

MUSEUM.

8° Elizabeth II., No. XI.

No. 11 of 1959.

**AN ACT to provide for the control and management
of the Western Australian Museum and for
other purposes.**

[Assented to 25th September, 1959.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the *Museum Act, 1959.*

Commence-
ment.

2. This Act shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

3. In this Act unless the context requires otherwise— Interpretation.

“Board” means The Western Australian Museum Board constituted pursuant to the provisions of this Act;

“chairman” means the chairman of the Board;

“member” means a person occupying any of the offices of member of the Board including that of chairman;

“Museum” means The Western Australian Museum established at Perth;

“Trustees” means The Trustees of the Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia appointed under the Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia Act, 1911.

4. (1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be constituted a board having the name of “The Western Australian Museum Board.” The Western Australian Museum Board.

(2) When constituted the Board—

(a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and

(b) is, subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of section nineteen of this Act, capable in its corporate name of acquiring, holding, leasing, exchanging, mortgaging and disposing of real and personal property and of suing and being sued.

(3) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Board affixed to a document and shall presume that it was duly affixed.

5. (1) The Board shall consist of five members including the chairman and vice chairman, all appointed by the Governor. Constitution of Board.

(2) The Minister shall cause notice of appointments to the respective offices of members of the Board to be published in the *Gazette*.

(3) When the notice is so published the Board is constituted.

Tenure of
office.

6. (1) Subject to the succeeding subsections of this section, all persons appointed as members hold office for a term of four years but are eligible for reappointment.

(2) A person appointed to fill a vacancy caused otherwise than by the retirement of a member on the expiration of the term of his office, holds office only for the unexpired portion of the term of the office of the member in whose place he is appointed.

(3) (a) Of the members who are first appointed to the Board at the coming into operation of this Act, two hold office for a term of two years.

(b) The Governor shall designate the two members at the time their appointments as members are made.

Casual
vacancies.

7. (1) A casual vacancy in the office of a member occurs in any of the following instances—

- (a) he dies;
- (b) he tenders resignation from the office in writing under his hand addressed to the Governor in Council and the resignation is accepted;
- (c) he absents himself from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the Board, without having obtained leave of absence from the Board;
- (d) he is removed from office by the Governor;
or
- (e) he is incapable of continuing a member.

(2) The Governor may appoint a member upon the happening of any casual vacancy.

(3) The Board may grant leave of absence to a member upon such terms and conditions as the Board determines.

8. The exercise of a power or the performance of a function by the Board is not invalidated by reason only of there being a vacancy or vacancies in the membership of the Board or by reason of a defect or irregularity in or in connection with the appointment of a member.

Board may act notwithstanding vacancy.

9. (1) The Governor may in respect of each member, appoint a person as deputy of that member and a person so appointed has, in the event of the absence of the member, all the powers of that member during his absence.

Deputies of members.

(2) No appointment of and no act done by a deputy in that capacity shall be questioned on the ground that the occasion for his appointment had not arisen or had ceased.

10. (1) The Governor may appoint one of the members to be chairman and another member to be vice chairman.

Chairman.

(2) (a) The member so appointed holds office as chairman or vice chairman as the case may be for the term of his office as member.

(b) When the member ceases to hold office as chairman or vice chairman as the case may be before the expiration of the term for which he is appointed another member may be appointed chairman or vice chairman by the Governor for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the person in whose place he is appointed.

(c) The chairman or vice chairman may resign his office as chairman or vice chairman by notice in writing addressed to the Governor in Council.

(d) If at any time the chairman or vice chairman ceases to be a member, he ceases to be chairman or vice chairman.

Presiding at meetings.

11. (1) The chairman or the vice chairman in the absence of the chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

(2) When the chairman and vice chairman are absent from any meeting the members present at the meeting shall elect a member from among those present to preside at the meeting and the person so elected has during the absence of the chairman all the powers of the chairman.

Proceedings of Board.

12. The Board shall conduct its proceedings in such manner as may be prescribed and until prescribed, as the Board determines, but in any case

each member including the person presiding at a meeting is entitled to one vote only on the determination of any question;

three members constitute a quorum for the conduct of business;

the majority of the votes of the members present determines all questions, but if the votes in favour equal votes against the motion, the motion shall be deemed lost.

Preservation of existing rights.

13. A member or deputy for a member, in his capacity as member or deputy, is not a public servant under the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1904, but if at the time of his appointment as member or deputy under this Act, he is a public servant, his appointment shall be deemed to be without prejudice to his rights under the Public Service Act, 1904, or any other Act applying to him as a public servant.

14. Every member is entitled to such travelling and other expenses as the Governor determines. Members' expenses.

15. (1) The Board may appoint a Director of the Museum and such other officers as are required for the purposes of carrying this Act into effect. Officers.

(2) The Director shall exercise such powers and carry out such duties as may be prescribed.

(3) The Director and other officers although not appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1904, are entitled to such leave of absence under that Act and to such rights prescribed by or pursuant to the provisions of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act, 1938, as would apply, if they were appointed under the firstmentioned Act.

16. A person who is or has been a member, deputy for a member, or Director appointed under this Act is not personally liable for anything done or omitted in good faith, in, or in connection with, the exercise or purported exercise of any power conferred, or the carrying out of any duty imposed, on the Board by this Act. Exempt from personal liability.

17. (1) The Board—

- (a) shall undertake the care and control of the Museum and all lands and premises placed under the care and control of the Board;
- (b) shall undertake the care and control of all coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens and exhibits and other personal property acquired for the purposes of the Museum;
- (c) shall receive and apply all moneys voted by Parliament for the purposes of the Museum.

General powers of the Board.

(2) The Board may—

- (a) receive, take, or purchase any coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens and exhibits or other personal property;
- (b) sell or exchange any coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens, exhibits or other personal property or any coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens, exhibits or other personal property under the care or control of the Board;
- (c) lend or make available to any institution, Government department or persons, upon such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit, any coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens, exhibits or other personal property of which the Board has the care and control;
- (d) upon any occasion or for any purpose on or for which the Board considers in the circumstances a charge for admission to the Museum is warranted, require that admission to the Museum or any part of it is subject to such charge for admission as the Board determines.

Vesting of
certain
property.

18. (1) All personal property in the possession or control of or held in trust by the Trustees for the purpose of being used for the provision of a museum is, on the coming into operation of this Act, transferred to and vested in the Board.

(2) When any doubt or difficulty arises as to whether subsection (1) of this section applies to any property, the Minister may by notice in writing give directions as to that property and a direction so given is binding upon all persons, courts and tribunals.

(3) All contracts entered into or rights enjoyed prior to the coming into operation of this Act by the Trustees which relate to the Museum shall be deemed to have been entered into or enjoyed by the Board and the Board shall take and exercise in respect thereof all the powers, duties, rights, liabilities and immunities of the Trustees.

19. (1) (a) So much of the land described in the Schedule to the Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia Act, 1911, and so much of the buildings on that land as the Governor by proclamation declares to be vested in the Board, by the operation of this Act and the proclamation ceases to be vested in the Trustees and vests in the Board for such estate or interest as is mentioned in the proclamation without the necessity of any transfer or conveyance.

Vesting of certain real property.

(b) A proclamation made under this subsection may be revoked or from time to time by subsequent proclamation varied.

(2) The Board shall not without the consent in writing of the Governor sell, exchange, lease, mortgage or otherwise encumber the land so vested, or any part of, or estate or interest in, the land.

20. (1) All gifts and bequests made to, or on behalf of, or for the benefit or purposes of, the Museum shall, whether made before or after the coming into operation of this Act, be deemed gifts and bequests to, or on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the Board.

Gifts and bequests to Museum and preservation of rights of officers and employees.

(2) All gifts and bequests made to, or on behalf of, or for the benefit or purposes of, the Public Library Museum and Art Gallery of Western Australia shall, whether made before or after the coming into operation of this Act, be allocated or divided between the Board, The Library Board of Western Australia and The Western Australian Art Gallery Board as the Governor thinks fit.

(3) A reference in any other Act to the Trustees shall insofar as it refers to the Museum, be construed as a reference to the Board.

(4) (a) All officers and employees holding office or being employed in the Museum on the coming into operation of this Act shall be deemed to have been appointed and engaged by the Board under the provisions of this Act.

(b) (i) All rights and accruing rights of the officers and employees of the Trustees who are employed by the Board on the coming into operation of this Act remain unimpaired and continue for the purpose of their employment with the Board.

(ii) The Board shall undertake all matters incidental to the fulfilment of any obligations in connection therewith.

(iii) The Trustees shall on the coming into operation of this Act be freed and discharged from the obligations.

Financial
provisions

21. (1) The funds necessary for the effectual exercise by the Board of the powers conferred and duties imposed upon it by this Act consist of—

- (a) money appropriated from time to time by Parliament for the purpose;
- (b) the proceeds derived from any disposal of or dealing with real or personal property which the Board is authorised to effect under the provisions of this Act;
- (c) the proceeds of investment of any part of The Western Australian Museum Fund which is not required for an immediate use;
- (d) money derived from time to time as income by the Board from the management and control of the Museum;
- (e) all gifts, devises and bequests made to the Board; and

- (f) such moneys as the Board acquires under the provisions of section eighteen of this Act.

(2) The Treasurer shall cause to be opened and kept at the Treasury an account called "The Western Australian Museum Fund" into which the money and proceeds referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be paid.

(3) The Fund may be operated upon for the purpose of enabling the Board to carry out the purposes of this Act, in such manner as the Treasurer from time to time approves.

(4) All money recorded as standing to the credit of the Fund may, until required by the Board for the purposes of this Act, be temporarily invested as the Treasurer directs in any securities in which money represented in the public account may lawfully be invested and the Treasurer shall cause all interest derived from the investment to be paid to the credit of the Fund.

22. (1) Every person who unlawfully

- (a) damages;
- (b) mutilates;
- (c) destroys; or

(d) removes from the possession of the Board, any coin, medal, object of natural history, mineral specimen or exhibit that is in the possession of the Board at the time it is damaged, mutilated, destroyed or removed, is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term of twelve months or to both the fine and the imprisonment.

Offence of
damaging,
etc., any
chattel in
possession
of the Board.

(2) Where a person is convicted of an offence against the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the Court convicting that person may, in addition to imposing any penalty, order the person

to pay to the Board the full amount of the value of the coin, medal, object of natural history, mineral specimen or exhibit damaged, mutilated, destroyed or removed, as the case may be, and the amount so ordered is recoverable as if it were part of the penalty imposed notwithstanding that the total of the penalty and the amount exceeds the maximum penalty which may be imposed.

Proceedings
by Board.

23. In any complaint preferred by the Board against a person who steals or injures, and in any proceedings instituted in relation to, any property vested in or under the care or control of the Board, it shall be sufficient to state generally that the property in respect of which the complaint is preferred or the proceedings are instituted, is the property of the Board.

Reward for
information
of commis-
sion of
offence.

24. (1) The Board may offer and pay a reward to any person who gives information to the Board or any of its officers of the commission of an offence against this Act which leads to the conviction of a person for the offence.

(2) When proceedings are taken before a Court in respect of the offence if the person in respect of whom the information was given is convicted of the offence, the Court may in addition to imposing any penalty or ordering an amount to be paid under subsection (2) of section twenty-two of this Act, order that person to pay to the Board on account of any reward which the Board has paid or is liable to pay under this section, the amount of the reward or a sum of twenty pounds whichever is the lesser amount.

Power of
officers to
represent
Board.

25. (1) In proceedings in a Court of Petty Sessions, an officer of the Board appointed for the purpose generally or in a particular case in writing signed by the chairman may represent the Board in all respects as if he were the party concerned.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person may make and prosecute a complaint of an offence against this Act.

26. (1) The Board shall on or before the thirtieth day of September in each year furnish to the Minister a report of the proceedings of the Board during the year ending on the preceding thirtieth day of June and containing a full account of the income and expenditure of the Board audited by the Auditor General. Report.

(2) The Auditor General has, in respect of the account, all powers conferred on him by any law for the time being in force relating to the audit of public accounts.

(3) The Minister shall on receipt of the report cause a copy of it to be laid before each House of Parliament.

27. (1) The Governor may make regulations as he considers necessary, convenient or desirable to enable the Board to carry out its powers and duties under this Act or for better carrying out the objects and purposes of this Act. Regulations.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section the regulations may provide

- (a) for the conduct of proceedings at meetings of the Board;
- (b) for the form of the official seal of the Board and the manner in which it shall be kept and used;
- (c) for the management of the affairs of the Museum;
- (d) for the admission to and the exclusion or expulsion from the Museum or any part of it, of the public or any individual;
- (e) for specifying the conditions and restrictions upon and subject to which the public may be allowed to examine coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens and exhibits in the Museum;

- (f) for preventing the handling, touching, defacing or marking of the coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens and exhibits in the possession of the Board;
 - (g) for the effectual use of the coins, medals, objects of natural history, mineral specimens and exhibits for the purpose of public education and enjoyment;
 - (h) for fixing penalties for any breach of a regulation not exceeding the sum of twenty-five pounds for any one offence.
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