

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY

Statement by Minister for Tourism

MR R.C. KUCERA (Yokine - Minister for Tourism) [2.04 pm]: I advise the House that the Government has appointed Mr Paolo Amaranti as the Chief Executive Officer of the Rottnest Island Authority. For the past couple of months Mr Amaranti has been Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Rottnest Island Authority, and before that he was an executive director of the Western Australian Tourism Commission, responsible for the area of industry development and visitor servicing. Mr Amaranti takes on this important role at a pivotal time in the island's history.

The Rottnest Island Taskforce, of which he was a member, delivered to the Government last month a blueprint to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of the island for the long term. We have enthusiastically supported that blueprint and backed it up with a \$20 million injection over six years. I am pleased to advise the House that the implementation of the task force recommendations has commenced. The finalisation of the wind turbine facility is being progressed as a priority, and, in general terms, the RIA has begun negotiations with Western Power, the Water Corporation and the Department of Conservation and Land Management on the way forward for the management of the environment, water and power on the island. Investigations are also under way into a "Rotto Card", and it is hoped to have one in place this year for the convenience of visitors. An operational plan for 2004-05 is being finalised. This plan will break down each task that needs to be done in the coming financial year and is an important step in ensuring that the task force and government vision for Rottnest becomes a reality.

I will continue to keep the House informed as we get on with the business of delivering Rottnest a secure future. The task force said it, and I am pleased today to reinforce it here in the House: Rottnest is open for business.