

BUSSELTON JETTY MAINTENANCE

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

Could the minister elaborate on how the state government's long-term maintenance strategy for the Busselton jetty will assist young people in the region?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Collie-Wellington for the question. The state government has put forward an excellent offer to the people of Busselton to repair the jetty and fix up the foreshore. It will provide a huge amount of public and private investment into Busselton to provide jobs for the people of Busselton. It is important that members note that there are a large number of young people in the area of Busselton. However, the number of people between the ages of 15 and 24 drops substantially. Many people in that age bracket leave Busselton to return only in later life.

Mr T. Buswell: That is what I did; I went to university.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that people leave the town for a range of reasons. Some might go to university, some leave because they are unable to obtain employment and others leave because the town is not as exciting and vibrant as they would like. The Busselton Chamber of Commerce put out a press release indicating exactly that; a lot of people in that age bracket leave the town because they might not have as many jobs as they hoped available to them. We are trying to do something about it; that is, provide job opportunities and excitement - cafes, restaurants, bars and hotels - for the people of Busselton. Who is opposing the government?

Mr T. Buswell: I am.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Vasse; exactly. He is opposing jobs for the young people in his electorate and who is supporting him? It is Councillor Anne Ryan, against whom the Corruption and Crime Commission found four counts of misconduct. It shows that the member for Vasse has form on these issues. Does it surprise members that shortly before question time he was defending Anthony Fels and Shelley Archer; in effect, defending Noel Crichton-Browne and Brian Burke. He does not know where he is. A few months ago he was attacking Noel Crichton-Browne and Brian Burke in this Parliament and today he is defending them because he is frightened of them. He is frightened of Noel Crichton-Browne and Hon Norman Moore. Why is it that people such as the member for Vasse are unable to stand up to Hon Norman Moore? In 11 years in this place I have seen people, such as the member for Vasse, frightened of Hon Norman Moore

Mr T. Buswell: No-one calls me sneakers!

The SPEAKER: I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to order for the third and final time.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Vasse does not have the courage; he is not up to the leadership of the Liberal Party. If he is its great hope, God help the Liberal Party.