

BUSSELTON JETTY

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

Can the minister update the house on the state government's long-term plan for the repair and maintenance of the iconic Busselton jetty; and could the minister advise of alternative proposals and their impact on jobs, businesses and tourism in our great south west?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Collie-Wellington for the question. Members will be aware that, some months ago, the local council in Busselton accepted the state government's offer for revitalising the Busselton foreshore and the jetty. However, following the recent council election, the council has rescinded its approval of that proposal.

Mr T. Buswell: Not totally.

Mr M. McGOWAN: If the member wants the exact form of words, the council has revoked its approval. Members might recall the member for Vasse discussing this matter in this chamber, and constantly saying that the original approval by the council was temporary, and that we will see what happens in the future. The Busselton Chamber of Commerce stated -

Busselton is set to be left behind. The state government's offer was an opportunity to revitalise Busselton's foreshore not just for the sake of town-based businesses, but for the future of young people in our community, as one means of giving them an economic future worth staying for.

What we were trying to do was to provide jobs and opportunities for people in Busselton. What happened? The member for Vasse said that he did not support the original decision and that he would see what happened with the council. The member for Vasse has been the puppeteer of the Busselton council. He has been an evil Geppetto of the Busselton council, pulling the strings of councillors there. It might interest members to know whose strings he was pulling. Who moved the motion to revoke the state's offer? It was none other than Councillor Anne Ryan, whom the Corruption and Crime Commission found guilty of misconduct on four separate occasions and who is in a close personal relationship with someone representing a consortium that wants to carry out a private development of the land in question. The member for Vasse has been trying to knock out our proposals and manipulate the council at Busselton. Whom did he have doing his dirty work? It was Councillor Anne Ryan who has been found guilty of misconduct four times and who is in a relationship with a private developer who wants to develop the land. There is something rotten in the area of Busselton, and I think it is the member for Vasse.