

**ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 2007**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 29 August.

**MS S.M. McHALE (Kenwick - Minister for Tourism)** [12.05 pm]: I will continue my remarks from last night, when I had acknowledged and thanked the opposition for its support for the bill and for its positive comments regarding the Rottnest Island Authority and its staff. There is no doubt that Rottnest Island is a beautiful island. It is an A-class reserve and must be protected. It is also Western Australia's largest holiday village. Commercial businesses operate on the island and it has consequential responsibilities and large infrastructure contracts that must be managed. The holiday element of the island must become more financially sustainable. I acknowledge that the members for Carine and Alfred Cove accepted extensive briefings on the bill and I thank them for their interest and their willingness to be briefed. As a result, we can deal with the bill collaboratively and expeditiously.

To that end, I will now deal with the specific queries that were raised by both members. The member for Carine commented on the decision for the authority to retain the management of the A-class reserve. I will deal with that very quickly. Originally, the government supported the recommendation contained in the report of the Rottnest Island task force to transfer the management of the terrestrial element of the island to the then Department of Conservation and Land Management. While drafting the amendments to create the conservation reserve and to transfer the control, it became apparent that by so doing we would be creating significant issues associated with having a dual management structure; that is, the Rottnest Island Authority and the then Department of Conservation and Land Management, which is now the Department of Environment and Conservation, would both have had responsibility for the island's conservation and its visiting service functions. That would have established a more complex arrangement that would have duplicated not only some functions, but also inevitably some costs. Under the original proposal, the authority's tourism opportunities could have been curtailed. For example, people who wanted to visit the lighthouse would have had to seek a permit and the cost of that would have been paid to CALM. Consequently, it was the government's informed view that the management of the island should remain in the hands of the Rottnest Island Authority, as it has done for a number of years. The management of the national park and the costs associated with it are a constant matter for discussion within government and Treasury.

The member for Alfred Cove queried the proposed adjustments to the settlement lines; that is, the lines that are drawn on the map. These are minor amendments. The settlement line has been extended to include all of Kingstown Barracks, which is currently providing accommodation for holiday visitors, including for more than 27 000 Western Australian students. Previously, part of the Kingstown precinct was in the settlement area and part of it was outside the precinct area. It is not sensible to have that arrangement. Therefore, the settlement line has been redrawn to include the whole of Kingstown Barracks. The member for Alfred Cove also queried the proposed amendments related to Geordie Bay. Currently, the settlement line ends in the bay somewhere along the road to Little Parakeet Bay. We have drawn the line around a physical structure. Therefore, we have used physical attributes and criteria - primarily the road - to draw the boundary, which will increase the authority's ability to educate visitors about the limits of the settlement zone. I can assure the member for Alfred Cove and the Rottnest Society that this is not a land grab. Future developments must fall within the parameters of the Rottnest Island management plan. This is a minor adjustment to define the conservation reserve and to very clearly define the settlement line and area for the ease of education and clarity. That is why that was done.

**Dr J.M. Woollard:** Looking at the map, it appears that it is not just the extent of the Kingstown Barracks; it takes up a lot of general bush area as well.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I do not want to dwell on this too much. We can deal with it in consideration in detail. I did note that yesterday the member for Alfred Cove came into the house with a very big map and purported to say where the boundaries were going. She was not quite correct. There are minor adjustments that include the whole of the Kingstown heritage precinct as part of the settlement. It is a very sensible redrawing of the boundaries.

The member for Alfred Cove also flagged her opposition to the way in which we will appoint members to the board. Changes to the authority's membership criteria are aimed at attracting people with a broader range of skills to create a more flexible approach to membership, as the requirements of the island change. The authority is currently expending considerable taxpayers' money on a major infrastructure renewal program as a result of the findings of the 2004 task force. This has resulted in the authority having to respond quickly to a wide range of strategic responsibilities across a range of government agencies and also dealing with private sector organisations. We need people with financial and corporate management skills. On occasions we need very sound commercial advice. The prescriptive, narrow, criteria-related appointments of the past are just that. They

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are outdated and restrictive. Flexible membership will provide invaluable support to the authority as we continue the program of financial reform. There are safeguards in the legislation, primarily, the Rottnest Island management plan, to safeguard against what the member for Alfred Cove is concerned about; that is, the potential for unsupported development or decisions taken by any future RIA. I assure the member that the safeguards are very strong, ensuring that a board will not go off in a direction that is inconsistent with the principles or the framework for managing the authority.

The member for Alfred Cove also questioned the attempts to ensure greater financial accountability. I assure the member that the strategic development plan, which will be a new requirement for the authority, allows for more detailed financial analysis than has previously been the case. The management plan will be required to include a statement that funding for the approved five-year management plan will be the approved Department of Treasury and Finance strategic development plan, together with the 12 months statement of corporate intent. We need to look at the Rottnest Island management plan, the strategic development plan and the statement of corporate intent. The combined amendments improve greatly on the current requirements for financial transparency, which essentially are not there. Amendments have come from criticism of the lack of financial transparency, the lack of financial planning, the Auditor General's report and the report of the task force that was established under the former minister. The requirements to develop a financial planning document will improve the authority's drive towards financial sustainability. The member for Alfred Cove suggests an amendment to remove section 32B of the act. That is not possible. It is linked to Treasury requirements. It also takes account of the authority's capacity to fund maintenance and upgrades and therefore allows for appropriation to be forthcoming from Parliament or government from time to time.

The member for Alfred Cove also raised the question of return of future profits to the community.

**Dr J.M. Woollard:** I said I couldn't see it happening.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I did notice that. Former Ministers for Tourism would probably love to have had the choice of returning future profits.

**Dr J.M. Woollard:** We live in hope.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** We do live in hope. However, we on this side of the chamber have relied less on hope and more on hopefully planning to ensure that the island is more sustainable than it has been. Whether it will be 100 per cent sustainable is another argument. Currently, Rottnest is certainly not in a position to return profits to the community because it is not making them. As we move towards financial sustainability, any profits that are generated will be put back into the island to ensure that our collective and community asset is kept to a standard that Western Australia can be proud of.

I thank the member for Carine for her -

**Dr J.M. Woollard:** Will you take an interjection on community service obligations?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** No, because we are going to go into consideration in detail to deal with the member's amendment. I would rather deal with any matters expeditiously then. I thank the member for Carine for her support and understanding of the challenges of managing a tourism village as part of an A-class conservation reserve. Both the member for Carine and the member for Alfred Cove spoke from an informed position and supported, with some qualification, the bill. Just so I am clear with the member for Alfred Cove, it is the government's intention not to support her amendment. The amendments that we are putting forward have been developed as a result of the task force report and as a result of consultation, including with society, and we believe they are very sound.

I also acknowledge the former Minister for Tourism, the member for Yokine, for his great interest and leadership as minister at the time the task force was set up. I acknowledge the chair of the authority, Mr Laurie O'Meara; the board members; and the CEO, Mr Paolo Amaranti, and staff for their commitment to improving the experience for visitors and the preservation of the Wadjemup Conservation Reserve. I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*Consideration in Detail*

**Clause 1: Short title -**

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** The minister referred to the community service obligations in her second reading speech. As there is nothing in this amendment bill that shows how the government intends to implement those

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community service obligations, can she describe to me how she sees them coming under the Rottnest Island Authority?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** At the moment no community service obligations apply to the authority. From time to time the government, through Parliament - I refer to the task force report - provides capital works funding. We have allocated more than \$26 million. I am conscious of the need to ensure appropriate funding for the A-class reserve. I am currently having discussions with Treasury.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 2 and 3 put and passed.**

**Clause 4: Section 3 amended -**

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** After looking at the boundaries shown on the map, it looks as though more land than just the Kingstown Barracks will come under the settlement area. The minister just said that the boundary will include the Kingstown Barracks. Will the minister confirm that it will not extend into the bush area?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The best way I can answer the question is by saying that the principle underlying the boundary changes was to incorporate the whole area designated the Kingstown heritage precinct. Currently, as I said in my second reading reply, part of it is included and part of it is not, which is not sensible. It will be far clearer for visitors if they have an unambiguous map and, therefore, the boundary will encapsulate the whole of the Kingstown heritage precinct. Part of that precinct includes bushland. For example, the Bickley Battery walk trail is part of the precinct and will come within the boundary of the settlement precinct.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** Some bush area will be designated under Kingstown Barracks. I imagine that the camping ground will be relocated. Is it envisaged that this area might become the camping area?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** No. In fact, there is no intention to build on it.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** Can the minister give a commitment to not build on that land? There is a concern that there will be further development on that bushland.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I will deal with this very quickly. The member for Alfred Cove can adopt a conspiratorial view that there will be a great land grab and that the government will change the ambience of the island.

**Ms S.E. Walker:** There's no need to be rude; she was just making a point.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** Member for Nedlands, I am using the words that the member for Alfred Cove used; namely, land grab. I have explained the reason that we have amended the boundary; that is, to ensure simplicity of understanding. There is absolutely no intention to construct on or develop that land. I cannot speak for any future government, but I guarantee that any development in 10 or 20 years will need to be managed through the management plan. As the member for Alfred Cove knows, the management plan involves an exhaustive consultation process with the community.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Clause 3 deals with the setting up of the Wadjemup Conservation Reserve. I understand that "Wadjemup" is an Aboriginal word meaning "land across water", which is a bit like stating the obvious. It is not a particularly inspiring name. The minister would be aware of the proposals to build either a four or five-star resort, for want of a better word, on Rottnest Island, which I and the community of Western Australia absolutely support. The minister would also be aware that people are looking to spend millions of dollars doing up the Quokka Arms Hotel, which I and the community of Western Australia believe is long overdue. Will any provisions in the bill impact on those two projects; and, if so, how?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The two projects that the member mentioned have been progressed within the management plan. As such, nothing new is being provided for in the amendments that will impact in any way on the finalisation of our contracts for those two projects.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Will the approval process change with the passage of this bill?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I am optimistic that we are close to the finalisation of the negotiations for those two projects.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** The bill sets up the conservation reserve. What is the government trying to conserve within that conservation area? Why has that particular piece of land been chosen? What is on that piece of land that is not on other pieces of land on Rottnest?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The flora and fauna and the terrestrial environment, which are recognised as environmentally sensitive and fragile and in need of careful management.

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**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** I thank the minister for her broad answer. Obviously, when a government sets up a conservation reserve, it does so to conserve certain flora and fauna found within that particular area as opposed to other areas, otherwise an entire area would be declared a conservation reserve. Exactly what flora and fauna are found in the particular area that will be called the Wadjemup Conservation Reserve that are not found elsewhere on Rottnest Island? I can only assume that this boundary has been drawn because the government wants to protect certain flora and fauna within that boundary.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** For a long time it has been an A-class reserve and it remains an A-class reserve under the Land Administration Act. To some extent, this is just a name change to reflect the uniqueness of Rottnest Island. We are looking to protect the diversity of the area; that is, the quokkas, the trees, the lakes and the beaches.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** So is the minister saying that the setting up of a conservation reserve does not have any further implications for the island other than the implication of being categorised an A-class reserve?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** That is right. It has been an A-class reserve for a long time.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** This is all about naming the area?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** It is a name change essentially that recognises the history of the island.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** A boundary has been drawn to create the Wadjemup Conservation Reserve. Will there be no more onerous restrictions, requirements or legislative implications for that area than there will be for any other part of Rottnest Island?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** That is right.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Can the minister say that categorically?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Yes.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** So this is about providing a name?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** A name, and recognising the island's history.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** The settlement area is being extended, as I understand it. What is the total number of hectares of the settlement area now and what will it be expanded to?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The total area of the island is about 2 000 hectares. The settlement area is 200 hectares, and I am informed that the extension is about 50 hectares.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Would it be possible, if the proponents thought it a good idea, to build the new four or five-star resort, or a similar development, within the boundaries of the new Rottnest Island Wadjemup Conservation Reserve; and, if not, why not?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The site has already been chosen for the hotel. Any future development - we are not considering any future developments of the type we are talking about now with Broadwater - would have to be managed under the management plan.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** I am not sure that the minister actually answered the question for me. I understand that the site has already been chosen for the new resort. Perhaps I can put the question in a different way. If the government of the day was inclined to allow a new accommodation village to be built on Rottnest Island - it might be a tent village, an eco-village or a normal three or four-star accommodation village - after this legislation has been passed, would it be possible to build that village within the boundaries of the conservation reserve?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The current Rottnest Island management plan precludes any development outside the settlement line. To answer the member's question, the management plan precludes any development within the conservation area.

**Mr M.J. Birney:** Currently?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The current plan.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** What I was asking was: will there be a change with the passage of this legislation?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** No.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** So the government is not sterilising that ground. Is the minister saying that the ground is already sterilised?

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**Ms S.M. McHale:** Our management plans preclude it. As far as the government is concerned, it is prohibited to build in the conservation area, so we would not countenance, for instance, a construction at West End. As far as the government is concerned, building and development are precluded from the conservation reserve.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** How many beds are in the spa resort that is to be built? The minister said that two contracts were being finalised. Who are they with, and what are they for? Are any lobbyists who have been to see the minister involved in those contracts?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** It is not a spa resort; it is a hotel. For the sake of not creating any hysteria, it would be good to call it what it is; it is certainly not a spa resort. It will contain 120 rooms.

**Ms S.E. Walker:** Does it have a spa?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** It will have a swimming pool; I do not know whether it will have a spa. We are negotiating with a consortium led by Broadwater for the hotel. For the Quokka Arms, we are currently negotiating with the Prendiville Group.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** Is that Bernie Prindiville?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Is that relevant to the bill?

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** It is; I am exploring the contracts.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson):** I did not hear the question, minister.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** I asked whether it was Bernie Prindiville, of the Prendiville Group, that the minister was discussing contracts with.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** I am informed that it is not.

**Mr T.R. Sprigg:** It is Prendiville, not Prindiville.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** Prendiville?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** The answer is no.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** So who are the owners of the Prendiville Group?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Peter and Gary Prendiville.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** Beside the spa resort being built on the new 50 hectares in the settlement area, under clause 4, what other new buildings will be put on those 50 hectares, and what other contracts is the minister currently negotiating?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I will clarify that for the member for Nedlands. The extension of the settlement area by approximately 50 hectares does not have any development on it. The site for the hotel is Mt Herschel, which is contained within the existing settlement line. I need to make that very clear. We are not proposing any further developments.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** What is the purpose of extending the settlement area by 50 hectares?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** It is to ensure that the whole of the Kingstown heritage precinct is included within the settlement line. At the moment, part of it is included and part is not. It is a destination for over 27 000 visitors, so it makes sense to contain it within the settlement precinct.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** Will the government be building new accommodation for families?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** No.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** So there is no extra accommodation to accommodate the growth in the population of Perth in the coming decades?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Other than the hotel, no, there is not.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** What star rating will the hotel be? Will it be a spa resort rating?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Four star.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Can the minister explain the difference between a conservation reserve and an A-class reserve?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The A-class reserve is made up of three components: the marine reserve; the terrestrial reserve, which we are referring to as the conservation reserve; and the settlement. The whole of the island and an area of 800 metres out to sea is included within the A-class reserve.

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**Mr M.J. Birney:** The question I was asking is: what are the statutory differences between having a conservation reserve as opposed to having an A-class reserve?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** As I said earlier, in practice there are no differences; they are still regulated under the Land Administration Act 1997.

**Mr M.J. Birney:** So there is no difference between a conservation reserve and an A-class reserve?

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** The differences in management go to the purposes of the land. The conservation reserve is for the preservation of the natural environment. In the settlement, we have responsibilities to the built heritage and the cultural heritage of the area. Does that answer the member's question?

**Mr M.J. Birney:** It doesn't even come close, to be honest.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** I think the member is trying to make more of it than there is. The conservation reserve, which we are calling Wadjemup, is part of the A-class reserve, and the requirements, responsibilities and obligations for that area are determined by our responsibilities under the A-class reserve. In part, it is designated to be able to delineate that area as a conservation reserve distinct from the marine reserve and the settlement area, which is the built heritage of Rottnest.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** I hate to labour the point, and I do not want to, but I am just trying to understand what will happen differently within the boundaries of the conservation reserve that would not have otherwise happened if it were just covered by the A-class reserve. What are the statutory obligations that will now apply to that piece of land that did not previously apply to that piece of land when it was covered by an A-class reserve?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** I have already answered that: there are none.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** So what is the purpose?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** The requirements for the management of the conservation reserve, which we are calling Wadjemup, are the same as existed prior to the amendments proposed in this bill.

They are established under the Land Administration Act for the management of an A-class reserve.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Why does the minister not leave it as an A-class reserve if there are no statutory changes?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Perhaps it is nothing more than the name, but we wanted to highlight and name the area so that it related back to the heritage and history of the island.

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** Why does the minister not just put up a wooden sign saying, "This is the land across water"? It would be easier than putting a bill through Parliament.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** I think I have explained it. We can labour the point if you want.

**Mr R.C. Kucera:** It also acknowledges the rights of the Aboriginal people.

**Mr M.J. Birney:** A sign would have done that.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Kalgoorlie, member for Yokine, please desist.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** How big is the conservation reserve? How many hectares?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** About 1 500 hectares.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** I am interested in the line of questioning from the member for Kalgoorlie, because I think he has a point. In 2003 the Auditor General of Western Australia produced a performance examination report on the Rottnest Island Authority entitled "Turning the Tide: The Business Sustainability of the Rottnest Island Authority". I do not know who the members of the authority were in 2003, but if it is the same people now, we are in trouble. The report includes reference to poor financial and economic performance. It states -

Rottnest Island is 18 kilometres off the coast from Fremantle and is managed by the RIA, a statutory authority which is tasked with . . .

Among other things -

. . . protecting the flora and fauna of the Island

That is the minister's responsibility. The minister could not tell the member for Kalgoorlie the flora and fauna that are protected in this reserve. I think the member has a point. I ask myself why the minister is delineating 1 500 -

**Ms S.M. McHale** interjected.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** The minister is supposed to be looking after the flora and fauna of the island.

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*Point of Order*

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I refer to standing order 97, “Repetitious or irrelevant debate”. I distinctly heard the minister say on at least four occasions that the three components being argued about make up the A-class reserve. The three components are the conservation area, the designated settlement area and the terrestrial area that surrounds the island. Those three things have been said.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

*Debate Resumed*

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** The member for Yokine was a minister in 2003, was he not?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** The member for Nedlands should get back to the clause.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** The hot air has already opened my blooms. The point I am making is valid. The minister is charged with the task of making sure that the flora and fauna of Rottnest Island are protected. The minister cannot tell the Parliament -

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr M.J. BIRNEY:** I distinctly heard the member for Yokine say to the member for Nedlands that she supports drug dealers. That is a severe imputation on the reputation of the member for Nedlands, and I ask that the member for Yokine withdraw his remark.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I did not hear that comment, but if the member for Yokine said that, I am sure he will stand and apologise.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I am aware of a circumstance in which the member for Nedlands supported a person who was a drug dealer, but I will withdraw the comment.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr R.C. Kucera:** It was a heroin dealer, actually.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I just heard the term “heroin dealer” from the member for Yokine. If the member is now referring to heroin dealing, he is required to apologise without explanation or reservation.

**Mr R.C. KUCERA:** I withdraw the remark.

*Debate Resumed*

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** Verballed again.

The minister is supposed to protect the flora and fauna of the island. She is supposed to know what it is, but she cannot answer the question. The member for Kalgoorlie asked why she was putting 15 hectares in a ring, and what she was going to do with it. The answer is nothing. Is this just a bit of window-dressing?

**Mr M.J. Birney:** They could put a sign up.

**Ms S.E. WALKER:** That is right. Why could there not be a sign saying something about the whole island? The whole island is supposed to be protected. The member for Kalgoorlie asked the minister what the difference was between the A-class reserve and the conservation area. She could not answer that question either. She has performed poorly in other portfolios, but given the dreadful commentary by the Auditor General on the performance of the Rottnest Island Authority, I am quite concerned that it is going down the tube. Perhaps the minister’s advisers can explain why she has put a ring around that piece of land.

**Ms S.M. McHALE:** This debate reveals the difference between members who have taken the trouble to be briefed and those who have just come to the house and asked uninformed questions. I will say this once again and then say it no more: the whole island is an A-class reserve, and the whole island is subject to rigorous controls. The reason for defining this area as the Wadjemup Conservation Reserve is to reflect the history of Aboriginal involvement with Rottnest Island. If the member for Kalgoorlie and his opposition colleagues merely want to deride this history by putting up a sign, they show their lack of attention to Indigenous heritage. The government wishes to assign to this area a name that reflects that heritage. The island has always been an A-class reserve and is subject to stringent controls. If members want to be told what the flora and fauna are, I will tell them: they are quokkas, snakes, lizards, ospreys and peacocks. I will say nothing more about this.

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**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** Of the 50 additional hectares that are going into the settlement reserve, I accept that probably 47 hectares will be at Kingstown Barracks. When we discussed the additional area to be included in the settlement area at Geordie Bay, the minister said that it was at the end of the road. When I looked at the map with members of the Rottnest Island conservation group, it looked as though the settlement area was being extended from the end of Geordie Bay up to Little Geordie Bay. My concern is that if it goes to the end of Geordie Bay rather than Little Geordie Bay, the government will leave it open for the settlement to be increased around that bay.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** It goes to the end of the road.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** Does it go to the end of Little Geordie Bay?

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Yes.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** It goes to the end of the road, but it leaves open the opportunity for more development within that bay.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** That is subject to the Rottnest Island management plan. The RIMP controls any development.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** At the moment the RIMP does not envisage any further development within Geordie Bay, but -

**Ms S.M. McHale:** There are no plans whatsoever to create more accommodation units. I can categorically state that.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** Although there are no plans at the moment, there has been an extension of the settlement area both at Geordie Bay and near the Kingstown Barracks. The area near Kingstown Barracks is 47 or 48 hectares. I asked the library staff how much land that is. I think it would probably be the equivalent of 20 Subiaco Ovals.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** Maybe I could help by reminding you that the land down on the southern part of Kingstown Barracks is all part of military history. Any future government would be stupid to want to develop that land. Although I cannot commit any future government, and I do not know what any future Liberal government would want to do, I can assure you that certainly our government will not be destroying military history.

**Dr J.M. WOOLLARD:** However, the concern is with the boundary line. That is why conservation groups have these fears.

**Ms S.M. McHale:** And they are unfounded.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 4630.]