

FREMANTLE ARTILLERY BARRACKS

**766. Mr J.P.D. EDWARDS to the Premier:**

I refer to the current negotiations taking place between the Commonwealth Government and the Western Australian State Government to transfer the Fremantle artillery barracks from the Department of Defence to the WA State Government.

- (1) Can the Premier advise whether the State Government has contributed any funds to a business plan for the artillery barracks?
- (2) Will the Premier state unequivocally that the State Government will honour the agreement between it and the Commonwealth Government to preserve the artillery barracks in their current state; and if not, why not?
- (3) Can the Premier advise whether there is any plan to sell, lease or develop the buildings or vacant land for any purpose?

**Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:**

- (1) Yes, funds were provided.
- (2) Yes. We have made it very clear that the museum should stay intact as a museum - I think that was the point of the question - and that was part of our discussions with the Commonwealth Government and the City of Fremantle.
- (3) The whole point of doing the business plan was to see whether we could find for the whole site, not just the museum, ways and means by which some revenue could be raised so that it would be viable. The Fremantle City Council has made it very clear, as I am sure the member for Fremantle knows very well, that it is very keen to be involved in this, but not on a basis that will not be sustainable; and that is the same view that we take as a State Government. We have contributed to the business plan. The business plan is being put together. We have not yet received advice about the plan. It is being funded jointly by the State and Commonwealth Governments and the City of Fremantle. It is all within the context of preserving the museum in the building that it currently occupies and looking at whether there are ways and means by which the museum can be sustainable in terms of the revenue needed to keep the site properly maintained, including the buildings. That is the whole point of the business plan. We are waiting to hear back. I believe the federal minister will be coming over, and I will be talking to her about this matter in the near future.