

31562 REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday,
26 September 2001

COMMITTEES

Public Works Committee

Report

Mrs MOYLAN (Pearce) (7.26 p.m.)—On behalf of the Parliamentary Standing Committee

on Public Works, I present the 14th report for 2001 of the committee relating to housing redevelopment at Enoggera, Brisbane.

Ordered that the report be printed.

Mrs MOYLAN—by leave—The Defence Housing Authority currently manages a total of 1,124 properties in Brisbane. A defence housing forecast for Brisbane has forecast an increased need of 1,320 properties as at 1 July 2001 and future growth is expected.

The proposed housing redevelopment at Enoggera

helps to meet this increased need for defence accommodation in Brisbane.

The Defence Housing Authority commissioned

an independent examination of the site which revealed that naturally occurring arsenic concentrations which were detected were above Queensland Environmental Protection

Agency environmental investigation levels. The consultant's report said that the levels of arsenic 'appear to be naturally occurring'

and they recommended that 'it would be prudent for future landowners to be

advised of the presence of elevated concentrations

of arsenic in the natural soil'. The committee questioned the DHA quite extensively

on this issue. As a result, the committee made three recommendations which, if implemented, will ensure that the project proceeds only if favourable environmental assessments are received.

The committee concluded that there is a need for the proposed work and that it should

proceed—as I said, subject to those environmental

clearances—at a projected cost of \$15.5 million, subject to a positive finding by the Queensland Environmental Protection

Agency regarding soil contamination issues. Before I conclude, I would like to say a few words to highlight the great contribution to the work of the Public Works Committee by the honourable member for Throsby, Mr Colin Hollis. He is retiring at the next election.

Colin has served on the Public Works Committee continuously since February 1985 and was chair from October 1987 to January 1996. He has made a very good contribution to this committee. He has never been afraid to subject witnesses to searching examination and always expected the witnesses

to be well briefed and insisted that they be able to substantiate their evidence.

He was able to bring to his questioning a dry sense of humour, which on many occasions lightened an otherwise tense situation.

Amongst the members and staff of the PWC, Colin was famous for his punctuality. He has made a terrific contribution to the PWC, and we would like to acknowledge that on this occasion because we may not have another opportunity to do so. The Public Works Committee will miss Colin for his knowledge

of the work of the committee and his ability to quickly get to the substance of the issues. I would also like to thank the secretariat

for their tremendous work in getting the report done so quickly. I commend the report to the House.

ADJOURNMENT