

BUSSELTON JETTY

**140. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Peel and the South West:**

Will the minister please update the house on any progress regarding the Busselton jetty?

**Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH replied:**

I thank the member for Collie-Wellington very much for such an important question. I had the opportunity last Friday to visit the Busselton jetty and meet with the Busselton Shire Council. By any definition it was a fantastically successful meeting. The discussion that took place showed a willingness by the Busselton Shire Council to be in partnership with the state government to see the rebuilding of a national and international icon, which is the Busselton jetty. The jetty is 140 years old. I was knocked out by the enthusiasm of the council. We know that the real work is ahead of us. The shire's enthusiasm to be part of the process was fantastic. Prior to my visit, the shire had made public its commitment to borrow \$6 million as part of the project. I indicated to the shire on Friday that from this point on, the partnership needed to be on the basis of the borrowing and, at the same time, us working together to develop the foreshore land that will generate the sort of capital and income that we need to make sure that the job is done properly. It was within that discussion that the Shire of Busselton asked me whether there were to be any approaches to the federal government. I said that I thought any arm of government would want to be associated with the rebuilding of a national and international icon. As the Minister for Peel and the South West I indicated that I was willing to go with the council to Canberra to talk to the appropriate federal minister. We finished our meeting on that basis.

I was rung this morning by the ABC. It wanted to do an interview with me and the federal member for Forrest, Mr Prosser. I indicated a willingness to do that at a quarter to nine. The joint interview was cancelled, as I understand it, at Mr Prosser's request. He did not want to do the interview with me. My interview came on after the news. I was amazed by the lack of foresight, passion and vision demonstrated by the federal member. In his interview with the ABC, he made it quite clear that, as far as he was concerned, there was no role for the federal government to play. Rather than misquote him, I will advise exactly what he said. The member for Forrest told the ABC morning program's presenter, Gillian O'Shaughnessy -

... in regard to Commonwealth funding, in my electorate particularly, I've got to be mindful to make sure that every small town in my area gets a fair crack.

Ms O'Shaughnessy interjected -

... you can't really argue that it can't be funded because other places might need the money.

The federal member for Forrest also acknowledged that the commonwealth government had put in \$1.5 million towards the building of the underwater observatory. When the state government was under the leadership of Richard Court, the federal government put in \$1.5 million towards the jetty, yet the federal member for Forrest is now indicating an unwillingness to be part of the development. I do not know who can have any influence over the member for Forrest.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH:** One of the things I was heartened by on my visit to Busselton yesterday was a meeting with the state member, the member for Vasse. His attitude on this issue was entirely different from that of Mr Prosser. He has a very refreshing attitude. He pushed his way through throngs of people in Busselton -

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** I wanted to get to the buffet before you did!

**Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH:** He pushed his way through throngs of people to get to me to do two things. Firstly, I do not want to misquote him but I think my memory of only 24 hours ago will not let me down. He said that he wanted to congratulate me for the great job I was doing as the Minister for Peel and the South West.

**Mr T.R. Buswell:** You missed out the bit when I said "compared with your predecessor". With all due respect, it was not so much about you; your greatness is his failing. However, I will leave that for another discussion, because he was a well-respected Minister for the South West.

**Mr N.R. MARLBOROUGH:** I can understand the member for Vasse wanting to give himself some protection. I know he has problems within his caucus. That is what he did in the first instance. Secondly, at this function attended by 150 people he went on to say that he wanted to work with the government and, of course, his local constituency, to make sure that there was a successful outcome to rebuilding this national icon. I say to the federal member for Forrest that he should make sure that he gets on the boat and travels with us, otherwise he will not be able to tie up back at the jetty.

