

MUCHEA SALEYARDS - COMPLETION

725. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- (1) What is the estimated completion date of the Muchea saleyards complex?
- (2) What is the estimated cost on completion of the project?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Nigel Hallett again for some notice of his question.

- (1) Tenders for building construction and pens, gates and rails will be advertised on 12 September 2007, with a closing date of 10 October 2007. The project completion date will be determined by the outcomes of that tender process.
- (2) I am unwilling to comment on the project budget while the project is going to tender, although once those tenders are out, I will be happy to do that. The honourable member would be aware that there has been some speculation in the media about the cost of the project. He will have to rely on that speculation for the time being.

BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INDEX - 5 STAR PLUS SCHEME

Amendment to Motion

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON LJILJANNA RAVLICH (East Metropolitan - Minister for Local Government) [5.41 pm]: I thank members for their contributions to this debate. As I have already stated, the government will be supporting the amendment to the motion. Before we proceed, I want to make a couple of other points.

Firstly, 5 Star Plus will be introduced in two stages. The first stage will apply effective from September 2007. I think it will apply from 1 September, so, effectively, it has been introduced. That will stop the installation of inefficient electric water heaters in new homes and require solar five-star gas-boosted or heat pump water heaters instead. We anticipate that this will reduce water use by mandating efficient shower heads, taps and dual-flush toilets. Apparently, these conditions will be the most stringent applied anywhere in Australia. Under the first stage there is a requirement for pools to have pool blankets. We anticipate that the water savings will amount to about 30 giganlitres over five years and greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 129 000 tonnes over the same time frame. We are talking about a substantial impact in environment and energy savings. The second stage, which is set for implementation in 2008, will make it easier for householders to install alternative supplies of grey water - diversion systems, for example - and there will be other savings also.

This is a very good news story. I do not know why the opposition sees it as something negative because I honestly think it is long overdue.

Hon Norman Moore: I suppose when you're on a ministerial salary, you don't have to worry about the \$15 000 increase in the price of a new house.

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH: I suppose when the Leader of the Opposition has been on a ministerial salary for the past 15 or 20 years, he definitely would have nothing to worry about. We do know that he has been on a ministerial salary for 20 years.

We are happy to support the amendment moved by Hon Paul Llewellyn.

HON GIZ WATSON (North Metropolitan) [5.45 pm]: I wish to add a couple of words to the debate on this amendment. I have not spoken on the proposed amendment but I did want to add something, having had some involvement in the building industry. This debate is about ensuring that we construct houses with low energy running costs and the mechanisms we use to shift the construction of new housing. This should not just apply to the construction of new housing, but also to the retrofitting of existing housing to ensure that not just the running costs of energy and water but also the comfort of living in housing is increased. We are having this debate now because issues to do with global warming have very much come to the fore at last. The motion moved by Hon Ray Halligan suggests that, at the outset, the housing industry is some sort of monolithic thing. The gist of the components of this motion that we seek to amend indicate, if anything, the sentiment of the Housing Industry Association. Having worked in the housing industry and built houses, I am aware that many people in that sector have been pushing for these changes for a long time.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.