

**MOUNT YOKINE LAND ACQUISITION REPEAL BILL 2000**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 6 September.

**HON TOM STEPHENS** (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [12.02 pm]: The Mount Yokine Land Acquisition Act was passed in 1960 to acquire the land on which the Western Australian Golf Club is situated. In the 1950s, due to financial difficulties, the club wanted to sell the land and move further away from Perth. In recognition of the need to retain the land as public open space, the 1960 Act was passed, allowing the purchase of the land and effectively creating an A-class reserve. The land was then leased back to the club at a fixed rental for 40 years; that is, until July 2001. The consideration paid by the Government was £13 000, and an exemption from rates was granted. The golf club and the City of Stirling now want to enter into a leasing arrangement to replace the existing lease, when it expires next year. Under the 1960 Act, only the Governor can lease the land, and it is not possible to grant management of the reserve, with power to lease, to the City of Stirling until this Act has been repealed. The Department of Land Administration is responsible for the management of the land and the lease. This Bill is intended to affect that, and needs to be passed, in the view of the Opposition, and deserves the support of the House. Repealing the current Act will ensure that the amended management regime can be offered when the present lease expires. There was some opposition to the original Act in 1960 on the grounds that it was not in the public interest, but there seem to be no problems now with transferring the reserve and the lease-making powers from the Department of Land Administration to the City of Stirling. In fact, from all accounts, the measure has universal support. Vesting the reserve in the City of Stirling will allow it to lease the land to the golf club in perpetuity. My colleagues representing the North Metropolitan region, especially Hon Ed Dermer, have assured me that it has their full support as local MLCs.

The Opposition has been pressed by Mr Bob Kucera to give this legislation expeditious treatment. He says that the passage of this legislation, with our support, will be viewed favourably by the people of that area.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Is that Assistant Commissioner Bob Kucera?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: It is the same person; the next member for Yokine.

Hon N.F. Moore: I hoped we would do this in half an hour.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I always try to oblige the Leader of the House because he always tries to oblige the Opposition.

We have heard through Mr Kucera, who has been in contact with the golf club, that it is happy with the lease-back arrangement and it fully supports the intention of the Government in this regard. We are assured that the land will remain an A-class reserve and any plans to change that status will require an Act of Parliament. For all those reasons, the Australian Labor Party supports the speedy passage of the Bill.

**HON J.A. SCOTT** (South Metropolitan) [12.06 pm]: The Greens (WA) also support the quick passage of this repeal Bill. We can see no reason for the Act proposed to be repealed to continue. The new arrangement will provide for the City of Stirling to lease the land to the golf club, and that is a sensible arrangement. It will get rid of an Act that has passed its time. I support the Bill. I wish I could buy a golf course for \$26 000!

**HON NORM KELLY** (East Metropolitan) [12.07 pm]: The Australian Democrats also support this Bill and its speedy passage at this late stage of the parliamentary sitting.

**HON N.F. MOORE** (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [12.07 pm]: I thank members for their support of the Bill and indicate that the person who was the catalyst for this legislation and who pressed the Government hard for it is, in fact, the current member for Yokine, who will also be the future member for Yokine. He has done a good job.

Hon Tom Stephens: He is on holidays already all over the State.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I did not interject on the Leader of the Opposition and cast aspersions upon a former officer of the Police Service, the Labor Party candidate for Yokine. He has had nothing to do with this Bill. For the Labor Party to try to claim some credit for this through Mr Kucera is ridiculous. The member for Yokine was the instigator of this legislation and it has been around for a lot longer than Mr Kucera has been a candidate for the Labor Party. It needs to be done by next year. I thank the members for their support and indicate to Hon Jim Scott that if he can find a golf course for \$26 000, I will go him halves with him.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and passed.

**Extract from *Hansard***

[COUNCIL - Thursday, 9 November 2000]

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Mr Tom Stephens; Hon Jim Scott; Hon Norm Kelly; Hon Norman Moore

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