

ROTTNEST ISLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Statement by Minister for Tourism

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Tourism) [2.02 pm]: I rise to inform the house about the “Draft Rottnest Island Management Plan 2014–19” which, along with the *Rottnest Island Management Plan: A 20-year Vision*, was released yesterday for a two-month public consultation period. In addition, the Rottnest Island Authority has released a draft boating management strategy. Section 17 of the Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987 requires the Rottnest Island Authority to control and manage Rottnest Island in accordance with a management plan. Sections 18 and 19 of the act provide that the management plan be reviewed and approved by the Minister for Tourism every five years. The current Rottnest Island management plan concludes in June 2014. The 20-year vision document was a requirement of the current management plan. It has been identified that a longer-term vision is required to ensure that the island remains sustainable. This is an exciting milestone for Western Australia’s favourite island holiday destination, and I am pleased to say that the Rottnest Island master plan offers a bold long-term vision. The draft management plan outlines a strategic direction for Rottnest Island with improved visitor experiences and conservation; improved access to cultural heritage; protection of the unique environment; professional relationships with stakeholders; and financial sustainability. The private sector is an important partner in the management and operation of Rottnest Island, with 70 per cent of the businesses on the island being run by the private sector. The important pillars of the draft Rottnest Island management plan are encouraging further private sector investment to ensure that the island’s infrastructure remains sustainable and expanding the amenity of the island. In addition, the 20-year master plan vision provides a long-term vision for how the island’s built environment may look and feel over the next 20-plus years. Proposed developments include a marina, an eco-development, a new light industrial area and landscaping of the settlement areas.

Rottnest Island is a public asset that is highly valued by Western Australians, and it must be conserved and protected for the enjoyment of future generations. The challenges associated with the management of an A-class reserve located within a fragile coastal environment are many and varied; indeed, ever-changing market and environmental conditions affect the island’s appeal and competitiveness. The Rottnest Island Authority will continue to offer something for everyone—locals, national and international tourists, boating visitors, schools and youth groups, corporate clients and others. The island’s unique heritage, landscape and biodiversity are the very values that attract visitors; thus, the need to maintain and enhance these values underpins the way forward. I encourage all Western Australians and visitors to Rottnest Island to familiarise themselves with these newly released documents, which are available for viewing online at www.rottnestisland.com, and to provide comments to help further shape the Rottnest Island Authority’s plans for the future of Rottnest Island.