

**Division 43: Planning, Lands and Heritage — Service 3, Heritage —**

Ms M.M. Quirk, Chair.

Mr D.A. Templeman, Minister for Heritage.

Mr A. Kannis, Director General.

Mr V. Davies, Assistant Director General.

Ms S. Cardenia, Assistant Director General.

Ms C. Hay, Chief Financial Officer.

Ms T. Widdicombe, Chief of Staff, Minister for Heritage.

**The CHAIR:** The estimates committees will be reported by Hansard and the daily proof will be available online as soon as possible within two business days. I will allow as many questions as possible. Questions and answers should be short and to the point. Consideration is restricted to items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must relate to a page number, item or amount related to the current division, and members should preface their questions with those details. Some divisions are the responsibility of more than one minister. Ministers shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

A minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee. I will ask the minister to clearly indicate what information they agree to provide and will then allocate a reference number. Supplementary information should be provided to the principal clerk by noon on Friday, 31 May 2024. If a minister suggests that a matter be put on notice, members should use the online questions on notice system to submit their questions.

Are there any questions?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Madam Speaker, for the record —

**The CHAIR:** Madam Chair.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Sorry; Madam Chair. We did not examine the Western Australian Institute of Sport. You made that comment a moment ago for the record for *Hansard*. We had an agreement with the minister that we would merge WAIS in amongst division 36.

**The CHAIR:** That is fine. Technically, it is not a budget item, so I had to say that.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I just wanted to clarify that.

**The CHAIR:** All right. Let us move on. Do we have a question? The member for North West Central.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I refer to line item 3 “Historical Heritage Services” on page 720. Funding for historical heritage services falls from \$16.9 million in 2022–23 to \$14.3 million in 2024–25. What is driving the decrease?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Did the member say “historical heritage services”?

**Ms M. BEARD:** Yes.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That is item 3 under “Service Summary”. The decrease is mainly due to a decrease in expenditure for the Fremantle Prison conservation activation, which was \$800 000. A program of continued works has been completed at Fremantle Prison. That figure relates to the conservation and activation work.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I refer to the table in the middle of page 724. There is a reduction in FTE from 79 to 63 from 2022–23 to 2024–25. Can the minister detail the roles that were lost?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The 63 FTE is the baseline. In 2022–23, the additional FTEs were temporary positions that were created to focus on priority areas. They included the Fremantle Prison projects that were part of the Fremantle Prison’s strategic plan, including the conservation works. That work was finite in nature. Also, temporary positions were focused on assessment and registration work.

**Ms M. BEARD:** Is it fair to assume that the jobs that decreased were contracts? Were they contracted to a project and were not FTEs?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** They were finite contracts for specific project work.

**Ms M. BEARD:** Also on page 724, can the minister explain why it seems that the net cost of service is falling?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** This relates to the total cost of service and it shows a decrease from just over \$16 million to just over \$15 million. The indicator measures the average cost per service for historical heritage services and includes costs related to the activity that supports the service, including heritage management and advice, development, project delivery and the administration of the Heritage Council of Western Australia. The indicator is calculated

by dividing the total cost to deliver the services, less the grants, by the total number of services delivered for the historical heritage management. I will ask the director general to tell me what that means.

[9.50 pm]

**Mr A. Kannis:** If I break that down into the various years historically, the total cost of service, which is the top line, falls from \$16.966 million to \$16.141 million. Is that the correct line the member is referring to?

**Ms M. BEARD:** Yes.

**Mr A. Kannis:** The reduction from 2022–23 to 2023–24 is due to the decrease in the expenditure for the Fremantle Prison conservation and activation project. From the 2023–24 budget figure to the 2023–24 estimated actual there has been no material movement.

From 2023–24 to 2024–25, the decrease of \$1.4 million is mainly due the one-off expenditure that was related to cyclone Seroja. There was money in previous years for cyclone Seroja and that has dropped off so it has now got to its normal baseline, which is the answer to that question.

**Ms M. BEARD:** So there are not fewer services being provided?

**Mr A. Kannis:** No.

**Ms M. BEARD:** What does that relate to for Seroja?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** There is a line item for Seroja.

**Mr A. Kannis:** There is in another part of the budget papers.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am just clarifying what the member would like to ask about the line item.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I was wondering what the amount was and what it was for.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is \$1.6 million. As the member would be aware, a lot of ultimate payment of repairs and/or rectification of heritage works were paid out through the insurance process, so for a number of identified heritage work needs, the ultimate payout would be via insurance arrangements with an insurer.

**Ms M. BEARD:** Can I just clarify that this was for the shortfall that proponents could not claim from their insurance?

**Mr A. Kannis:** The principle was that for those who were not insured, an allocation was made. Based on the applications made, it appears that many were insured, so a provision was made in this budget that will be reconciled. In this current financial year—I am talking about 2023–24—there will be a reconciliation and that money is still available in the budget, but it will only be based on what requests we get from applicants.

**Ms M. BEARD:** When does the request period close? Do they have time?

**Mr A. Kannis:** Applications close in December 2024.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I refer to the explanation of significant movements on page 724. The first note states —

The average cost of historical heritage services has decreased from the 2023–24 Budget to the 2023–24 Estimated Actual as a result of an increased number of historical heritage services provided.

Can the minister detail the new heritage services that have been provided that have reduced the average cost? I think the minister has answered that previously.

**The CHAIR:** Yes, he has.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am advised by the director general that it specifically relates to the demand for services not the amount or type of services provided.

**Ms M. BEARD:** Does that reflect a decrease in visitation?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No. Note 2 relates to Fremantle Prison visitation.

**Ms M. BEARD:** I refer to Fremantle Prison restoration on page 726. Can the minister indicate what the original budget was for the restoration and whether there have been any material differences?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will stand corrected, but there has been an allocation of \$8.9 million for the period 2022–23 to 2025–26. Those works relate to a couple of key things. One was to address some immediate conservation needs of the structure. The building was completed in 1860, I think. If the member knows the prison well, she will know that as she enters through the main gates and into the inner gate, there is the forecourt, or the parade ground. A lot of work needed to be done on drainage, which, of course, decreases the impact of water egress on the limestone wall structure of the prison and also allows and enhances opportunities to use that space for activation. In the future, we will see more concerts and activation of that nature in those areas at Fremantle Prison.

**Extract from *Hansard***

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 21 May 2024]

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Chair; Mr Peter Rundle; Ms Merome Beard; Mr David Templeman

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That allocation was given unashamedly. This is the only built World Heritage site in the state. It is very significant. It is a top tourism winner, and a multi-award winner. In my conversations with the federal minister, we will continue to seek matching funds for further works to ensure we protect that asset.

**The appropriation was recommended.**