

ROYAL GEORGE HOTEL — REDEVELOPMENT

719. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the minister representing the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the Royal George Hotel site in East Fremantle.

- (1) When did the state government become the owner and/or custodian of the Royal George and in what circumstances?
- (2) Subsequently, when was the site sold; to whom; and for what price?
- (3) What conditions, if any, were placed on the new owners to limit or define redevelopment options—for example, refurbishment of the old hotel building?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) In 2015, the National Trust was required to surrender the land back to the state of Western Australia as negotiations between the trust and the proponent were leading to a sale that could not be supported under the previous tenure arrangement.
- (2) The site was sold on 12 June 2017, to 34 Duke Street Pty Ltd, for \$570 000, plus goods and services tax. The purchase price was determined by the Valuer General and took into consideration the significant conservation works required to be undertaken.
- (3) The sale was conditional on the purchaser entering into a binding heritage agreement under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990. The heritage agreement details the conservation works required to be completed within three years of the effective dates and provides for ongoing maintenance of the hotel. The hotel is to be restored in conjunction with, or before, any proposed development on the rear of the property and, to ensure this, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage registered an absolute caveat on the freehold title.