

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Ironbridge Holdings and Dalyellup Housing Estate — Motion

Resumed from 25 May on the following motion moved by Mr M.P. Murray —

That the house refers the Dalyellup housing estate undertaken by Ironbridge Holdings Pty Ltd and Mr Ian Wallace to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee for investigation into the following matters —

- (a) the lack of completion of purchasers' houses, fencing, landscaping and other matters;
- (b) the reasons why contractual obligations have not been complied with; and
- (c) what steps can now be taken to ensure that all contractual obligations are met.

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Planning) [4.01 pm]: When we last dealt with this motion, I indicated that the government shares the concerns of the member for Collie–Preston about the impact of this issue on the residents of the Dalyellup housing estate, and also on the people who have signed contracts to purchase land but have not been able to complete those contracts, for the reasons outlined previously. I indicated also that the government is generally supportive of undertaking some form of inquiry into the Dalyellup housing estate. Some further consideration has been given to how that might occur, in consultation with the member for Riverton, the Chairman of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, and also with the member for Collie–Preston. I understand that there is general agreement that the committee should be given the ability to have input into the terms of reference of the inquiry, and to take a wider view if it considers that appropriate. I will conclude my comments on that note, and the member for Riverton will formally move the amendment that has been agreed to.

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [4.02 pm]: The Economics and Industry Standing Committee is very pleased to undertake this inquiry. The task at hand is to have the committee staff undertake a study into how widely the problems that the member for Collie–Preston has identified at the Dalyellup housing estate apply across the state; and, when we get that report, which should be in early August, we will be able to determine the terms of reference and the duration of the inquiry. I make it clear that the committee will focus its efforts on the Dalyellup housing estate.

Amendment to Motion

Dr M.D. NAHAN: I therefore move the following amendment to the motion —

To delete all words after “house” and substitute —

requests the Economics and Industry Standing Committee to determine terms of reference for an inquiry by that committee into the problems in the Dalyellup housing estate and the wider impact of these types of problems in Western Australia, and to report to the house in August 2011 those terms of reference and the date on which the committee will report.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [4.04 pm]: I want to make some brief comments on the amendment. I certainly welcome and thank the government for assisting in this issue. This issue has been very distressing, not only for people in the Dalyellup housing estate, but also for people who live in Recreation Drive in Eaton, where the same sort of issue has arisen. I am sure that when we dig down, we will find that many more people are being affected by the same sort of issue. I thank the Chairman of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee for his indulgence. We have spoken about this issue, and he has been very obliging. The inquiry will be not only about the people in Dalyellup. I am sure that we will be able to widen the terms of reference and belt them out between us on the committee, and bring them to the house. The committee will then be able, I am sure with the agreement of both sides of the house, to see what we can do to help not only people in Dalyellup, but also other people who are experiencing the same sort of problem. With those comments, I indicate that I support the amendment.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham) [4.05 pm]: I also want to speak briefly to the amendment. I am very familiar with Dalyellup, which is just south of Bunbury, and I have had some involvement with that area in the past, in particular in providing new schooling facilities for the children in the area, and also in making some efforts towards providing a surf club, as I recall, in that part of outer Bunbury.

Mr M.P. Murray: You saw the whales!

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is right. The whales came past in a queue—in a line. That was a very interesting and enjoyable experience there with the member for Collie–Preston.

The member for Collie–Preston has raised a significant issue that affects a group of householders who have purchased houses in this estate and who have an expectation that the contracts that they have signed will be fulfilled. The member for Collie–Preston has brought up this issue very effectively in this place, and it needs to be resolved for the people who live in that suburb. I have visited Dalyellup since the member for Collie–Preston raised this issue, and I have looked at some of the houses and properties in that area. The people at Dalyellup had an expectation, according to the contracts that they had signed with the company, that they would be given landscaping and fencing on their properties. However, what we see as we drive through the suburb is a range of properties that have just dirt in their front gardens, and no fences, even though the owners of these properties have paid for landscaping and fencing. If the contractor, Mr Ian Wallace of Ironbridge Holdings, is not performing his obligations, he needs to do that.

I have looked at a range of newspaper clippings on this issue, at the urging of the member for Collie–Preston. Those clippings show that the developer promised on numerous occasions that he would fix the problem, yet the problem has still not been fixed. Therefore, as a final effort, the member for Collie–Preston has brought this issue to the attention of the house and has moved that a standing committee of this house examine this issue and try to find a way forward for the people in that area. I congratulate the member for Collie–Preston for his great efforts on behalf of his constituents in Dalyellup. He has done an excellent job in pursuing this issue. It is good that the terms of reference of this inquiry will be broadened beyond Dalyellup. However, I would urge the committee that the first and foremost issue that it needs to deal with is the people in this area, working families, predominantly, who have lost money and need this problem to be fixed. If this committee can come up with a way of fixing this problem specifically for Dalyellup, that will be a great way forward. If the committee can then look at the broader issues surrounding this problem in other areas of Western Australia, that will be very good as well. It is commendable and a credit to the member for Collie–Preston that he has pursued this matter with such vigour in this house.

Amendment put and passed.

Motion, as Amended

Question put and passed.