

Division 53: State Heritage Office, \$7 764 000 —

Ms W.M. Duncan, Chairman.

Mr A.P. Jacob, Minister for Heritage.

Mr G. Gammie, Executive Director.

The CHAIRMAN: This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day.

It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. It will greatly assist Hansard if members can give these details in preface to their question.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 3 June 2016. I caution members that if a minister asks that a matter be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice with the Clerk's office.

[Witness introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: I give the call to the member for Mandurah.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I refer to page 589 of the *Budget Statements*. My question essentially relates to the role and responsibilities of the State Heritage Office and the excavation at Elizabeth Quay. It has been drawn to my attention that at one point during the excavation works at Elizabeth Quay in 2013, work stopped when timber piles were excavated and identified as being part of the old William Street Wharf. It is my understanding that those piles eventually found their way to a Men's Shed in Dalkeith. In fact, the information I received is that a phone call was made to the Men's Shed Association asking whether it wanted the piles—and that is where they were taken. I understand that the piles date back over 100 years so they trigger the provisions of the Maritime Archaeology Act. Is this true and is the minister aware of it? Given that we have very little time, can the minister provide me with a summary of all the heritage artefacts and items identified during the excavation at Elizabeth Quay and their ultimate destination and/or interpretation, as some of them were interpreted? For example, I refer to the relocation of the Hummerston Kiosk. Can the minister provide that information so that we know what happened to the artefacts from the Elizabeth Quay excavation works? What was their destination? Does the minister have a comment on the piles that were discovered and found their way to a Men's Shed in Dalkeith?

Mr A.P. JACOB: I will see whether Mr Gammie has anything to add. I can recollect the piles. My recollection is that if there was an opportunity to reinterpret them back into the site in some way, that that would be pursued. It is my recollection that an archaeologist was employed as part of the project, and not only was the State Heritage Office involved, the WA Museum also had extensive involvement. Some, if not many, parts of the question would be better answered through the Minister for Culture and the Arts because the Perth Museum had a key interest in the artefacts and archaeology on the site. I will see whether Mr Gammie can add any specifics particularly about the pylons and other artefacts found within that site.

Mr G. Gammie: The State Heritage Office's role was around endorsing an archaeological management plan for the site, which provided a framework for the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. The authority had project delivery responsibility to deal with any artefacts and objects located during the course of excavation. The intention of that policy was to allow the MRA to move the project forward and, if things were found to have a process, to examine those artefacts in situ, identify them as best as possible and look for opportunities to reinterpret them back into the site. The State Heritage Office did not take a detailed catalogue of the materials found throughout the project; that was managed under that process by the MRA. I can confirm that piles were excavated and some were relocated, some remain on site for interpretive purposes and some were moved elsewhere. As far as I understand—I do not have documentation to that effect because it was not our project—they were offered elsewhere for recycling and re-use for other activities.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The original question was whether the State Heritage Office—or the minister through his department's resources—is able to provide a list of the end destination or the end interpretation of artefacts of a heritage nature that were excavated and/or located at the Elizabeth Quay site. Can that be provided as supplementary information? I do not mind if the State Heritage Office provides only some information.

Mr A.P. JACOB: I pass that straight to Mr Gammie.

Mr G. Gammie: The MRA is responsible for that material and the process. The MRA is the agency able to respond to that request.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Is it the minister's understanding that the MRA would have a list of everything that was uncovered and its end destination?

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, member for Mandurah. I think we need to put this division.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Can we just confirm that last bit?

Mr A.P. JACOB: The MRA had carriage of the archaeological plan. Perth Museum was also involved—so the Minister for Culture and the Arts—but the MRA would be the best agency to contact.

The appropriation was recommended.

[5.00 pm]