

BUSSELTON JETTY PROJECT

584. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for South West:

While I am on my feet I will take this opportunity to welcome the good people of Collie who are in the gallery. They are the same people whom the member for Cottesloe continues to insult on a yearly basis.

Will the minister please advise the house of the latest developments relating to the Busselton jetty project?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am very pleased to report to the house that the Shire of Busselton has indicated its support for the state government's plan to rebuild and revitalise Busselton and, in particular, to fix the jetty, for whose decline a former shire president had the major responsibility. He happens to be the member for Vasse.

The council is onside. I would like to congratulate in particular a very good woman by the name of Councillor Bev Clarke, who is the President of the Shire of Busselton. Bev is a terrific woman who has been in a very difficult position in that council. She has tried to lead it through the toughest of circumstances. I think she is a very, very good person. The people of Busselton agree with that. A good woman like that has been driven to issue a press release, which she did on 11 October. The press release is titled "Buswell Hinderer not Helper". I will quote the press release for the benefit of members. It is from the shire president of his own council. This is what she had to say about him -

"I am unsure how Mr Buswell can comment on the State Government's offer -

About the jetty -

when he has not taken up numerous invitations for a briefing from the State." Cr Clarke said.

"For the rebuilding of the Shire's major tourism and community icon, you would have thought the local member would be providing practical assistance to the Shire, however this has not been forthcoming." Cr Clarke said.

The Shire claims Mr Buswell has simply stood on the sidelines and thrown stones and unfortunately this has attracted some media coverage.

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"We need to ask how effective a local member is going to be who simply breezes into town, issues popular comments to the media then goes back to Perth." Cr Clarke said.

"I hope the community will look beyond Mr Buswell's claims and his related media coverage to comprehend the State Government's offer for themselves.

Mr P.D. Omodei interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will get to the Leader of the Opposition in a minute! It continues -

Most rational people understand it is critical for the State to be involved and a successful project will see vibrant foreshore, a CBD link, a revenue flow underpinning the new Jetty's significant maintenance requirements and a tourism icon sustained forever." Cr Clarke said.

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The Shire hopes Mr Buswell would receive a briefing on the project prior to making further uninformed comment.

She is assuming that if he gets the briefing, he will make some informed comment. I thought that was quite good.

Councillor Clarke - the shire president - has obviously got to know the member for Vasse because she was driven to issuing that press release. It is funny that when people get to know the member for Vasse they find that they can no longer trust him. There are some others out there - Bernie Masters, the member for Kalgoorlie, the member for Hillarys, the member for Murray, the member for Leschenault and numerous others - who have felt the wrath of the member for Vasse once they decided to trust him. Of course, the next in line is the Leader of the Opposition, who I have always thought needs a bit of steel in his spine. He is going to get it from the member for Vasse when it goes in! I am not sure it is the sort of steel he is looking for!

The Busselton council has shown courage on this. It is now up to the commonwealth government to come on board and make a commitment to this very important project.