

SHIRE OF NORTHAMPTON — TOILET AND COACH PARKING FACILITIES

49. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the lack of suitable toilet and coach parking infrastructure in the Shire of Northampton, which already struggles to provide services due to a limited and ageing ratepayer base. The limitations of the existing facilities will be exacerbated by the very welcome \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk which is to open next month. Can the minister advise what assistance is available to the local government authority to provide the necessary infrastructure, such as toilets and designated coach parking and other amenities, to ensure the overall success of the Skywalk initiative?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. This question originally went to tourism, and they did not want it; anyway, we have an answer for the member now.

As part of the Kalbarri Skywalk project, the McGowan government is building new toilet facilities onsite, which includes 12 toilets, as well as 103 car parking bays and 10 coach parking bays. An additional 28 toilets are already in place throughout Kalbarri National Park. This will undoubtedly assist the shire to accommodate the additional visitation anticipated to Kalbarri when the Skywalk opens later this year.

More generally, the Geraldton Aboriginal settlement agreement announced earlier this month included \$8.9 million of funding to upgrade infrastructure at Lucky Bay and Pink Lake as tourism development sites. This funding will be used for various upgrades, including boardwalks, toilet facilities and car parking. To support these upgrades, the Mid West Development Commission has also spent \$14 800 on developing a Pink Lake tourism master plan, and \$39 000 on a heritage survey.