

MOUNT YOKINE LAND ACQUISITION REPEAL BILL 2000

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [9.57 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act 1960 to permit alternative land tenure to be put in place in favour of the Western Australian Golf Club (Inc). At present, the golf club leases the land set out in the Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act for use as a golf course. The land comprises a class A reserve numbered 25866, which has a purpose of “golf links”.

Before the commencement of the Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act 1960, the golf club held freehold title to most of the land now contained in the reserve. Due to financial difficulties in the 1950s caused by escalating rates and taxes, the golf club wished to subdivide its land and use the proceeds to establish a new golf course further away from Perth. However, at the time Parliament recognised the need to retain the golf course land as public open space. That was the motivating force for the Government of the day taking legislative action to create the A class reserve over the golf club land. The Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act 1960 was then enacted and the Minister for Lands was given the responsibility for administering it. In return for transferring its land to the State in 1960, the golf club received \$26 000 and a 40-year lease at a fixed rental of \$1 300 per annum. In addition, the golf club was not required to pay rates.

The lease to the golf club is due to expire in July 2001. The golf club and the City of Stirling wish to enter into leasing arrangements to replace the existing lease when it expires. Under the Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act 1960, leasing can be effected by only the Governor. Granting management of the reserve to the City of Stirling, with a power to lease, is not legally possible until the Act has been repealed.

Given that the existing lease is due to expire in July 2001, it is imperative that the Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act 1960 be repealed before that time. After its repeal, a management order under section 46 of the Land Administration Act 1997 will be made in favour of the City of Stirling. This will empower the City of Stirling to lease the land to the golf club.

The Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Repeal Bill 2000 is a short and simple Bill, which I commend to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Bob Thomas.