

HERITAGE BILL — INTRODUCTION

549. Mr I.M. BRITZA to the Minister for Heritage:

I understand the minister will be introducing the new heritage bill in this house tomorrow. Could he explain to the house how this new legislation will improve the conservation of our state's heritage places?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

Absolutely, and I thank the member for Morley for that question. This government is incredibly proud of our track record in the heritage portfolio and of what has been achieved in our time in government in heritage. Heritage has undergone a renaissance in recent years, and I point to projects not too far away from where we stand right now, such as Brookfield Place —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, do you want the good news? Nobody has been called to order. Do you want the bad news? You are the first one. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr A.P. JACOB: If the member for Girrawheen keeps interjecting, we might even get to the Guildford Hotel—a project that again proved that this government's approach to heritage has been the right way, as it fast becomes a heritage icon in this state. Indeed, if I could just use one more small example —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr A.P. JACOB: — but a significant example and, again, an election commitment: the new heritage revolving fund, which is repairing and restoring the warders' cottages in Fremantle. This government finds innovative solutions to our heritage problems, and I stand proudly on our record. Indeed, at the last election we committed to introducing a new heritage bill into this Parliament. I introduced a green bill into this Parliament last year, and we have received a number of submissions on that bill. We have considered them in detail and I am very proud to announce to the house that tomorrow I will introduce a new heritage bill into this place. The new heritage bill builds on the green bill process and retains many of the key new measures that were proposed in that green bill. Importantly, it puts forward a less convoluted process for the assisting and listing of significant places of state heritage. It retains the strength of penalties that were brought in by this government under my predecessor, the member for Bunbury, to ensure that significant places of heritage are retained and that hefty penalties are in place for those who infringe the legislation. Very importantly, I refer to something that has been called for for a long time, and something that I hope members of the opposition will support: this bill proposes, for the first time, to include repair orders. A repair order is a mechanism by which the government of the day will be able to address issues of so-called —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Repair orders will provide a legislative mechanism for the government of the day to address issues of demolition by neglect. These are often the issues that cause the most angst for heritage concerns within the government.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I do not think that has anything to do with heritage, member for Cockburn.

This bill will replace a 25-year-old act. Community attitudes to and, indeed, appreciation of, heritage has changed significantly over the past 25 years. This will be a modern piece of legislation that picks up on that community appreciation of heritage and will provide for a modern approach to heritage management in this state. I look forward to debate on this bill.