

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WA, FUNDING FOR REGIONAL ADVISER POSITIONS

349. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Heritage:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that funding for the Heritage Council of WA Regional Adviser positions was reduced so that a service of 52 hours a month prior to 31 December 1999 has been cut to only 16 hours this year?
- (2) Have any further funding cuts taken place since 31 December 1999?
- (3) Are any further funding cuts foreshadowed?
- (4) Does the Minister recognise that these funding cuts place an unreasonable burden on volunteers and could result in valuable heritage being lost?
- (5) Will the Minister be allocating additional funding to compensate for the reductions last year?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1) I am aware that the service referred to operated at 32 hours per month prior to 31 December 1999 in three of seven regions supported by the Heritage Council. Since that date it has operated at 16 hours per month in all regions.
- (2) No.
- (3) The funding will be reviewed as part of the budget process for the next financial year. I am aware that the Heritage Council is seeking additional funding to increase the available hours.
- (4) I am more than aware of the difficulties confronting people in regional areas who are involved in managing State and local heritage assets. As Minister, I am concerned by the reduction in hours and I am satisfied that the Heritage Council is making every endeavour to overcome this difficulty.
- (5) The funding will be reviewed as part of the budget process for the next financial year.