

TREE TOP WALK, MANJIMUP

749. Hon M G House to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- (1) Has the Government committed funding to construct a Tree Top Walk in the Shire of Manjimup?
- (2) If so, how much funding has been allocated?
- (3) Has the Government undertaken an impact study to determine what adverse effects introducing a tree top walk in Manjimup may have on the already established Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk in the Shire of Denmark?
- (4) If an impact study has been undertaken, will the Minister release the report?
- (5) If an impact study has not been carried out, will the Minister ensure that such a study is undertaken before finalising any plans for a second tree top walk?

Dr EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The previous Coalition Government proposed a major tourism development in the Donnelly Valley as part of the adjustment package of the Regional Forest Agreement. In 2000 a public competition was held, and from more than seventy entries, a sky jetty and river walkway emerged as the preferred development. The Commonwealth Government has reneged on its commitment to fund the project approved by the previous Government, leaving stranded the high expectations in the community of Manjimup. This Government has agreed to provide matching funding, should the Shire of Manjimup be successful in obtaining a matching Commonwealth grant to build the structure.
- (2) The Shire of Manjimup is applying for a \$1million infrastructure grant.
- (3) No. However, as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, the previous Government produced a document called the Comprehensive Regional Assessment, which contained a chapter on Tourism and Recreation, and a section on development planning.
- (4) N/A
- (5) No. The proposal is for a sky jetty and river walkway, not a second tree top walk and as indicated has been developed following extensive community consultation. The momentum for this project is now with the community of Manjimup. The Walpole Wilderness Proposal, also a community driven proposal, is expected to have similar positive effects on the Denmark and Walpole communities.