

and Works will not be able to commence work until LandCorp has completed the subdivisions. At this stage it is anticipated that housing and works will commence some time between March and June 2007.

I draw two points from that. The first is the importance of community consultation to make sure we get it right. Secondly, in my view, in the three months an enormous amount of work, planning, consultation and design has been undertaken. I congratulate the minister and the Department of Housing and Works for moving so quickly.

AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXCHANGE

435. Dr J.M. EDWARDS to the Minister for Tourism:

Can the minister inform the house of the outcomes of the Australian Tourism Exchange, which she attended last week in Adelaide?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

I thank the member for this question. As I told Parliament last week, the Australian Tourism Exchange was held in Adelaide last week. It is the largest tourism event in the southern hemisphere. It attracts 1 500 Australian sellers - hoteliers, tour operators and the like. They met with 700 of the world's most influential tourism wholesalers and media to contract business.

I want to draw a number of points from last week. Firstly, I acknowledge the 47 Western Australian tourism businesses and the 18 national companies with a Western Australian interest that attended the event. The range of product and the presentation and enthusiasm of the Western Australian delegation was incredible. It made me proud to be part of the delegation. As the Minister for Tourism, I made it clear that we were very proud of the product and the work and the level of energy involved. During the two days, I spent considerable time with the Western Australian delegation as well as with peak industry bodies such as the Australian Tourism Export Council and TTF Australia. The points that were raised in the meetings were very interesting. Firstly, the national stakeholders congratulated the Western Australian government on increasing funding in the budget, which was in contrast to other jurisdictions.

Several members interjected.

Ms S.M. McHALE: Members should wait to hear what they had to say about the opposition spokesperson for tourism! For the first time, the budget exceeds \$50 million. It was interesting to hear the comments made about the misleading tactics used to undermine what is a sound budget. Those tactics come from the opposition.

Ms K. Hodson-Thomas: We have told the truth.

Ms S.M. McHALE: For the benefit of the member for Carine, the budget in 2000-01 was \$30 million. In 2006-07 it is \$50 million. Everybody else in the nation can get that right and understand it but not the opposition spokesperson.

The other feedback that I want to give to the house is the very positive reception from the national stakeholders about the new board. The member for Carine put out very mischievous media releases about the board. She maligned the retiring members; she maligned the reasons they were retiring. She has destabilised the board. It was good to get feedback from the national tourism bodies. The opposition cannot see fit to recognise that we have put the strongest tourism marketing people and other people in the tourism industry on the Western Australian board.

DANTE ARTHURS

Ruling by Speaker

The SPEAKER: I have considered the arguments put to me about the question asked by the member for Hillarys. I consider that the question does not offend standing order 91. I give the call to the member for Hillarys.

436. Mr R.F. JOHNSON to the Attorney General:

- (1) Can the Attorney General confirm that an individual named Dante Arthurs was charged last year with an offence?
- (2) Is it the case that the charge was subsequently dropped by the Director of Public Prosecutions?
- (3) Will the Attorney General give a full explanation of these events to the public of Western Australia?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

- (1)-(3) I have no intention of saying or doing anything that might prejudice the ability of the Director of Public Prosecutions to bring the offender to justice or to otherwise be in contempt of court.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

WATER CORPORATION - ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

437. Mr J.H.D. DAY to the Minister for Water Resources:

I refer to the massive advertising campaign undertaken by the Water Corporation in recent weeks in the electronic and print media on numerous topics including the water saved by companies such as Coca-Cola and the south west Yarragadee aquifer.

- (1) What is the total cost of this campaign?
- (2) Why is the Water Corporation spending money on advertisements telling people about the actions of corporate giants such as Coca-Cola rather than informing people how they can save water themselves?
- (3) Why is the Water Corporation spending money telling people that it can safely draw water from the south west Yarragadee aquifer when the project has not yet been approved?
- (4) Why is it that the Water Corporation needs to spend so much money on self-promotion when it is a monopoly supplier?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

- (1)-(4) The Water Corporation engages in a public education campaign on a regular basis. If the member were genuinely interested in knowing the amount of money involved, he might have given me some notice of this question. I have no idea what it is costing because the Water Corporation pays for it. I can obtain that information if the member wants to give notice of the question. It is very important that the Water Corporation engage with the community not only to make sure that people understand the steps being taken by the corporation to give the community greater security of water supply, but also to encourage people to use water wisely and efficiently. That is based on having an understanding of a range of matters that the Water Corporation believes should be conveyed to the public. The campaign is something that the Water Corporation pays for. It does not need my approval for the cost. Therefore, I cannot answer the member's question about the cost of the campaign.

WATER CORPORATION - ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

438. Mr J.H.D. DAY to the Minister for Water Resources:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister concede that the money would be better spent on trying to achieve water savings rather than on self-promotion of the Water Corporation?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

The fact is that we are facing climate change. A range of people - including experts from other parts of Australia; and Malcolm Turnbull, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister - are on record saying that of all the states Western Australia is showing how it should be done. Western Australia is leading the way. The Water Corporation believes that, in addition to educating people on how they can use water efficiently, it needs to explain to the broader public some of the key issues and approaches taken by the Water Corporation to deal with the issue. Given that the corporation is recognised for handling this issue well, I thought that the tone of the question might be to commend the Water Corporation rather than to attack it.

DISABILITY FUNDING AGREEMENT

439. Mr A.P. O'GORMAN to the Minister for Disability Services:

What will be the Western Australian government's position on the renegotiation of the disability funding agreement with the commonwealth next month?

Mr A.D. McRAE replied:

I thank the member for Joondalup for the question and acknowledge his ongoing support for people with disabilities in Western Australia. The current commonwealth-state-territory disability agreement for this round was established in 2002. It is a five-year agreement. When it was first struck, the agreement was built on the basis of cooperative federalism. Having listened to the Treasurer's comments and having regard for the negotiations now going on about a new agreement, it is clear that it is becoming another glaring example of the failure of the Howard government to abide by the principle of cooperative federalism. Western Australia has 10 per cent of the population of Australia but receives just under eight per cent of national funding for disability services. In dollar terms, Western Australia is now \$66 million short of what its entitlement would be over the life of the three agreements. I reiterate: \$66 million. The inequity in the system arises from the establishment of the CSTDA some 14 years ago when there was a skew in the funding to Tasmania and South Australia, recognising that those states needed to make up some ground in the provision of services. In spite of the past