

CARAVAN PARKS AND CAMPING GROUNDS — FENCING HEIGHT

682. Hon Dr STEVE THOMAS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to section 31, “Minister may vary, modify or grant exemptions from subsidiary legislation”, of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995.

- (1) How many requests for or formal applications for variations to restrictions imposed by the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997 has the minister received since March 2017?
- (2) How many of those requests or applications been supported and how many have been denied?
- (3) The relevant section 31(2) of the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995 states that the minister may grant an exemption to the regulations if that regulation, and I quote, “might reasonably be modified or varied without detriment to the public interest”. What detriment to the public interest has the minister used as justification to refuse any application or request for assistance?
- (4) How many of these applications have sought exemption to the fencing height restrictions of 1.2 metres imposed by the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Regulations 1997?
- (5) Given that my own less-than-average height of 1.7 metres would allow me to easily look over any fence designed for security or privacy in a caravan or camping ground or park home facility that was restricted to 1.2 metres, as could the Minister for Local Government, what reason could there possibly be to suggest that higher fencing would be to the detriment of the public interest and should be rejected?

The PRESIDENT: I am not sure whether you are casting aspersions on the Minister for Local Government’s height there!

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question, and I feel his pain.

- (1) There were six requests.
- (2) Three were approved and three were rejected.
- (3) Applications have previously been rejected due to the public detriment they would have caused regarding health, safety or fairness.
- (4) There were two.
- (5) It would depend on the circumstances.