

# \$11 million cost to relocate heritage-listed kiosk to Elizabeth Quay defended

By Andrew O'Connor

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**The West Australian Government has defended the \$11 million cost of closing, dismantling and relocating a heritage-listed kiosk to Perth's Elizabeth Quay.**

It cost the Government \$400,000 to pull down the Florence Hummerston Kiosk from its location on the Esplanade.

The Government has also paid \$7.25 million in compensation to the operators of the Grand Palace Chinese restaurant which held a 44-year lease on the building, but the operators are taking legal action to secure more money.

Now, the Government has confirmed the cost to reconstruct the kiosk on the artificial island built in Elizabeth Quay will be \$3.48 million.

Planning Minister John Day said the total cost of \$11 million was significant but justified.

"This is simply part of the cost of the overall Elizabeth Quay project, the gross cost of which is about \$440 million," he said.

"I think once people see the completed project, the reconstruction of the kiosk, in particular, the new island and children's playground, the water park, the total precinct ... I think people will realise it's worth it."

The State Opposition said the high cost of this aspect of the Elizabeth Quay project had its origins in a rushed decision to save a heritage-listed building.

"So a hasty decision was made without proper research as to how much of a financial liability this building would be," Opposition heritage spokeswoman Margaret Quirk said.

"It is an indictment on the Government and its priorities.

"We have stories about needing to upgrade facilities for paraplegics and quadraplegics and the Minister for Health is saying [we] can't get the money, there are competing priorities.

"And the competing priorities are flights of fancy such as this Florence Hummerston house."

Ms Quirk said the cost of compensation to the operators of the Grand Palace Chinese restaurant was already in excess of \$7 million.

That payment is the subject of a legal dispute before the WA Supreme Court.

Mr Day said the Government had offered \$7.25 million in compensation and any claim for additional money rests on the judgement of the Supreme Court.

"That's a fair and reasonable offer. It's up to the previous leaseholders to justify anything over and above that. It's up to the court to work out," he said.



**PHOTO:** The kiosk will be relocated to Elizabeth Quay. (Supplied: WA Government)

**MAP:** Perth 6000