

BUSSELTON JETTY

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

Recent media reports have stated that the Shire of Busselton will again consider the state government's generous offer to repair and maintain Busselton jetty. This issue is a bit like an episode of *Blue Heelers*. I welcome John Wood into the chamber! Is the minister aware of any opposition to this proposal?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I think the member meant *Blue Hills*, Mr Speaker!

I am pleased to inform the house that some councillors on the Shire of Busselton are moving to accept the state government's very generous offer to fix Busselton jetty. It appears from media commentary in the south west that Andrew Macnish, the president of the Shire of Busselton, and council staff are supporting that move.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is very interesting to note that the member for Vasse has been out in the community saying that he opposes shire council staff having too much say on council issues. I quote from an article in the *Busselton Dunsborough Mail* -

Mr Buswell said -

Mr T. Buswell: Have you read the Local Government Act?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Keep saying it. What did the member for Vasse say?

Mr T. Buswell: Have you read the Local Government Act?

Mr M. McGOWAN: So the member for Vasse is still opposed?

Mr T. Buswell: Opposed to what? You tell me what you are going to read.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The article states -

Mr Buswell said he thought the role of the CEO was one that didn't need them to get involved in public debate.

That is a fair enough point of view, but if we go back to 12 September 2001, the shire president at that time moved to try to quieten the council staff and said that they should not be making media commentary. Who opposed that?

Mr T. Buswell: Tell the truth. What's the whole story - and councillors?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Okay, the shire president and councillors; fine. Then Councillor Troy Buswell opposed that move. The article of 12 September states -

Cr Buswell said last week he, for one, did not support the President's actions pertaining to the media.

...

Cr Buswell said he considered the action taken was vetting, controlling and potentially censoring information provided to the community.

"There needs to be open and transparent lines of communication between all," Cr Buswell said.

In 2001 Councillor Buswell was opposed to council staff -

Mr T. Buswell: Why don't you read the whole article?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I have the whole article with me. Would the member for Vasse like me to read the whole article?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the members for Roe and Cottesloe to order.

Mr M. McGOWAN: In 2001 the member for Vasse said that council staff should be able to speak out; this year he says they should not. What happened in 2001? The member for Vasse was in the process of undermining the shire president of Busselton - that is what he was doing - to become the shire president himself.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Does it sound familiar to members opposite that he was doing that? Is it any wonder that the Leader of the Opposition has been driven by the extreme behaviour of the member for Vasse to the state that he is now in? He is now threatening to provide a right hook to any member who comes into his office and taps him on the shoulder, and he has said that the member will be lucky to leave standing up!

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hope the tea lady does not go into the Leader of the Opposition's office and say, "Leader of the Opposition, do you want a cup of coffee?" Whack! Down she would go.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I hope the member for South Perth, with his delicate movie star looks, does not go into the Leader of the Opposition's office. Whack! Down he would go. It could get to the stage that the Leader of the Opposition starts to imitate Mike Tyson. A member will go into his office and he will grab him on the ear with his mouth, bite his ear off and spit it out across the office!

The Leader of the Opposition has been driven to this state by the vicious undermining for which the member for Vasse has a long record, stretching back to his time as a shire councillor in Busselton; he is being controlled by evil dark forces in the Liberal Party - Noel Crichton-Browne. Evil dark forces in the Liberal Party are pulling his strings and if he gets into a position of power in the Liberal Party, we will know who will be running it. It will be Noel Crichton-Browne.