

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REPORTS 10 TO 14

Cognate Debate

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural - Leader of the House) [4.03 pm] - without notice: I move -

That motions 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 be dealt with cognately.

Each of the motions has the same effect, which is their reinstatement on the notice paper.

Question put and passed.

Reinstatement as Orders of the Day

HON LOUISE PRATT (East Metropolitan) [4.04 pm]: I move -

That the tenth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled "Chemical Use by the Agriculture Protection Board 1970-1985" tabled in the Legislative Council on 21 October 2004 be reinstated as an order of the day for the next sitting.

That the eleventh report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled "Alcoa Refinery at Wagerup Inquiry" tabled in the Legislative Council on 28 October 2004 be reinstated as an order of the day for the next sitting.

That the twelfth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled "A Petition on the Provision of Mental Health Services in Western Australia - Interim Report" tabled in the Legislative Council on 12 November 2004 be reinstated as an order of the day for the next sitting.

That the thirteenth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled "A Petition on Primary Midwifery Care" tabled in the Legislative Council on 16 November 2004 be reinstated as an order of the day for the next sitting.

That the fourteenth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled "An Overview of Petitions and Inquiries - Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament (August 2002 to November 2004)" tabled in the Legislative Council on 19 November 2004 be reinstated as an order of the day for the next sitting.

The intention is to reinstate a number of Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs reports from the last Parliament. The house has not had the chance to deliberate on the outstanding work of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs from the last Parliament. This is the last half of the reports that were prepared during the last term. They deal with some substantial issues. One is chemicals used by the Agriculture Protection Board. Members might recall that the committee was asked, by referral of the house, to look into the issue. The committee's eleventh report was on the Alcoa refinery at Wagerup. That was a mammoth inquiry that took two years. It raised a number of substantial issues, which have not yet been acknowledged by the house. The petition on the provision of mental health services reminds all members of the community's due concerns. The committee undertook a preliminary inquiry, which raised a number of issues that warrant the house's attention. A petition on primary midwifery care resulted in an inquiry by the committee. It was a short inquiry. Substantial concerns were raised with the committee by community midwives. I believe that that matter also deserves the attention of the house. In addition, there was an overview of the committee's work. Members might recall debate, both in this house and behind the scenes, on the role of the committee and how it can improve its work. If members are keen to reflect on the work of the committee, it is important the house have an opportunity to look at that report. It is not a matter to be debated now. I hope that the reports will receive due consideration at the appropriate time.

HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [4.06 pm]: When I first saw these motions I was not enthused about agreeing to their reinstatement due to the problem we have that only one hour a week is set aside to consider ministerial statements and committee reports. During the last Parliament we were about three years behind a report by the time we got to debate it! Most of the debates were not contemporary at all. Since this Parliament has started we have kept reasonably good track of where the reports are and the debate in the house. If we add these five reports, which were prepared during the previous Parliament, to the notice paper on the assumption that they should be listed in order of date tabled, they will come on for debate before those already on the notice paper. I am not sure whether that is the case; we will discuss that. The problem is that if we spend a lot of time debating those reports, it will reduce the amount of time available to look at the reports done by this Parliament. However, I am prepared to support this motion on this occasion. Perhaps members will give some thought to either extending the time available for these sorts of debates or speak for a shorter time and give us a chance to look at these reports. I agree with Hon Louise Pratt; some very important issues are raised in these reports. They are worthy of the consideration of the house. We will support the motion.

Question put and passed.