

Mr C.J. Barnett: Did Megan Anwyl turn up?

Ms A.J. MacTIERNAN: Yes, she did, as did a number of port authority members who are members of the Liberal and National Parties and whom we generously reappointed, because we select people on the basis of merit. When one of their fellow travellers or party members was shown to be making an adequate, capable and, in many cases, distinguished contribution to the board, that person was reappointed. We do not apologise for wanting to ensure that these boards have the capacity to implement the Government's strategic direction. Of course, we want to ensure that the people on these boards have legal skills and that they have the capacity to understand our approach to industrial relations. We note that there was no problem for the Opposition when it was in government to put the architect of its industrial relations agenda into the port of Fremantle, and we saw the great success that had. We are very determined to ensure that there is a great diversity of skills and perspectives on our boards, because that is the only way the boards will be able to do their job capably.

In August 2002, the chair and the deputy chair of the Geraldton Port Authority - not persons whom we had appointed - resigned because of a rather unfortunate incident. They were found to be holding shares of a company with which the board had active dealings but they had not declared their interest. Therefore, I promised the House that I would extend this program of corporate governance to all port authority board members, old and new. I am very pleased to say that around 30 board members made the effort to attend the conference in Perth today. I have great confidence in the capacity of this group to take our ports forward and to continue to make a substantial contribution to the economic and social life of our regions.

NINGALOO MARINE PARK, TURTLE CONSERVATION LICENCE

531. Mr B.K. MASTERS to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage:

I refer to correspondence between the minister, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Mr Roger Bailye, who has been refused a licence by CALM to continue his excellent turtle conservation activities in the Coral Bay area of Ningaloo Marine Park.

- (1) Is the minister aware that one reason the Department of Conservation and Land Management has given for not renewing Mr Bailye's licence is that his efforts to protect nests and hatchlings from fox predation are no longer required?
- (2) Is the minister aware that from late January to early February, Mr Bailye recorded five separate attacks on turtles by foxes in nests in Bateman Bay, as shown by the photographs I have provided to the minister?
- (3) Will the minister instruct her department to work with Mr Bailye, and not against him, by issuing him with a licence and allowing him to continue his important and totally voluntary conservation efforts?

Dr J.M. EDWARDS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(3) The member sent me the photographs I have in my hand. I must admit that I was unsure what they were. I am pleased that he has asked the question so that I can now make some sense of the photographs. I could have made up my own story about them but I figured I had better not.

I cannot recall the detail of the correspondence referred to by the member. I will certainly follow up his assertion that five separate attacks on turtles have occurred in Bateman Bay in recent times. I will ask CALM to update me on what is going on to refresh my memory of the circumstances of Mr Bailye and I will take into consideration what the member has raised when I review what CALM has done.

CAR RENTAL INDUSTRY REVIEW

532. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection:

Will the minister please inform the House of the review of the car rental industry he announced yesterday?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Obviously the member's constituency in Albany regards tourism as an important industry; and, of course, the hire car industry is a part of that. This review will come back to government with recommendations on whether we need mandatory or voluntary codes of conduct, or even full licensing. A range of serious concerns have been raised regarding the car rental industry about people being charged for vehicle damage that is the liability of the hirer, the complexity of the contracts, vehicle inspection and damage assessment processes, and unreasonable, harsh and unfair terms and conditions.

Consumer protection agencies across Australia received more than 600 complaints relating to car rental services in the past two years, about 50 per cent of which were from interstate and overseas visitors. I will quickly give a couple of examples of those complaints. A consumer was involved in an accident but was unaware of a clause in small print on the reverse side of the contract stating that single-vehicle accidents were not covered by insurance. The consumer