

BUSSELTON JETTY

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

This is episode 3 222 concerning the Busselton jetty. I was pleased to hear last night that the Shire of Busselton voted to accept the state government's offer concerning the restoration and maintenance of Busselton jetty. Can the minister outline the positive outcomes of this decision for the Busselton community and how alternative proposals would have an impact on local businesses and ratepayers?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Collie-Wellington for the question. I acknowledge the principals and representatives from Rockingham Parents and Citizens Association who are in the Speaker's gallery today as the parliamentary guests of the member for Peel. The Shire of Busselton last night voted to accept the state government's \$50 million offer to repair Busselton jetty and put in place significant public works in Busselton. That will create jobs and opportunities for the people of Busselton. It is a terrific decision. I acknowledge the shire president, Wes Hartley, and also the former shire president, Bev Clarke, for their support. As I indicated, this will provide a lot of jobs and investment in Busselton and will significantly improve that iconic tourism attraction.

It is interesting that the project managed to get through. Previously, of course, the member for Vasse was slowing down the process and pulling the strings down there. Perhaps he has been a little too busy and distracted by other issues to pull the strings of the Busselton councillors, particularly those who previously supported his position and have had a finding of misconduct made against them. While I am on the subject of the member for Vasse, I congratulate Brendan Nelson, a former member of the ALP, on his ascension to the leadership of the federal Liberal Party. The member for Vasse is another former member of the ALP who will shortly assume a leadership position in the Liberal Party. I will provide members who have some interest in history with a word of warning. The last former ALP member to lead a conservative party was Billy Hughes. That well-known Labor rat led the United Australia Party during the Second World War after Robert Menzies' downfall. What happened to the United Australia Party? It dissolved. When a Labor rat runs a conservative party, it dissolves. That is the historic lesson that members opposite should take from that event.

I have an article from a couple of months ago that might interest the Leader of the Opposition. It is titled "The Buzz about Troy" and it is a very interesting article about the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition, Paul Omodei, said this about his star deputy -

He (Buswell) is bloody awful. He's a shocking bloke, the worst bloke I've ever met," Omodei chuckles.

Is the Leader of the Opposition chuckling now? Furthermore, the Leader of the Opposition said of the member for Vasse -

"I've got my eyes open. I can be the whipping boy for a while . . . and as for Troy-Boy? He is a good and outstanding member of parliament and I think over time he will prove to be a great statesman.

Does the Leader of the Opposition stand by that?

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** We ask the questions.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** He does not stand by it! It is simple. Does the Leader of the Opposition stand by that?

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** You are pathetic.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I am asking the Leader of the Opposition whether he has support for his deputy.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Of course I do.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Okay, he does. I do not think that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition supports the Leader of the Opposition. To shore up his leadership, the Leader of the Opposition can at least show some integrity before he leaves the position and support us to get rid of the influence of Brian Burke and Noel Crichton-Browne in the upper house.