

BUSSELTON - PLANS FOR JOBS AND INVESTMENT

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

Can the minister advise the house of the state government's plans for jobs and investment in Busselton; and what views have been expressed for and against those plans?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Indeed I can, and I thank the member for Collie-Wellington for his question. A couple of weeks ago I outlined to the house the state government's plans for land development and investment in jobs in Busselton, as part of the process of using the proceeds of that land development to do up the Busselton jetty. The government expects to spend a total of \$50 million on public facilities and improvements to the Busselton jetty as part of this project. The supporters of this project include the Busselton Chamber of Commerce, which has put out a publication setting out the reasons this proposal should be supported by the Busselton community and the local council. Some of the reasons given in that publication are that the jetty will be linked to the town, which will be good for the future of Busselton; it will provide world-class facilities that will create jobs; and it is an opportunity that should not be missed. The Busselton Chamber of Commerce is a group of small business people in Busselton who believe in jobs and investment for locals in the south west and Busselton. The member for Collie-Wellington asked me who is opposed to these plans. I have discovered someone who is opposed to jobs and investment in Busselton. That is the member for Vasse. The member for Vasse put out a press release yesterday attacking this proposal.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will quote, for the benefit of members opposite, what the member for Vasse said in that press release about jobs and investment in Busselton -

"It is unfortunate that Mr McGowan considers that the State Government is actually allocating up to \$50 million in the project, when in actual fact the \$50 million is coming from the sale of local land that will be lost to the community forever.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I know that everyone on the left-hand side of the chamber wants to be heard. However, I could not hear what the minister was saying. Those members who wish to interject will be called to order.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will repeat what the member for Busselton said -

... the \$50 million is coming from the sale of local land that will be lost to the community forever.

This is crown land! This is state land! He said it will be lost to the community forever. Does he think it is on the San Andreas Fault and it is all going to fall into the ocean? We are going to build parks, cafes, restaurants, hotels and residential accommodation. That is what we are going to do. We are not going to bulldoze all this land into the ocean in some sort of post-apocalyptic, Californian earthquake scenario!

At a broader level, I must say that it is rather typical of the member for Vasse to not support things. Look at what happened to Bernie Masters. Good bloke! Good local member! Great parliamentarian!

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Look at the member for Kalgoorlie, sitting over there! What does the member for Vasse have against people with the name Bernie or Birney? The member for Kalgoorlie was sitting at Red Rooster, and he got the phone call from the member for Vasse, "Sorry, leader; I ratted on you"! The member for Vasse did not support Bernie Masters, and he did not support the member for Kalgoorlie. However, it gets better. Guess what he said about the Leader of the Opposition! A couple of weeks ago, the member for Vasse was asked by the *Busselton Dunsborough Times* - an august publication locally - whether he would become the leader before the next election, and he was quoted as saying -

Mr J.H.D. Day interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Darling Range will like this! He said -

"It's just speculative", Mr Buswell told the *Times* on Wednesday. "It's my view that Paul Omodei is the leader."

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Incisive! He said, “It’s my view that Paul Omodei is the leader”! On this side, we support jobs and investment, and we support our leader. On that side, the member for Vasse does not support jobs and investment, and he does not support his leader.