

**Division 20: The National Trust of Australia (WA), \$1 592 000 -**

Mr A.J. Dean, Chairman.

Dr J.M. Edwards, Minister for the Environment.

Mr T.E. Perrigo, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr P. Cirillo, Manager, Finance and Audit.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I refer to the significant issues and trends at page 358. The fourth dot point refers to voluntary nature conservation on private land. Will the minister expand on that? What funding is available?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: The dot point is probably referring to conservation covenants because it is the issue the member raised in his speech about the budget. With funding from Lotterywest and the Natural Heritage Trust, the National Trust established a conservation covenanting scheme about three years ago. It has been quite successful. A number of places now have covenants in position. Through my agencies, the Government has conducted a review of conservation covenanting schemes. There are a number in the State. The review is not yet finalised; it will be finalised in a few months. I am happy to inform the member, as I have recently informed the National Trust, that when I discovered it had not submitted a bid for funds for conservation covenants in its budget bid and that the program was likely to fold in July, I allocated from the CALM budget the sum of \$80 000 to tide over the program to make sure it continues until our review has been concluded. The money is for staff in the National Trust to continue the program for the next six months from 1 July. During that time, the review of all the conservation covenanting programs will be concluded and the Government will make final recommendations.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: Is \$80 000 locked in for the next six months?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: Yes.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: What happens after six months when the review is complete?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: It will depend on the outcomes of the review.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: As to what funding it will receive from government?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: Yes. The point needs to be made that departments through their minister - I am not its minister - go to Treasury with bids but no bid was made for this program. However, I am concerned that the program not fall over, particularly with the review not being concluded. Money will be provided from 1 July to ensure the staff keep doing their jobs.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: I refer to page 361. The National Trust manages 36 places. One place is Wannerup House. I understand that, during the year, the community-based committee that manages Wannerup House ceased to exist. How is it now being managed?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: I have visited Wannerup House and I think it is an excellent place. I ask Mr Perrigo to comment on the question.

Mr PERRIGO: There has been a turnover of the committee and a new committee has been formed. That committee currently consists of six or seven community representatives. We are furthering discussions with local government so it can also become involved through a formal partnership with the management of the place.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I refer to the third dot point under significant issues and trends at page 358. It refers to a growing community expectation of a holistic integrated approach to three heritage environments: natural, built and indigenous. Is the minister able to enlarge on that and compare the state approach with that of the federal approach?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: What was the question? Is it whether the holistic approach is a state or federal issue?

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: There is a growing community expectation of a holistic integrated approach to the three heritage environments of natural, built and indigenous heritage. I am aware that the federal Government has taken a role with a holistic approach to heritage across the board. Where does the State sit in relation to that? Will the minister enlarge on it?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: We looked at this issue before the last election. Indeed, since being in government we have looked further at it. At this stage we are keeping those areas separate. Issues of Aboriginal cultural heritage and management will be kept separate from built heritage, as it is from natural heritage. We clearly want to see some level of integration, which is why I have taken it upon myself through my portfolio and budget agencies to provide some money to the National Trust for what is more a natural environment issue. We have no plans at this stage to fully integrate them through legislation in the State although we have close working

relationships between those different entities and parts of government. Concerning the approach of the federal Government, we are yet to see how that works out. We have a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth Government on the commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. We are delighted to have cut two processes into one as part of that. Speaking as a minister, it would be a good thing if we were able to line up some of the indigenous heritage issues more closely. At this stage they are separate in the State.

The CHAIRMAN: I draw members' attention to the time. We must conclude this division by one o'clock.

Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS: I have a quick question. I refer to page 358. I note that the capital contribution for this year is \$339 000, whereas last year it was \$356 000. Will the minister comment on that?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: I will ask the chief executive officer to comment.

Mr PERRIGO: I will defer that question to the manager of finance.

Mr CIRILLO: The capital appropriation of \$339 000 is as per previous years' budget estimates. The National Trust submitted applications through the budget process to Treasury to secure funds in the two out years of 2006-07 and 2007-08, for which \$540 000 and \$560 000 was approved. There is a \$17 000 reduction from 2003-04 to 2004-05, but the trust thought it was better to secure future funding for capital works in the out years than to increase funding in 2004-05.

Mr J.B. D'ORAZIO: Mr Chairman, I draw your attention to the time.

Dr J.M. EDWARDS: Can I add one final comment?

The CHAIRMAN: Time has expired.

**The appropriation was recommended.**

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*