

Division 61: State Heritage Office, \$8 632 000 —

Mr N.W. Morton, Chairman.

Mr A.P. Jacob, Minister for Heritage.

Mr G.A. Gammie, Executive Director, State Heritage Office.

[Witness introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Girrawheen, do you have a question?

Ms M.M. QUIRK: Yes, I do. I refer to “Relationship to Government Goals” on page 696 of the *Budget Statements*. Can the minister identify the buildings or sites that he considers to be most at risk in the next year?

Mr A.P. JACOB: I thank the member for the question. It is a fluctuating circumstance and it is also a relatively subjective question. I will get Mr Gammie to make a contribution, if he is happy to, just on the identification of those places. Most people would say the Guildford Hotel is foremost in the minds of the general public. Seeing the roof topping on that site is a very good outcome. Maddington Homestead is also a property that has been of some concern. I believe there has been recent progress happening there as well. There are a range of other projects as well.

Mr G.A. Gammie: The State Heritage office and the Heritage Council work side by side on these matters. We do not have a proactive function in monitoring all property; however, we work with owners where there is an identified risk to a property or it is subject to a development proposal. At this stage the two sites the minister has identified are the ones that have been around for a while. I could not point to a list that specifically identifies other properties at risk at this point.

Ms S.F. MCGURK: My question relates to the third dot point on page 696, which is about Fremantle Prison. Can the minister outline the ongoing conservation program for the prison and the costs envisaged for that program?

Mr A.P. JACOB: On page 695 of the *Budget Statements* under “Spending Changes” is the line item “Transfer of the Fremantle Prison from the Department of Finance”. There is \$5.777 million allocated this year and that will roll into \$5.923 million the year after and \$6 million after that, so it escalates in the out years. That is essentially the money going to Fremantle Prison.

Ms S.F. MCGURK: Are there any specific plans about what work will be undertaken at the prison?

Mr A.P. JACOB: I think it is a particularly exciting opportunity to have Fremantle Prison come out from the control of Building Management and Works where it has rested for an extensive time and brought into the State Heritage Office. Significantly as well, all of this state’s World Heritage-listed sites—this is the only built World Heritage-listed site—now sit under one ministerial portfolio. Being under a smaller agency there is an ability to be a bit more nimble sometimes and to respond to opportunities. Mr Gammie himself had extensive experience with Fremantle Prison prior to his role as executive director of the State Heritage Office.

Ms S.F. MCGURK: Are there specific works to be undertaken? I do not know that that is a controversial question, but are there no plans for specific works that money would be allocated to or are they still being planned?

Mr G.A. Gammie: The prison is currently finalising a \$1.5 million stonework conservation project funded in last year’s budget that was focused around the new division and also the perimeter walls. That is quite a strategic program. In the current budget year we are going to a standard maintenance period, while we go through the process under our management of developing a strategic conservation plan that will address the long-term conservation strategy for the prison. That will be developed over the next period and we will address it in the next budget.

Ms S.F. MCGURK: So that I understand—I have not had much experience with the prison—do any income, funds or profits generated from tourism activities, for instance, go to maintenance of the site?

Mr G.A. Gammie: At the moment the prison generates about \$4.5 million in income but the cost of maintaining the prison is about \$5.8 million. The difference is funded by government. A subset of that is the money set aside within the prison’s operational budget to cover routine maintenance. All the revenue generated by the prison is reinvested both into the operation of the prison and also the maintenance.

The appropriation was recommended.