

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 49/2007**

**15 May 2007**

The Opposition considers that the lack of forward planning on the part of the Government which is apparent in areas like traffic and development projects, is also evident with regard to the state of our beaches. Decisions seem to be taken on a haphazard basis to address problems as they come up and there appears to be little or nothing in terms of a well thought-out or long-term strategy.

The Opposition has been receiving complaints about the poor state of our beaches for some time.

In the first place it is quite incredible that the works at Camp Bay, which were supposed to have started on 15 January, should still be underway four months later. This means that the beach remains closed to users and presumably will continue to be closed until the works have been completed.

A Government with more foresight would have planned the works at Camp Bay to have commenced straight after the summer season ended last year when the cooler weather arrived. It does not take a genius to work out that had the works started sooner, they would have finished by now.

The continued closure of the beach has deprived regular users of Camp Bay from the opportunity of bathing there in the recent hot weather.

On another matter, the Opposition hopes that the material used to tile the sea walls at beach level is storm proof. It will be recalled that at times of high winds and strong waves boulders and rocks are often hurled to the back of the beach with incredible force. In the past they have even cracked the concrete tables and in other parts have severely dented the concrete floor itself. The real test of this will come this next winter.

The Opposition has also received complaints about the state of Eastern Beach this weekend. In one particular case, a member of the public who was walking with his family along a part of the seashore collected seventeen pieces of glass, planks of wood with nails on them and two syringes. Other parts of the beach were covered in litter and debris. This is not the only instance. There have been many complaints from people saying that when young children have been playing on the beach and digging they have unearthed all sorts of material. This suggests that debris and rubbish on the beach may have been buried instead of removed.

The fact that the toilets were closed only made matters worse for those who chose to go to Eastern Beach this weekend.

There have been hot spells recently during which many want to go to the beach and enjoy their time there. This enjoyment has been spoilt by the

inability of the Government to plan ahead both in relation to Camp Bay and to Eastern Beach.

The Government will no doubt say that Camp Bay will become a “state of the art” beach or even a “centre of excellence” once the works have been completed. They will also say that Eastern Beach will be cleaned more intensely when the official bathing season commences. Unfortunately, this will be of scant consolation to those people who want to use Camp Bay today and who want Eastern Beach to be cleaned up and who have approached the Opposition with their complaints as they are entitled to do.

ENDS