

Legislation Committee

From: MURRAY Malcolm
Sent: Tuesday, 25 September 2018
To: Legislation Committee
Subject: Submission To Standing Committee on Legislation: Retrospectively Taking Away An Individual's Property Rights Must Not Be Allowed to Occur in Western Australia

Dear Members of the WA Parliament Standing Committee on Legislation,

I understand that the Standing Committee is considering possible new legislation that would make it relatively easy for a person wishing to acquire and redevelop a multi-dwelling, strata-titled property to achieve their ambition by forcing another owner in the complex to sell and vacate their home despite their being reluctant to do so. I strongly urge Members of the Standing Committee to reject any such damaging draft legislation that it may review.

Over recent decades successive WA Governments appear to have deliberately supported socially-damaging processes that erode the rights of home-owning citizens and diminished the proper role of the elected local government sector. Our State governments have pretended they were either facilitating modern town planning practices; strengthening the State's economy; or accommodating a perceived need for so-called 'progress' by forcing property owners to surrender their rights to enjoy a chosen lifestyle and residential environment. In particular, we have witnessed the empowerment of the State Administrative Tribunal system to grossly distort the State's town planning process and interfere with the stability of our democratically-elected local government bodies.

It now appears that in order to facilitate favourable outcomes for financially well-resourced, profit-motivated people, OUR current elected representatives are set upon a course of further eroding the rights of citizens living in multiple dwelling accommodation. Clearly, our state politicians and governments should be taking greater care to protect and support the rights of home owners (many of whom may be aged, disabled, or infirm). The last thing our Parliamentarians should be doing is passing legislation to force these people to surrender their homes to satisfy members of a selfishly-motivated group.

Some of our elected Parliamentarians are apparently so focussed upon assisting the group that will benefit from this currently-proposed measure that they fail to realise that their initiatives in support of such opportunistic, self-centred ambitions potentially constitute direct threats against large numbers of their electors. It seems so obvious that the consequence of these 'attacks' is likely to be a weakening of ties that bind us as communities and ultimately, to cause electors to retaliate through the democratic process.

I urge you to reject the proposed legislation, for the sake of the stability and quality of our society.

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Murray