

SOCIAL HOUSING — KARAWARA

Statement

HON STEVE MARTIN (Agricultural) [6.23 pm]: I will be brief. Earlier today, I leapt to my feet to make a contribution in the consideration of committee reports. Very early in my contribution, Hon Stephen Pratt rightly notified me that I was in fact dealing with the wrong report, which was very embarrassing but I have bounced back. I would like to make a brief comment or two about what I intended to say when I was speaking about the wrong report.

The fifty-ninth report of the excellent and hardworking Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs refers to a petition from Karawara citizens. Debra Moran was the principal petitioner. I have met Debra a couple of times over the past 12 months and I have met other members of the Karawara community. They have some concerns about some issues in their suburb. The petition was based around the percentage of social homes. It is currently 24 per cent in Karawara. I do not want to go into too many details about whether that is a good number or a bad number but I want to raise on their behalf the lack of certainty around the future for that suburb. Earlier today, I spoke with a Julian Wilmot who lives in Karawara. He loves the place. He wants to stay there and is in the process of contemplating a brand new rebuild in that suburb. He has reached out to the Minister for Housing at least once—I think twice—to get a sense of what the plan might be for that suburb going forward so he can get some certainty around that.

So members are aware—I am sure Hon Stephen Pratt is aware of this—over a number of years there has been a series of incidents and antisocial behaviour to the extent that residents have formed a committee to try to get some action on that. I met an off-duty policeman who had been assaulted in his house, during the day, with his daughter asleep in the lounge room. That was just one example of a number of incidents that have occurred. I have spoken to the minister over the journey about this. His office has been very helpful. I believe he has met with those residents and sought to assist them. I urge him to continue to do that because, at the moment, they still feel that they are unclear about what the future holds for that suburb. I thought I would take this opportunity after making a mess of it earlier today.