

ABROLHOS ISLANDS, INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

**613. Hon M.J. CRIDDLE to the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:**

The figure in this budget for infrastructure for the Abrolhos Islands is \$800 000.

- (1) Can the minister outline for the people of that area what infrastructure is proposed for the Abrolhos Islands?
- (2) Is it for airstrips or for other developments to assist with tourism?

**Hon KIM CHANCE replied:**

- (1)-(2) This is a question of some detail, which might be raised more appropriately in estimates hearings. However, as I understand it, the budget commitment for capital works for the Abrolhos Islands is, in fact, \$2.2 million, not \$800 000, although the member may be quoting the figure for this year. I am happy to confirm that that is the scale of the capital works. The capital works proposed include dwellings for fisheries officers to replace those that are now substandard and a jetty that will be built for fisheries use. The extent of the new facilities that are to be built are aligned towards general services for people who use the islands. However, it would be fair to say, as the member's question implies, that the future tourism use was one of the important drivers of the requirement for these capital works. In a sense, however, these capital works are really replacing outdated and substandard facilities that are already there. It is a catch-up on maintenance that has been neglected over the past eight years.