

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE

First Report — “2008-2009 Annual Report” — Tabling

DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton) [10.12 am]: I present for tabling the first report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, entitled “2008-2009 Annual Report”.

[See paper 1291.]

Dr M.D. NAHAN: The committee is still working on its first inquiry, which is an inquiry into the provision, use and regulation of caravan parks and camping grounds. The committee received a record number of inquiries, indicating a great interest in the report; more than 100 submissions were received. There is great interest in the report. There was also a great deal of variation and diversity of interest in the evidence. The evidence shows that the caravanning and camping industry is like a release valve for other problems in the residential sector, and there was also therefore interest from permanent long-stay facilities, as well as from permanent and semi-permanent workers in the north who use caravan parks for accommodation. There was also a great deal of interest in the growing area of camping. The committee plans to report on that on 15 October.

One of the issues that has been raised in this house in the past is that there is a great deal of concern about the loss of accommodation for permanent residents in caravan parks. That is an issue that the committee tries to deal with in the report. It is a very controversial issue, but I need to emphasise that the report focuses primarily on the issue of caravanning and camping for tourist purposes. I submit the report to the house.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [10.14 am]: As Deputy Chair of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee, I join the member for Riverton in speaking on this report and I briefly thank the committee staff, Dr Loraine Abernethie and Vanessa Beckingham, for their work in assisting the committee. I also give thanks for the good humour and easy manner of committee members, including the co-opted member, the member for Mandurah.