

ELLENSBROOK HOMESTEAD, MANAGEMENT

1002. Mr Edwards to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) When did the Department of Conservation (formerly the Department of Conservation and Land Management) take over control of the Ellensbrook Homestead located in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River that had formerly been managed by the National Trust of WA?
 - (2) What are the opening days and times when the homestead is now open to the public and what were its opening days and times prior to management control being taken over by the Department of Conservation?
 - (3) What financial surplus or deficit did the National Trust incur in operating the site for each of the past three years?
 - (4) What profit or loss does the Department of Conservation expect to incur in operating this site for the 2001/2002 year?
 - (5) What budget allocation has the Department of Conservation made to manage and maintain the Ellensbrook site for the 2001/2002 year?

Dr EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The Department of Conservation and Land Management commenced management of Ellensbrook Homestead on Monday 2 April 2001.
- (2) The Department opens the homestead from 9.15 am to 4.15 pm Wednesday to Sunday inclusive during winter and seven days per week during summer. The homestead is also open during Easter, school holidays and long weekends. Prior to the Department's management the homestead was open about four to five days per week during low visitation periods in winter and opened daily in summer, long weekends and Easter.
- (3) The National Trust is the custodian of this information. They have also received this Parliamentary Question for response.
- (4) Direct costs are estimated to exceed direct income by approximately \$20,000 in 2001/2002. The deficit is expected to reduce in future years and become a positive cash flow with tourism growth. There are other non-financial benefits for the Department, the National Trust and the public with respect to national park and heritage information and management, including indigenous cultural heritage and Aboriginal employment.
- (5) The Department has budgeted \$70,000 to manage and maintain Ellensbrook in 2001/2002, comprising wages, services and materials.