

ST JOHN'S CHURCH RECTORY - HERITAGE COUNCIL LISTING

**Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the minister representing the Minister for Heritage:**

- (1) Can the minister confirm that the Heritage Council of Western Australia is proposing to add a building known as the rectory to the state register entry for St John's Church, Dongara?
- (2) Can the minister explain why the building was not added to the register in 1998 when St John's Church was listed?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that there is conflicting historical evidence of when the rectory was built and if, indeed, it actually was a rectory?
- (4) The owners of the building were not aware of the intention to list the building when they purchased the property in 2004. Does the Heritage Council publicly declare buildings it is considering listing?
- (5) At their own expense, the owners are restoring the building to its original condition and are concerned that their building licences may be delayed by the listing and that the listing will reduce the value of the building. Can the minister provide a response to these concerns?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Heritage Council advises as follows.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The register entry for St John's Church in Dongara is based on the conservation plan for the church only. It did not include sufficient information for the rectory to be included in the possible registration at that time. In 2004, resources became available for a proper study of the rectory when a group of places in the region were assessed.
- (3) The exact date of construction of the rectory is not known but it is clearly in the range of 1880 to 1885. Considerable documentary research was conducted in attempting to establish the exact date of construction of the rectory. The physical evidence verifies the estimated date of construction derived from secondary sources. Historical records indicate that it was a rectory until the 1970s when a new rectory was built.
- (4) The current owners purchased the property in November 2004. The Heritage Council advised the previous owners in 2003 of its intention to assess the property. The previous owners were also advised of the consultants undertaking the assessment in February 2004 and the consultants were allowed access to the property to complete an internal inspection for the assessment.
- (5) Building licenses will not be delayed by the possible listing. The owner has already substantially completed works that were approved in 2006 and that had the support of the Heritage Council at the time they were proposed. The rectory has been recognised as a heritage place for over 20 years, having been classified by the National Trust in 1983. Independent empirical studies based on real-life sales evidence show that heritage listing has little or no impact on property value in the vast majority of cases.