

BRIEF MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

MINISTER FOR TOURISM

Rottnest Island Management Plan

I rise to inform the House about the draft Rottnest Island Management Plan which was released yesterday along with the Twenty Year Master Plan Vision, for a two month public consultation period.

In addition, the Rottnest Island Authority has also released the Boating Management Strategy.

Section seventeen of the Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987, requires the Rottnest Island Authority to control and manage Rottnest Island in accordance with a management plan. Sections eighteen and nineteen of the Act provide for the management plan to be reviewed and approved by the Minister for Tourism every five years. The current Rottnest Island Management Plan concludes in June 2014.

The twenty year vision was a requirement of the current Management Plan. It has been identified that a longer term vision is required to ensure the Island remains sustainable.

This is an exciting milestone for Western Australia's favourite Island holiday destination and I am pleased to say the Rottnest Island Master Plan offers a bold, long term vision.

The draft Management Plan outlines a strategic direction for Rottnest Island with:

- improved visitor experiences and conservation;
- improved access to cultural heritage;
- protection of the unique environment;
- professional relationships with stakeholders; and
- financial sustainability.

The private sector is an important partner in the management and operation of Rottnest Island, with seventy percent of the businesses on the Island being run by the private sector. An important pillar of the draft Rottnest Island Management Plan is in encouraging the private sector in investing further to ensure the island infrastructure remains sustainable and in expanding the amenity of the Island.

In addition the Twenty Year Master Plan Vision provides a long term vision for how the built environment on the island may look and feel for the next twenty plus years.

The developments proposed include a marina development, eco-development, a new light industrial area and landscaping of the settlement areas.

Rottnest Island is a public asset, highly valued by Western Australians – and must be conserved and protected for future generations to enjoy. The challenges associated with the management of an A class reserve, located within a fragile coastal environment are many and varied.

Ever changing market and environmental conditions affect the Island's appeal and competitiveness.

The Rottnest Island Authority will continue to offer something for everyone – locals, national and international tourists, boating visitors, schools and youth groups, corporate clients and others.

The Islands unique heritage, landscapes and biodiversity are the very values that attract visitors to the Island. The need to maintain and enhance these values underpin the way forward.

I encourage all Western Australians and visitors to Rottnest Island to familiarise themselves with these newly released documents, available for viewing online at www.rottnestisland.com and take the opportunity to make comment to further shape the Rottnest Island Authority's plans for the future of Rottnest Island.