

## **STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 56/2007**

**25 May 2007**

The Opposition considers that the response of the Government to our statement in relation to Camp Bay and Eastern Beach is over the top. The Government seem to think that they are infallible and above criticism and that everybody has to agree with everything that they say and everything that they do.

It is complete nonsense for the Government to claim that our statement on Camp Bay and Eastern Beach was "scaremongering". There is nothing to be scared about! All the Minister had to do is go down to either beach on the days in question and see the situation for himself.

The only thing that is scary about this whole episode is the political incompetence of the Government .

It will be recalled that it was the Minister himself who announced at budget time last year that work on Camp Bay would commence in the autumn of 2006. It is only logical to assume that when he made such an announcement he was fully aware of the facts in relation to other ancillary works around the beach.

The Government then announced that the works would commence in January, but even these, the Government has now said were further delayed and did not commence "till after January". This explains the state in which Camp Bay finds itself today.

The Opposition does not doubt for one moment that the works at Camp Bay will be finished by the start of the summer season. There are people working on the beach even at night because the Government has left it so late that they are now under intense pressure to complete the project before then.

The Government seems to have forgotten that the concerns echoed by the Opposition were raised on behalf of users of Camp Bay and users of Eastern Beach who have approached us with the problems that they experienced. They must surely understand that in a democracy people have the right to approach the Opposition with any problems that they encounter as a consequence of Government policy.

In this case both the problems and the solutions are pretty obvious. In the first place if the Government had started the Camp Bay project earlier, as announced by the Minister, then it would have been finished by now. Secondly if the weather is hot then people will want to use our beaches and they are entitled to have their expectations met when they do so.

**ENDS**