases, when all other non-profit sporting and recreational groups have had the maximum increase imposed?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

The maximum increase has not been applied to all other non-profit sporting and recreational group leases. The schedule of rentals for bird observatories indicates that the rental would be up to \$1 500 per annum. In assessing the individual circumstances of the two observatories at Broome and Eyre, it was determined that the nature of the lease at Broome, involving nature-based education, was a basis to increase the rental to \$500 per annum. The observatory at Eyre is similar but also provides a management presence in a remote area and contributes to conservation and environmental work on behalf of the local district office of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). On that basis, a lower rental of \$150 per annum was considered appropriate.

The category of campsites contained within the schedule of rents includes two leases, being the Scouts campground at Manjedal, located in the Perth Hills area, and the clubhouse for the First Pelican Point Sea Scout Group located at the Matilda Bay Reserve, Crawley. The schedule originally proposed that the rental for such leases would be within the range of \$500 to \$1 500 per annum. However, during the approval process for the rent review, it was determined that the leases should be included in the "clubs and associations" category, which attracts a rental of up to \$1 500 per annum. This allowed DEC to apply a lower rental that was considered appropriate, given the role of the Scouts and the valuable contribution they make to youth development, particularly in regard to DEC's interest in nature-based education. In each case, a rental of \$150 per annum has been applied.