

HILLARYS BOAT HARBOUR, ACCESS ISSUES

**1030. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:**

Can the minister please outline how the Government will meet its commitment to spend \$500 000 addressing the access issues at Hillarys Boat Harbour?

**Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. He shares the enthusiasm of the Western Australian community for Hillarys Boat Harbour. It is the premier tourism site in Perth, and attracts some 3.5 million visitors per annum. That means parking is at a premium. Since we took office, we have undertaken a range of work to discover how we might deal with the problem of providing sufficient car parking at the harbour.

The member for Joondalup, a frequent visitor to the fabulous site, knows, and it has been confirmed by our parking studies, that sufficient car parking is provided at the facility but that people need to be guided to the northern car parking areas. There are 2 400 car parks in the vicinity. However, many of those are in the northern sector and we need to encourage people to use that area during times of peak demand. We have considered a range of strategies to do that. We have determined that we will spend around \$150 000 installing a system of electronic guidance signage to point people to parking vacancies. We hope that this will be under way by the end of the year. It should result in a significant reduction in the levels of frustration experienced by people who currently must circle the harbour looking for parking lots. We will also undertake significant works on pedestrian access between the southern car parks and the retail areas. This will involve wider footpaths and the relocation of uses that are better suited elsewhere so that we can make the area more efficient and attractive to visitors. Approximately \$250 000 will be spent on those works. Finally, to encourage people to access Hillarys Boat Harbour by public transport, we will spend another \$50 000 to improve access from West Coast Drive to the main areas of the harbour. That construction will commence in December 2003. In total, we will spend \$770 000 improving access to Hillarys Boat Harbour.

A lot more work needs to be done at Hillarys Boat Harbour. Consequently, I have appointed my parliamentary secretary, Hon Ken Travers, to actively oversee and bring to resolution the outstanding structure plan for the harbour. This should give some long-awaited guidance to the leaseholders and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure regarding the vision for the area and allow them to move forward with confidence about the development of the area. The boat harbour is a fantastic site. The former Labor Government was responsible for the facility, and it has been a great success.