

ARALUEN BOTANIC PARK - INCORPORATION INTO
BOTANIC GARDENS AND PARKS AUTHORITY

2598. Mr A.J. Simpson to the Minister for the Environment

- (1) Can the Minister advise whether or not a decision has been made on the proposed incorporation of Araluen Botanic Park into the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA):
 - (a) if yes, what is the decision; and
 - (b) if not, when will a decision be made?
- (2) If a decision has been made and Araluen is to be incorporated into the BGPA, what specific plan does the State Government have for the incorporation, including:
 - (a) when the proposed incorporation will occur; and
 - (b) what the new management structure look like?
- (3) If no specific plans have been developed at this stage, why is this so, considering that Araluen is an important part of Perth's social heritage and incredibly important to the local community and the volunteers who have spent years making it the local landmark that it is?
- (4) If Araluen Botanic Park is to be incorporated into the BGPA, is it guaranteed a specific proportion of the BGPA's budget:
 - (a) if not, how will the funding for Araluen be managed?
- (5) Has the Minister consulted with the following stakeholders and if so, what information was provided to them and what feedback did the Minister receive:
 - (a) the City of Armadale;
 - (b) the Araluen Botanic Park Foundation;
 - (c) the local community; and
 - (i) if not, why not?
- (6) Can the Minister make any assurances that if the proposed incorporation goes ahead, the change in management structure will not result in Araluen Botanic Park becoming a satellite entity of Kings Park; always having its interests coming in second?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- 1)
 - (a) Yes. It is proposed that ownership of the Araluen Botanic Park be transferred from the Western Australian Planning Commission to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority on 1 July 2009
 - (b) Not applicable.
- 2)
 - (a) Transfer is planned for 1 July 2009 upon the expiration of the current management lease.
 - (b) Araluen Botanic Park would be managed in accordance with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998, which is the governing act for the Authority's management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and Bold Park. The Act has overarching powers to manage additional land and parks.
- 3) Not Applicable.
- 4) Necessary capital and recurrent funding required by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority to operate Araluen Botanic Park is currently being considered preparatory to transfer of the Park to the Authority. The provisions of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act apply equally to all land under the management of the Authority.
- 5)
 - (a) Consultation with the City of Armadale in relation to the future transfer and management of Araluen Botanic Park has been undertaken by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the WAPC.
 - (b) Since 2002, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority has been involved in a range of formal and informal discussions with the Araluen Botanic Park Foundation relating to the possible transfer and future management of Araluen Botanic Park. The last formal contact between the Authority and the Foundation was in October 2006, when the Foundation made a submission to effectively retain operational management control of Araluen Botanic Park in the event that the land was transferred from the WAPC to the Authority on 1 July 2009. In November 2006,

the Authority wrote to the Foundation and advised that if the transfer occurs, it cannot provide a lease to the Foundation to manage Araluen Botanic Park in the way that the Foundation proposed, and the land would be managed by the Authority in accordance with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998.

- (c) Consultation with the local community in relation to the operation and future management of Araluen Botanic Park has been conducted by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the WAPC.
 - (i) Not applicable.
- 6) Yes. The vision of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is to 'Create and provide world-recognised botanic gardens and parks and to inspire the conservation of biodiversity'. The Authority will bring to Araluen Botanic Park the same excellence in management and activity that it has displayed at Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and Bold Park.