

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fifty-fifth Report — “Overview of Petitions 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019” — Tabling

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [10.10 am]: I am directed to present the fifty-fifth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, titled “Overview of Petitions 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019”.

[See paper 4372.]

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the petitions that were finalised by the committee during the six-month period between January and June 2019. During this period, 21 new petitions were tabled in the Legislative Council and the committee concluded its inquiries into 31 petitions. Petitions finalised during the reporting period related to a range of issues and community concerns. Planning and transport matters always constitute a significant proportion of petitions, with petitioners expressing concern about the environmental and social impact of particular development proposals or planning decisions. Interestingly, during the reporting period, the committee considered two opposing petitions regarding the southern section of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road—one calling for an alternative route and the other supporting the original alignment. Also of note, a petition opposing the way in which police officers are medically retired saw the Commissioner of Police suspend the exercise of the disputed process until new medical retirement provisions are in force. During the reporting period, the committee also initiated its inquiry into children and young people on the sex offenders register, which stemmed from the petition number 70. Copies of public evidence relating to petitions, including submissions and government responses, are also available on the committee’s webpage.

I commend the report to the house.

Fifty-sixth Report — “Overview of Petitions 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020” — Tabling

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [10.12 am]: I am also directed to present the fifty-sixth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, titled “Overview of Petitions 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020”.

[See paper 4373.]

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the petitions that were finalised by the committee during the 12-month period between July 2019 and June 2020. During this period, 31 new petitions were tabled in the Legislative Council and the committee concluded its inquiries into 35 petitions. Petitions finalised during the reporting period related to a broad range of social, health, environmental and planning issues; for example, petitioners expressed concern about rural crime, youth violence in Cockburn, labour-hire practices, parking congestion at schools, the muzzling of greyhounds, the closure of the Quadriplegic Centre, palliative care in regional areas and water rights in north Wanneroo. The committee held a public hearing with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in relation to a petition that opposed the southern forests irrigation scheme on economic, equity and environmental grounds. Concern about the environment was the focus of a number of petitions, including those relating to the Walpole Wilderness and Marine Park, a ban on helium balloons, environmental project allocations under the royalties for regions scheme, the North West Shelf extension and motorbike racing at Lake Leschenaultia. Copies of public evidence relating to petitions, including submissions and government responses, are also available on the committee’s webpage.

I commend this report to the house.