

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — GRANTS PROGRAM

962. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Heritage:

I note that recipients of the Heritage Council of Western Australia's 2014-15 heritage grants program were announced recently. Can the minister inform the house about the important program and its value in assisting with the conservation of heritage properties in Western Australia?

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question and acknowledge him as a very strong advocate of heritage in Western Australia.

The heritage grants program is one of the key ways that the Liberal-National government provides assistance to private owners of state heritage-registered places to undertake urgent conservation works on those properties. Through this grants process, grants of up to \$100 000 are available to private owners on a competitive basis and on a condition of a minimum level of matched funding so that we at least leverage a doubling of the government's initial investment. In 2012 the Liberal-National government increased the heritage grants program for the first time since 1996 by around 25 per cent, pumping an extra \$1 million over four years into the program. This year 43 projects were awarded a total of \$1.3 million in grants, including 11 metropolitan projects and 32 regional projects, which will leverage some \$3.3 million of investment into heritage conservation works in Western Australia. Some of the more prominent places that have received grants are: Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Northampton, which received a \$27 000 grant to restore damaged stained-glass windows; the Kellerberrin Post Office, which received a \$58 000 grant to repair cracking throughout the building; and Cronshaw's Store in Bunbury, which received the maximum \$100 000 grant to rebuild masonry turrets, repair the facade and reconstruct balustrades. I picked up an interjection earlier from the member for Girrawheen about the Guildford Hotel. She will probably be very happy to know that the grant process has also included a \$100 000 —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected

Mr A.P. JACOB: I will get to Albany in a second, member for Girrawheen. Just wait—Albany is next.

I will just touch very quickly on the Guildford Hotel. A grant of \$100 000 has been given for restoration of the belvedere, a key point on the corner of that well-known property. That grant is leveraging a six-time multiplier; over \$600 000 is being invested in that belvedere.

Mrs M.H. Roberts: I'll be pleased when we see the Guildford Hotel restored—not before.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Obviously, member for Midland, the grant is paid only on restoration. That is a key project.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, you can put your name down and ask your own question. I call you to order for the first time. Minister, a short version, please.

Mr A.P. JACOB: Certainly, Mr Speaker. I will just very quickly go on to Albany, since that was also raised. One of the things we were able to do with this year's grant program was to bring forward \$300 000 of the grants program and specifically target it at Stirling Terrace in Albany. This is a very good example of how the community at large gets a tangible benefit out of this heritage grants program. The grant was provided for the dozen or so properties in Stirling Terrace, which were largely built in the late nineteenth century through to 1911. The reason this is significant —

Ms S.F. McGurk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Fremantle, put your name down if you want to ask a question. I call you to order for the first time. I call the member for Wanneroo to order for the first time. Minister have you finished?

Mr A.P. JACOB: I have not even got to explaining Albany yet, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A short version please.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I will address my comments to you, Mr Speaker. I would love to answer a question on the warders' cottages and the great work that has been done there, but member for Fremantle will not ask it.

Stirling Terrace was the heart of Albany when the Anzac fleet sailed. We were able to bring forward \$300 000 of that grant and see those 12 properties in Stirling Terrace restored as close as possible to the historically accurate street front that would have existed there, and provide a magnificent backdrop for the tens of thousands of Western Australians and other Australians who descended on Albany earlier this month to commemorate the departure of the Anzac fleet. It is a great example of where not only private owners and the state get benefits from our history, but also the broader community benefits from this great grants program.