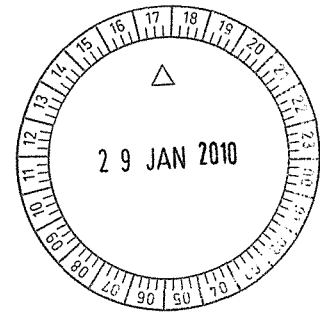


PUBLIC

Answers to Questions on Notice -
Legislative Council 2009/10 Budget
Estimates Ongoing Hearings

**Great Southern
Development Commission**



Supplementary Information Questions:

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Question No C1: Hon K Travers asked:

- (1) How many berths can Landcorp build in the new marina on the Albany Waterfront Project?
- (2) What the minimum requirements would be to host ocean races and any other ocean rallies that Albany is trying to attract?

Answer:

- (1) Landcorp has advised that the new Marina when fully constructed will have the capacity to hold approximately 140 boat pens and that it is proposed to build up to 74 pens under the current Landcorp contract. The actual number that will be built will be dependent on the outcomes of the tender process for the design and construct contract of the pens and the final civil works. The tender process is due to be undertaken in May or June 2010.
- (2) The race proponents have advised the Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the mooring requirements for the Around Australia Rally is likely to be 30 moorings for Rally Yachts in February 2011 (35ft – 50ft with approximately 30% of which are expected to be catamarans), and 120 moorings for Rally Yachts in February 2012 (35ft – 80ft with approximately 30% of which are expected to be multihull). It has also been suggested that Ports around Australia are offering gratis mooring fees for the first two – three years after which it is intended that normal mooring fees would apply. Other requirements would be a media centre and access to fuel and water.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Question No C2: Hon L Ravlich asked for the latest set of figures for the Albany Entertainment Centre?

Answer:

The current total budget for the Albany Entertainment Centre is \$70,000,000.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Question No C3: Hon Philip Gairdner asked if the survey of Indigenous Employment and Training Opportunities cited on page 25 of the GSDC's Annual Report had been completed and if so what were the most meaningful outcomes from the survey?

Answer:

The Indigenous Employment and Training Opportunities Survey (IETOS) was completed in August 2008 and contained ten main recommendations. These recommendations were directed to address the study's key finding that "while there is a willingness on the part of job seekers and work opportunities", there is also a structural lack of "pre employment and post employment support mechanisms to sustain indigenous employment outcomes". The flexible group training approach recommended several key initiatives. These included pre-

employment training, apprenticeship accommodation support, the employment of dedicated Indigenous field officers to support employers, employer incentives, the marketing of employment opportunities and implementation resources to be sourced through an application to the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF).

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Question No C4: Hon L Ravlich asked if the Great Southern Human Services Forum had identified any shortfalls in the social infrastructure of the Great Southern region, and if so where those shortfalls might be?

Answer:

The Great Southern Human Services Forum has identified that additional efforts will probably required in the following services areas:

- Early intervention parent support services have been recognised as an issue across the Great Southern, particularly in Mt Barker and Albany. The GSDC understands that the issue is being progressively addressed on a State basis.
- There is perceived to be a need for an increase in the resources allocated by the Aboriginal Medical Service to early childhood development, dental and mental health programs;
- Family and domestic violence has been recognised as a particular issue in a number of areas within the Great Southern including Katanning, Mt Barker and Albany. A Family and Domestic Violence Case Management Group is currently being established to provide a coordinated response as part of a State-wide initiative;
- The Strong Families initiative, which employs one coordinator, is currently at capacity and additional resources may be needed in the medium term;
- Ongoing community violence issues in Katanning, Mt Barker and Albany consume significant Police Services' resources. It is understood that some of the options that are being considered under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement initiative include the possible establishment of mediation services and a community violence unit within the Police Service.
- Accommodation for homeless men in the Albany and Lower Great Southern Area has been quantified as an area of need. The Government has acknowledged this need and the Department of Housing has offered a 4 bedroom house in Albany on the condition that a suitable not for profit community organisation can be found to run the facility. St Vincent de Paul and Community First are partnering to run a proposed "Prospect House" for unemployed homeless men who are willing to participate in social skills training, education and work readiness programs over a three month period. The overall aim of the initiative is to transition these men into employment and longer term housing. The partnership group is currently preparing a funding submission to the Commonwealth's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in support of this initiative.

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

Ministry of Regional Development

Question No C5: Hon K Travers asked for details of the financial savings achieved by the GSDC as a result of not filling vacant positions during 2008/09?

Answer:

During 2008/09 the Great Southern Development Commission saved \$467,061 from the Salaries Budget as a result of a range of staff changes including vacancies.

Savings resulted from

- Five vacancies ranging from 2 to 8 months in length.
- The relocation of an Aboriginal Economic Development Officer from the GSDC to the Department of Indigenous Affairs
- Long Service Leave provisions for which the Commission had budgeted but which was not called upon during that financial year.