

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

**Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:**

- (1) Which 12 Western Australian sporting and community groups lease facilities from the Department of Environment and Conservation?
- (2) By how much were the annual rental fees for these organisations increased recently?
- (3) What is the justification for these rental increases?
- (4) Why are these groups not classified as charitable organisations and provided with either rent-free or peppercorn leases?

**Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:**

I thank Hon Barry House for some notice of this question, to which the Minister for the Environment has provided an answer in the following terms —

- (1) There are more than 12 Western Australian sporting and community groups that lease facilities from the Department of Environment and Conservation. If the honourable member is referring to the newspaper article of 28 April 2008, which stated that 12 community groups would be affected by changes in rental fees this year, the minister advises that the leases are to the following organisations: Sporting Shooters Association of Western Australia; Pickering Brook Sports Club; City of Wanneroo, two leases, with subleases to the Aeromodellers Club and the Shooting Club; West Australian Rifle Association, two leases; Denmark Clay Target Club; Shire of Mundaring, Marksmen Association; Yanchep Golf Club; Walpole Yacht Club; and Shire of West Arthur, Lake Towerrinning aquatic sports and recreation purposes.
- (2) The rents have increased from \$150 a year to between \$500 and \$1 500 a year.
- (3) The previous nominal rental fees of \$150 a year were regarded by the Valuer General's Office and the department as being inadequate for the clubs and associations that lease large areas of conservation estate for the exclusive use of members.
- (4) These are sporting and recreational user groups that are not regarded as charitable organisations.