

**Division 62: Heritage Council of Western Australia, \$5 474 000 —**

Mr M.W. Sutherland, Chairman.

Mr G.M. Castrilli, Minister for Heritage.

Mr G. A. Gammie, Executive Director, Office of Heritage.

Mr E.A. Munro, Management Accountant.

Mr T.E. Perrigo, Chief Executive Officer, National Trust of Australia (WA).

Mr P. Cirillo, Manager, Finance and Audit, National Trust of Australia (WA).

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** I refer to “Total Appropriations” on page 770. I will use that to ask the same questions regarding the answer the minister gave me to question on notice 2750. He said that the Heritage Council did not have sufficient space to allow for on-site storage of closed volumes and place-related materials. The National Party Minister for Agriculture and Food scored \$37 million to fix up the records storage shambles in the Department of Agriculture and Food, and I am wondering what business cases the minister has been able to strongly put forward to the government, and what the anticipated cost is of fixing this problem in Heritage by digitalising all its data and necessary records.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I did not score any specific additional funding for storage. I was not as successful!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** We would be your best weapon against those National blokes! Taking their untold millions from the budget!

[9.30 pm]

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** The minister’s answer question on notice 2750 revealed there was insufficient space to allow for on-site storage and place-related materials, so somebody must have done a business case or alerted somebody to the problem and must have an approximate budget item of what it will take to fix and to digitalise everything.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I will get the director to answer that, member for Perth.

**Mr G.A. Gammie:** There has not been any business case done on digitising the Heritage Council’s records.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Given that the minister has stated there is a problem and there is not sufficient space, what does the minister propose to do to fix it?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** When did I say there was a problem?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** In answer to question on notice 2750; it reads —

The Office of Heritage does not have sufficient space to allow for onsite storage of ... place related materials.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** That is right.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** As the previous local government official said —

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** As did the previous government, member for Perth. It paid for off-site storage, did it not?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** There were not as many documents there.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The former Labor government did go off site for storage?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** I am sure we did.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** What is the difference?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** The difference is we lost the election on the issue of no storage! So the minister has to fix it! Come on; the member for Bunbury is the minister!

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I am asking the question: What budget item did the member put up to get that fixed up?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** We did. For the Office of State Records, there was \$93 million to get an integrated solution. The Minister for Agriculture and Food has managed to get \$37 million.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** We are talking heritage, member for Perth. The member has the answer; we have not got a specific budget item for it.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Can I get an undertaking that it is something the minister will look into and champion?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I will think about it for the next budget round—absolutely.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Surely the minister would acknowledge that heritage documents decaying is a problem, and that by digitalising we can make inroads.

Mr John Hyde; Mr John Castrilli; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr Frank Alban; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr Peter Watson

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**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Member for Perth, I will make the broad statement that I try to champion my three departments to get better outcomes and facilities the best I can within the context of government and the constraints we find ourselves in. As the member knows, we have just gone through a horrendous period with the world's economy. We can only do what we can do with what we have got. I have an eye on it, and I will do whatever I can.

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** I refer the minister to page 774, the second line item "Conservation Works — St Mary the Virgin Church Complex" that allocates a grant of \$250 000. How will this grant be used?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The Anglican Church of St Mary the Virgin is in South Perth, as the member might be aware. It is a landmark building.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** I bet the member for South Perth has never been there!

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The member for South Perth has worked very hard on behalf of his constituency to get money for that church. It was built in 1931

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** He is a fine member of Parliament.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** He is a very fine member. The Church of St Mary the Virgin was one of the first churches constructed in the reinforced concrete style back in 1931 or 1932. It has some concrete cancer that has to be fixed. The government has committed \$250 000 to the church to help with that project. I am aware that the federal government is also going to give some money to the church and that the rest of the money, which is probably in excess of \$750 000, will be raised as a community. As the member for Swan Hills and other members would appreciate, our heritage is pretty important, and whatever we can do with the limited funds available, we do. Therefore, I am very pleased to assist in that process.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Further to that line item and that answer, which is very admirable, that restoration at the Anglican St Mary the Virgin Church complex in South Perth is the only new funding in the Heritage Council budget. The church's significance was recognised in 2006 through its inclusion on the Register of Heritage Places. What other churches has the Heritage Council included on its register, and therefore been alerted that those churches may require funding for minor restoration or to avert the demolition that St Mary's faced?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Not too long ago I went to St Georges Cathedral; they invited me. I had a look around the whole complex and they will be requiring some funding. Obviously we are not in a position this financial year to do so, and that is something I will need to consider later.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** The Church of St Mary the Virgin received funding because it had been recognised on the state Register of Heritage Places in 2006. By way of supplementary information, perhaps the minister is able to list what other churches in the state the Heritage Council has included on the register, and about which it has been alerted that they may require funding for either minor restoration or intensive restoration.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I can do that as supplementary information.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member has requested a list of every church that has been listed on the state Register of Heritage Places and whether they have been informed they are entitled to some type of grant for repairs.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** No. The assessment will detail whether they require minor restoration.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Is that whether they require it or whether they have asked for it? Does the member want me to go and assess every church?

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** No. I refer to whether the Heritage Council or the minister has been requested to provide minor or major restoration.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I will provide any request that we have had from churches on the register.

*[Supplementary Information No B48.]*

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** I refer the minister to page 773 under the heading "Expenses" the line item "Grants and subsidies". I understand this includes funding assistance to local government. What is being done to help local government identify important national heritage places?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Local governments have obligations to identify important heritage places through the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990. That act requires them to compile and maintain a municipal inventory. There is also state planning policy for historic heritage conservation, and that encourages local government to create a heritage list. Assistance is offered through the Heritage Council. In 2009, \$200 000 was made available to assist local government in the process of getting their municipal inventories up to scratch by applying a common standard. There are also two heritage officers in the department who assist local government with some of that assessment. That is the assistance we provide to local government. I think I have covered that.

[9.40 pm]

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Further to that answer and that line item, can the minister detail which local governments have not met their commitments to compile and/or review their municipal heritage inventories, and what penalties have been applied to them?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** To answer the second part of the question first, I do not think there is any power under the Heritage of Western Australia Act to apply a penalty to local governments. Off the top of my head, about 125 local governments have not complied. I can provide a list of those.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Name and shame.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** It is entirely up to the member for Perth. If he wants me to read them out, I certainly will.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** We can take that as supplementary information.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** I can give that to the member as supplementary information.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** The minister is a generous man.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I ask the minister to outline exactly what information he will provide.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The member for Perth wants a list of the councils that have not complied with the municipal inventory under the Heritage of Western Australia Act.

[*Supplementary Information No B49.*]

**The CHAIRMAN:** I know that the member for Albany has questions on the next division.

**Mr P.B. WATSON:** Only one.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Could we spend three or four more minutes on this division?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Okay.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** I refer to page 774 of the *Budget Statements* and the “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies” at the top of the page. The budgeted amount for local government and tourism has been cut from \$160 000 in 2009–10 to a meagre \$60 000 for 2010–11 for all the 139 local councils and extra tourism bodies to share. I assume that the money allocated there would go only to councils that have complied by completing their municipal heritage grants.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The actual amount for 2008–09 was \$67 000. The member referred to the budgeted figure for 2009–10. The estimated actual figure for 2009–10 is \$60 000. Basically, the amount for 2010–11 is in line with the 2008–09 amount and the 2009–10 estimated actual figure.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** What happened to the budget? Why did the Heritage Council think that it would spend \$160 000? Does nobody care about heritage and did nobody want to spend it?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** If the member for Perth looks at the line item above for the heritage grants program, the amount budgeted for 2009–10 was \$700 000 and the estimated actual figure is \$800 000. The amounts under local government and tourism went from \$160 000 to \$60 000.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** So it has just shifted; is that the explanation?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** Yes, the money has gone from local government and tourism to the heritage grants program.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** I refer to page 771 of the *Budget Statements* and to the item under “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” that details an amount of \$5 million for the Boulder earthquake. That amount was not included in the *Budget Statements* because the decision was made after the cut-off date. In the minister’s press release on this matter he stated —

“The Office of Heritage will administer the Goldfields Earthquake Restoration Fund, with the Heritage Council making determinations on the major grants with independent professional advice,”

Given that the Premier has abolished the Heritage Council grants committee, who will make those decisions? Will a new committee be created?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** No, the Heritage Council board will make those decisions. The Heritage Council grants committee was just a subset of the board. The board would have been making those decisions anyway.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Further to that, the Premier also announced that the Heritage Council of WA’s executive committee would be abolished.

**Extract from *Hansard***  
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Mr John Hyde; Mr John Castrilli; Mr Paul Papalia; Mr Frank Alban; Mr Tony Simpson; Mr Peter Watson

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**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** It is the same answer; it is a subset of the board and the board will make those decisions.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** Will the board members be paid the same amount?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** It was a subset of the board; it was like a subcommittee of the board.

**Mr J.N. HYDE:** The Premier has announced that both subcommittees have been abolished.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** We do not need subcommittees if those members are also members of the board. Instead of the subcommittee making the decisions, the board will make the decisions.

**The appropriation was recommended.**