

BUSSELTON INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, JETTY AND UNDERWATER OBSERVATORY

1385. Mr A.J. DEAN to the Minister for Tourism; Peel and the South West:

During the minister's recent visit to the south west, which was most welcome, the minister highlighted the Gallop Government's commitment to various projects in the region, which will obviously create jobs and attract visitors and further investment. In that context, will the minister comment on an article in *The West Magazine* of 29 November 2003 that appears to attribute the development of the Busselton interpretive centre, jetty and underwater observatory to the new shire president of Busselton?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for Bunbury for his question. I have the article with me. I was quite surprised when I saw the thrust of that article, particularly following my visit to the south west a couple of weeks ago when I met with the great volunteer group that is working on the Busselton jetty project, especially the group led by Mr Barry Brown. I was quite surprised to see the depth of kudos given to the person who appears in the article, quite frankly. I suppose I could be cynical and suggest that the article appears to attribute a 20-year major jetty project to a shire president who was appointed only six months ago. However, I will not be cynical.

The development of the major marina and tourist attractions at Busselton has been achieved through a spirit of collaboration under successive Governments, including the efforts of the federal Government. I had a bit of a sneak preview of the new underwater observatory when I was in the south west. The Commonwealth Government and I will jointly open the underwater observatory on 13 December. It is a credit to everybody. In particular, I acknowledge Hon Adele Farina for her efforts, and the previous Minister for the South West, Hon Jim McGinty, for his efforts, as well as the current member for that area. Members should listen to this, particularly those people who come from the south. The group from that area has created a world-class facility.

The key aspects have been the restoration of the 1.85 kilometre jetty at Busselton, the construction of an interpretive centre and the construction of an amazing underwater observatory, which anybody would say is world class. The State Government has contributed \$2.1 million to the overall jetty project in the past 20 years - successive Governments have supported this project - which includes \$1 million for the observatory and \$500 000 from the Gallop Government, which was the largest single grant for the observatory project from any source. I am very much looking forward to attending the joint opening on 13 December. It is a wonderful facility.

As a result of my visit to the area recently and discussions with both the member for Bunbury and Hon Adele Farina, the State Government has also provided the voluntary committee with \$50 000 for strategies to market the jetty experience.

Finally, I pay particular tribute - because there is no mention of this in the article - to the late Mr Allie Scott.

Ms S.E. Walker: You are so insincere.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: The member for Nedlands should listen to this, because these are the kinds of people who support their community.

Ms S.E. Walker interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Nedlands!

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I will start again.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Kalgoorlie and Nedlands.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: Anybody who knew the late Mr Allie Scott will know that he dedicated the latter years of his life to the restoration of this magnificent jetty facility. He had two things in great abundance: he had a vision and determination. He is the kind of person who should be acknowledged for the tremendous development that has taken place in Busselton. I pay tribute to him, as does, I am sure, all the Busselton community. He was a finalist last year in the WA Senior of the Year awards. He has left a legacy of which we can all be proud. Mr Barry Brown, the general manager of the Cape Naturaliste Tourism Association, is to be congratulated for his, and his committee's, outstanding efforts. Those two men should really appear in that article and be acknowledged for what they have done.