

HILLARYS BOAT HARBOUR, BEACHFRONT PARKING FEES

1062. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure:

I refer the minister to the current Premier's statement to this House on 26 June 1997 that beachfront parking fees are "a tax on the Australian way of life". He also said about families -

... the beach remains their sanctuary, a place to get away from the pressure of work, to refresh the mind and body and spend precious time together.

Dr G.I. Gallop: That was good, wasn't it?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It was another broken promise, my friend.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not need the help of the Leader of the Opposition in pointing at members. The asker of the question is engaging in interjections with the Premier.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I ask -

- (1) Does the minister agree with the Premier's comments?
- (2) If so, why is the minister considering the introduction of beachfront parking fees at Hillarys Boat Harbour?
- (3) In light of her comments in the House this week applauding the success of Hillarys Boat Harbour, does the minister consider it appropriate to tax families for accessing its family safe beach, and the fun park, marina and boating facilities?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN replied:

- (1)-(3) First, I support absolutely the statements made by our Premier when he was Leader of the Opposition. The Government believes absolutely that it does not want fees on beachfront parking. However, that is a very different position from that taken by the Leader of the Opposition. I quote the esteemed publication of the *Mosman Park-Cottesloe Post* of 30 August 2003, in which it is alleged -

Liberal Leader Colin Barnett said he supported improvements to Cottesloe's "shabby beachfront" and said he would not rule out paid parking along the beach.

Nevertheless, the Government has been consistent in its opposition to paid parking on the beach. I make a distinction between the area considered at Hillarys and the beach, and I highlight that no decision has been made on this matter. The Hillarys area has a magnificent facility that members of the Opposition did not support when the previous Labor Government advanced this creative project.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Which members were they?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: Many members. Hon Jim Clarko was one.

Mr R.F. Johnson: He's not here.

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: I said members of the Opposition. My recollection is that he was a member of the Opposition, or is he being airbrushed out of history like Doug Shave and Graham Kierath? We might see him in here. We might be under threat - maybe Mr Clarko is making a comeback!

I will spend a little time on this issue because I know the member for Hillarys likes to learn and be informed. In excess of 2 000 car parking bays are in that total Hillarys Boat Harbour area. None of the car parking bays on the beach has been identified as a potential source for paid parking. There is one small area of 350 car parking bays that is part of the boat harbour next to the entertainment and retail facilities. The problem is that boat harbour staff and people using the Rottnest Island ferries park there all day. That creates a problem for the members of the community who want to access the retail and entertainment facilities operated at Hillarys Boat Harbour. The consultant who was engaged put forward a proposition that paid parking be employed at those 350 bays to deal with the problem of long-term parking. That is very similar to what occurs at Fremantle Fishing Boat Harbour, which is an identical facility.

I reiterate that we have made no decision in this regard. There may well be other ways of dealing with the problem. Most importantly, it is not beachfront car parking. We are absolutely committed to our goal of not introducing paid beachfront car parking. I make one final comment. The member for Hillarys has said we had a secret report. That secret report was produced five days earlier at a public meeting of stakeholders to get their comment.