

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 61

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 2003

1. Meeting of Council

The Council assembled at 10.00am pursuant to order.

The President, Hon John Cowdell, took the Chair and read prayers.

2. Petition

Hon Alan Cadby presented a petition, by delivery to the Clerk, [SO 130], from 94 residents of Western Australia for increased State funding of catholic and other non-Government school children. (Tabled paper 1060).

3. Paper

The following Paper was laid on the Table by -

Minister for Racing and Gaming

Response to Reports -

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs - A petition objecting to the proposal to establish a sewage pump station in Heseltine Park, Busselton
(Minister for Racing and Gaming) 1059

4. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure - Consolidated Fund Estimates 2003-2004

The Order of the Day having been read for the debate on the motion of the Minister for Racing and Gaming, That the Consolidated Fund Estimates 2003-2004 be noted.

Debate ensued.

On the motion of Hon Bruce Donaldson the debate was adjourned to the next sitting.

5. Cannabis Control Bill 2003

The Order of the Day for the adjourned debate on the second reading of this Bill having been read, Debate resumed.

Interruption pursuant to Sessional Order.

6. Select Committee into Water Services - Establishment

Motion No. 11 having been called.

Debate resumed on the amendment of Hon Dee Margetts as follows -

In paragraph (1) -

- (1) After "future" - To insert "sustainable"; and
- (2) After "supply," - To insert "quality,"

to the motion of Hon Norman Moore as follows -

- (1) A Select Committee is appointed to inquire into and report on the issues confronting Western Australia that arise from, or relate to, the present and future supply, retention, and maintenance of water services throughout the State.
- (2) The Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records.
- (3) Standing Orders 322, 323, 330 and 331 apply to the proceedings of the Committee and any contrary or inconsistent provision of Chapter XXIII is modified accordingly.
- (4) The Committee may present interim reports without a requirement for leave and is to report finally not later than June 3 2003.

On the motion of Hon Alan Cadby the debate was adjourned to the next sitting.

7. Referral of Evidence from the Select Committee on Western Australian Police Service

Motion No. 12 having been called.

8. Select Committee to Investigate and Recommend the Appointment of a Commissioner for Children - Establishment

Hon Barbara Scott pursuant to notice, moved -

That a Select Committee of three Members be appointed to inquire into and report on -

- (1) The appointment of a Commissioner for Children or the establishment of an independent Office for Children as the most appropriate means of establishing an Advocate for Children to enable better Government for children and to ensure Government and Parliament are aware of the needs of children.
- (2) The responsibilities and duties of such a Commission or Office. This investigation should include but need not be limited to an examination of -
 - Developing an appropriate Advocate for children in the heart of Government;
 - Legislative and policy impact statements for children;
 - An advocacy function for children;
 - Coordination across Government agencies affecting children;
 - Ensuring that child participation is basic to the functioning of the Commission/Office and to the development of public policy;
 - Developing and benchmarking a strategy for children;
 - Investigating complaints and reporting on maladministration of Government;
 - The physical and mental health of children, including the importance of sport and play in child development and litigious and industrial issues restricting these, the role of television, videos and computers, time spent in childcare, immunisation rates, services for disabled children;
 - Research relevant to children and its relevance to the development of public policy;
 - The impact of the justice system on children;

- The transport system and its relevance to children's needs;
 - The staffing and budget for this Commission/Office; and
 - Any other matters that impact on the good growth and development of young children.
- (3) The Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records and to travel from place to place.
- (4) The Committee report to the House not later than June 30 2004 and if the House do then stand adjourned, the Committee to deliver its report to the President who shall cause the same to be printed by authority of this order.

Debate ensued.

Hon Robin Chapple moved -

After line 25, after the last dot point - To insert -

“

- The impacts of Government and industry policy on the wellbeing of children.

”.

Debate ensued.

Interruption pursuant to Sessional Order.

9. Questions Without Notice

Questions without notice were taken.

The Minister for Housing and Works tabled documents in relation to Details of programs conducted in the Minister for Housing and Works portfolio, and related agencies, to assist and advance the welfare of Aboriginal persons in response to question on notice No. 674 asked by Hon Peter Foss. (Tabled paper 1061).

10. Member's Statements

Statements were taken.

11. Adjournment

Pursuant to Sessional Order 2(2) the House adjourned at 5.48pm until Thursday, May 15 2003 at 10.00am.

Members present during the day's proceedings

Attendance: Present all Members except Hon Jon Ford.

L B MARQUET
Clerk of the Legislative Council

HON JOHN COWDELL
President of the Legislative Council