

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Petition, Land Swap, State Forest

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [4.30 pm]: I take this opportunity to seek leave to table a petition. I will describe what it is all about for the benefit of members. The petition reads -

To the President and members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament assembled,

We, Kevin and Michele Bond of Loc 901 Osmington Rd, Margaret River, are the promoters of the following petition that contains 239 signatures.

The petition is duly signed. The content of the petition continues -

“We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, respectfully oppose the land swap scheme proposed by the owner of location 4396 Osmington Road, Margaret River (S & J properties Pty Ltd). This proposal is to swap a parcel of land situated in the Shire of Nannup with a portion of land owned by the Conservation Commission and managed by C.A.L.M, situated at the rear of location 4396 and borders the AMR -

That is, Augusta-Margaret River -

airstrip. This is to provide access for aircraft to taxi from the airport to a proposed development situated on location 4396 and would transit State Forest # 56 (designated to become National Park).

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that you deny this land swap and leave this state forest to its natural state.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.”

That is the petition, Mr President, and I will explain the background to it.

More than a year ago, the proponents of the petition came to me, as their local parliamentarian based in Margaret River, to table a petition that they had put together. As all members do, I agreed to table the petition without passing judgment on the petition, whether it be right, wrong, valid or invalid. The advice I got at the time was that I could not table the petition, because under standing orders there was no instrument in the House that could be acted upon at the time. I duly explained that during an adjournment debate last year and relayed that situation to the proponents. Ever since then I have kept the petition at Parliament House waiting for the opportunity to table it. Yesterday the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, representing the Minister for the Environment, who has carriage of an instrument for the revocation of state forest No 56, made a statement to the House referring to that agenda item. An instrument therefore now exists for the House to consider the petition. I use the last opportunity this week to table the petition, as I had committed to do to the people who came to my office and asked me to table it some time ago. I missed the opportunity this morning to table the petition. I was unprepared, as the petition was in a file in my office upstairs when the House assembled first thing this morning, which is the normal time for petitions to be tabled. That is the background to the situation.

Hon Ken Travers: What does the petition call upon the House to do?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It calls upon the House to refuse the revocation.

Leave granted. [See paper No 1672.]

House adjourned at 4.34 pm