

**Division 68: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, 15 769 000 —**

Mr A.P. O’Gorman, Chairman.

Dr G.G. Jacobs, Minister for Water representing the Minister for Environment.

Mr M. Webb, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr I. Biddle, Business and Finance Manager.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member for Mandurah.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I refer to the second dot point on page 832, the five-year management plan for Kings Park and Botanic Garden for 2009–14, and on behalf of the member for Armadale I ask whether the minister can confirm whether the Kings Park Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is looking to develop a regional park as part of its overall strategy in the area of Hamel or develop any other regional area for a new botanical park?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will provide a general answer and then I will refer to Mr Webb. With the five-year management plan for Kings Park and Botanic Garden, the public consultation process underpins the management of Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and both management plans are on track. The focus for the next Kings Park plan will be the celebration and recognition of the value of the state’s botanic garden in its fiftieth anniversary in 2015. I will ask Mr Webb to comment on Hamel.

**Mr M. Webb:** In Western Australia there is only one botanic garden, Kings Park and Botanic Garden. In contrast, many other states have a number of botanic gardens. Since 2000 the authority has been keen to establish a number of regional botanic gardens. A report was done in that year that identified not locations but key criteria under which regional botanic gardens might be established. We are in informal contact with two groups, if you like, to consider regional botanic gardens, and neither of those involve Hamel.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** What are those two groups?

**Mr M. Webb:** The discussions have been only by telephone at this stage. One is through the University of Western Australia, which is keen to look at a regional botanic garden for research, and the other is through a not-for-profit group that is keen to look at a regional botanic garden in one of the mining areas of Western Australia.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I refer to the service summary table on page 831. There is a very large discrepancy between the 2009–10 budget figure of some \$18 million and the actual figure of \$25.9 million. Could we have some explanation for that substantial discrepancy?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** There are issues of money and some baseline expenditure was brought forward, so I ask Mr Webb to go through those with the member by way of explanation for the \$25.93 million and the \$16 million total cost of services.

**Mr M. Webb:** If I understand the question correctly, we brought forward a sum of money from the 2010–11 financial year to expend on works in the 2009–10 financial year. Those works have largely been completed and most of the money will, in fact, be spent in this financial year; however, there may be some small amount of works that will not be finished this financial year and that money may have to be carried over into the next financial year. I can outline those projects, if you like.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** Yes, please.

**Mr M. Webb:** The major funding was \$4.087 million on the Fraser Avenue ceremonial walk. There were public and safety asset initiatives, including irrigation repairs and replacement, roof repairs and unsafe lighting replacement. Also, paths and trails were repaired following the January 2009 bushfire. For those works nearing completion the sum expended to date is \$2.597 million. In the case of a new project in Kings Park called the Rio Tinto Naturescape we are currently undertaking some works of a recurrent nature, mainly engaged in the landscape design and design of a new building.

**Mr F.M. LOGAN:** I draw the attention of the minister and the CEO to page 830 under “Item 161 Capital Appropriation” under “Capital” in the “Appropriations, Expenses and Cash Assets” chart, which indicates a budget estimate of a capital appropriation of \$2.932 million. It is also referred to later in the budget papers under capital appropriation, but there is no correlation between that money and how it is to be spent. I presume it is being spent on the new works that are highlighted above it. This question is for the purpose of the budget papers so that people can read them accurately. There does not seem to be any correlation; it is simply a lump of money allocated and there is no reference back to how that \$2.932 million is spent. The budget papers have to be clear so that everyone can follow the course of the money.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** Basically, this is a capital appropriation table for new works and how that is funded. I will ask Mr Webb to walk the member through that.

**Mr M. Webb:** The sum of \$2.932 million is made up of expenditure on the next stage of the biodiversity conservation centre in Kings Park. The second part of that, in the amount of \$1.935 million, is on the nursery depot redevelopment, which comes to a total of \$2.932 million. In addition, we will be funding it through an internal fund and balances of about \$0.585 million.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Given the time, hopefully there will be some very quick answers provided to these questions. I refer to the sixth dot point on page 832, which refers to Indigenous heritage and the desire by Nyoongah elders for a high-profile statue. Has the minister indicated her reaction to that request and is there a plan to support the request by the Indigenous elders who I understand advise the board? I would like to know the minister's view on those requests. I am sure that Mr Webb can answer the second question, and I would like a very brief comment on the health of the transplanted boab.

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** The BGPA is seeking support from both government and non-government sectors for the new proposal that the member for Mandurah talked about. The member asked about the minister's view. I do not know the minister's view as we sit here today, but I am sure that the request will get some positive consideration.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It has been on the books for a while. When I was a minister, a request came through. I failed dismally in implementing it!

**Mr M. Webb:** The boab has currently lost all its leaves as it is too cold, but it is really healthy and there has been active root growth. All the rot that was on it has been cleaned up and we are very confident that it will continue to remain healthy and produce new leaves later this year.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I have a quick question regarding the fifth dot point on page 832, where mention is made of a private consortium that will be involved in a development at the botanic gardens at Kings Park. Who are the private individuals in that consortium and what control does the government have over them?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** The advice I have is that the consortium includes representatives from a range of community groups including the Healing Hearts Foundation, SIDS and Kids, the Compassionate Friends of Western Australia, Soroptimist International of Western Australia and the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** Are these organisations providing funding?

**Dr G.G. JACOBS:** I will work through some of these and then answer that question for the member. The consortium has raised over \$1 million for the place of reflection, and will provide path upgrades, a boardwalk, a pavilion, lighting and an upgrade to existing toilets and the precinct. Works are expected to be documented for tender in July–August 2010 for completion in early 2011.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** Will there be Rio Tinto or Wesfarmers logos on this?

**Mr M. Webb:** There will be no naming rights attached to this particular facility.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

*Meeting suspended from 6.01 to 7.00 pm*

[Mr J.M. Francis took the chair.]

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before I read out the initial statement, I understand there may be a desire among committee members to change the order of the divisions that we deal with this evening. My understanding is that there is a desire to start with division 39, Fire and Emergency Services Authority. If that is the case, I require a motion to be moved and a resolution from the floor. Are you happy to move that, member for —

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Girrawheen—the north side of the river, Mr Chairman!

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member for Girrawheen has moved that we proceed with divisions 39, 38 and 35; in that order.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Can I suggest, though —

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am sorry, before I finish putting the question.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** We need a time limit somewhere because I assume there are members who want to get on to police and road safety at some stage. I think we should therefore have a maximum time on FESA.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think I will deal with that issue separately to this resolution, if I can finish.

**Mr R.F. JOHNSON:** Okay.

Question put and passed.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We will start with division 39 and it will obviously be up to the committee to determine how long we remain on this division.