

Division 69: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, \$24 085 000 —

Ms L.L. Baker, Chairman.

Mr W.R. Marmion, Minister for Environment.

Mr M. Webb, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr I. Biddle, Business and Finance Manager.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Gosnells.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I refer to page 834 and the subheading, “Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research”. I refer specifically to the note about the authority demonstrating leadership in urban bushland management. Does the authority have any Bush Forever areas that form part of its gardens and parks? If so, what are the current arrangements for the management of these sites, and is there any plan for this to be taken over by another agency? My final question relates to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and the development of —

The CHAIRMAN: Member, would you like to put the first two questions for now?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: Okay.

Mr W.R. MARMION: There are significant areas of Bush Forever land in the land managed by the authority. I will ask Mr Webb to elaborate on that.

Mr M. Webb: Kings Park and Bold Park are contained within Bush Forever sites and both are managed in accordance with publicly reviewed and ministerially endorsed management plans that run for a period of five years.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I would like to know whether there are plans to expand the responsibility of the authority to take on more management of Bush Forever sites, or is that a task that will be left to the DEC?

Mr W.R. MARMION: Can the member repeat the last part?

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: It is about the management of other Bush Forever sites; I think there are some 300. Will the authority take on more of a management role for those sites, or is it something that is going to be left to the DEC when the Western Australian Planning Commission hands over those sites to another government agency?

[7.30 pm]

Mr W.R. MARMION: I understand that there are no plans for Kings Park to take over any more land than it currently has. Therefore, the Department of Environment and Conservation will be responsible for any lands that the Western Australian Planning Commission might ask to be managed by another authority.

Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE: I have a final question on this division. I refer to works in progress on page 835 and the line item “Cultural and Visitor Amenity Improvements CHOGM — Leaders’ Retreat”. Noting that when the Premier first announced that the Fraser’s Restaurant complex was to be expanded, he said that he expected works would cost less than \$9 million, what was the original budget for this work, and can the minister provide a breakdown of the costs? What is the reason for the expected total cost of around \$10.1 million?

Mr W.R. MARMION: The finalisation of the CHOGM-related works to take place for the opening in September is as follows: the total \$10.151 million comprises \$9 million for the expansion of Fraser’s Restaurant, and approval was given for additional separate funding of \$1.151 million for necessary landscaping works for the Botanical Cafe. It is more cost-effective for all the works to take place at the same time. That is the split of the \$10.151 million.

The appropriation was recommended.