

HEATHCOTE SITE, HERITAGE VALUE

651. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Housing and Works representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage
- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Heathcote site is listed in Bush Forever and also by the National Trust of Western Australia?
 - (2) Is the Minister aware that more than half of the 8 thousand people who signed the petition to protect the whole of this site are residents of other municipalities than the City of Melville?
 - (3) Does the Minister appreciate that the Heathcote site is a valuable heritage asset for all the people of Western Australia and that it provides a greatly needed access point for the public to the Swan River foreshore?
 - (4) Is the Minister aware that the Heathcote site is so popular with recreational users that it is generally overcrowded on weekends and therefore the lower land is urgently needed to enhance the heritage precinct?
 - (5) Is the Minister aware that the previous Government signed the Heathcote Heritage Agreement with the City of Melville and that this commits it to turning the lower land over to Parks and Recreation and assisting the City of Melville with its rehabilitation?
 - (6) Is the Minister aware that the City of Melville has recently reaffirmed its commitment to this agreement?
 - (7) Does the Minister intend to keep this commitment?
 - (8) If not, why not?
 - (9) If yes, when will the rehabilitation project commence?
 - (10) Why has the Government denied the National Trust the opportunity to explore for heritage sites on the lower land?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

- 1) No. The Heathcote site is not listed in Bush Forever. The original Foreshore Reserve that was already rezoned for Parks and Recreation in the Metropolitan Region Scheme prior to 1990 is shown as site 328 Point Heathcote foreshore in Bush Forever.
- 2) Yes.
- 3) Yes.
- 4) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage is aware that Heathcote is popular and often crowded. Government, as owner of the land is responsible for the management of Heathcote and is thereby accountable for the identification and assessment of its heritage value. It takes these responsibilities very seriously. Dedicated heritage expertise is available within the Department of Housing and Works that will further investigate the heritage of the lower land in liaison with the Heritage Council of Western Australia.
- 5) The Minister for the Environment and Heritage is aware that the previous Government signed the Heathcote Coordination Agreement. With respect, the Hon Member may be confusing heritage agreements with the Coordination Agreement. I am not aware that the Heathcote Coordination Agreement makes the commitments mentioned.
- 6) Yes.
- 7) Government is honouring the Heathcote Coordination Agreement.
- 8) Not applicable.
- 9) Not applicable.
- 10) Refer to answer to question (4).