

Division 44: Heritage Council of Western Australia, \$1 390 000 —

Ms S.E. Winton, Chair.

Mr D.A. Templeman, Minister for Heritage.

Ms G.D. McGowan, Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

Mr V. Davies, Assistant Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

Mr M. Hanrahan, Chief Finance Officer, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

Mr G. Hamley, Chief of Staff, Minister for Heritage.

[Witnesses introduced.]

The CHAIR: 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. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

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, 31 May 2019. 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 through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Moore.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to page 650 of budget paper No 2 and point 3 under "Statement of Financial Position" that states —

The restricted cash assets increase by \$2.5 million ... due to forecast receipts of sales revenue contributions received from the Heritage Works program.

Further, I refer to point 3 at the top of page 648 that indicates the government having ownership interest in more than one-third of places on the state Register of Heritage Places and about activating those areas to revitalise vacant government-owned assets. Is there an active program of revitalisation and disposal of heritage sites?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Disposal?

Mr R.S. LOVE: Yes. What is meant by point 3, and how does that interact with the restricted assets increase?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Just so we get a quick answer in time constraints, I would ask if Mr Vaughan Davies, the assistant director general, could answer that question.

Mr V. Davies: The works or the heritage revolving fund complements the state government's wider land asset sales program. The idea is that we take on government-owned assets, invest conservation effort into those assets and then dispose of those. We have had a couple of examples in the last couple of years, particularly around the warders' cottages in Fremantle, where we were able to essentially fix those up, get them into the market and sell them off, which goes obviously back into the sales program.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Is there a list of assets that are currently being considered or are being invested in in order for them to be on sold?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Yes, I can respond to that question. Vacant publicly owned places planned for reactivation include the Fremantle technical college annex, the Terminus Hotel in Fremantle, Parry Street precinct in Northbridge, the Roebourne Gaol precinct, the North Fremantle Post Office, and the Kelmscott Station Master's House.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Is there publicly listed criteria for the properties that will be considered for that program?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I ask the assistant director general to respond.

Mr V. Davies: No, there is no criteria. We work with other government agencies about their surplus properties.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I am just trying to understand how it is that certain properties end up on this list for sale and which properties are likely to be considered in the future.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I ask the director general to respond.

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 21 May 2019]

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Chair; Mr Shane Love; Mr David Templeman

Ms G.D. McGowan: Generally, the other agencies would approach us as we are going through identifying potential surplus assets across the entire assets of the state government agencies. There will often be a conversation around how we might achieve the best value for that. If agencies hold one of those potential heritage-listed assets, they will come to us, we will go through a process of doing a business case to see whether there is in fact a benefit to the taxpayer of investing some money to bring it to a certain standard ready for disposal.

The appropriation was recommended.