

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fifty-ninth Report — Overview of petitions 3 December 2021 to 30 June 2022 — Tabling

HON PETER FOSTER (Mining and Pastoral) [10.04 am]: I am directed to present the fifty-ninth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled *Overview of petitions 3 December 2021 to 30 June 2022*.

[See paper [1715](#).]

Hon PETER FOSTER: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the petitions that were finalised by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs in the first half of 2022. During this period, the committee concluded its inquiries into 15 petitions. Petitions finalised during the reporting period related to a broad range of social, environmental and planning issues. For example, a number of petitioners expressed concern about the asbestos contamination in and around the town formerly known as Wittenoom, seeking to identify those responsible for necessary remedial action, and a time line for that action.

Another petition called on the Legislative Council to recommend new provisions for self-contained mobile dwellings, including tiny homes on wheels, caravans and motorhomes that are inhabited while on private property. It sought modification of camping regulations to better reflect the trend towards self-contained habitable vehicles and trailers.

Environmental concerns were the focus of a number of petitions, including those relating to the preservation of the Gnarabup coastline and the construction of the Southern Link Road stage 3, which petitioners feared would disturb a threatened ecological community in the City of Canning. Planning concerns were noted in petitions relating to the future of the East Subiaco Reserve, otherwise known as Subiaco Oval, and the proposed removal of level crossings at Robinson Road in Bellevue and Caledonian Avenue in Maylands as part of the Metronet project. Further transport concerns related to issues around the proposed realignment of the south west freight rail line.

The committee dealt with three petitions that opposed measures taken by the government in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. One called for the repeal of the state of emergency and all mandates enacted under the state of emergency powers. The others specified the petitioners' opposition to the vaccine mandate for employment and the directive that children in years 3 to 7 be required to wear masks at school.

At the end of the reporting period, the committee continued its inquiries into 15 open petitions. The committee wants to take this opportunity to thank all tabling members, and encourage them to provide a written submission to the committee after their petition has been tabled. The committee also notes the ongoing trial of the e-petition system, which will run until 31 March 2023. The majority of the petitions that the committee is currently dealing with have arrived in that format.

I commend the report to the house.