



Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Wednesday, 19 August 2009

GLASS HOUSE ELECTORATE, MANUFACTURED HOME PARKS

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (9.18 pm): Glass House is a great place to live and, I am informed, an even better place to retire. Increasingly, my electorate is becoming home to many mature couples and individuals who are looking for a slower and more peaceful way of life. A significant number of my constituents are choosing to reside in manufactured home parks, which are sometimes referred to as residential parks. This pattern is proving popular across the state—so much so that the Office of Fair Trading has indicated that some 15,000 Queenslanders now reside in these manufactured home parks. Such parks come under the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003.

It has been brought to my attention by both constituents and the Manufactured Home Owners Association that a review of this act was undertaken by the Office of Fair Trading during mid-2007. Unfortunately, the first that many homeowners knew about the review was when they stumbled across reference to it on the OFT website some 12 months later. The OFT acknowledged the receipt of some 670 survey responses, some of which were multiple submissions from the same source. Those who have approached me are of the opinion that 670 does not represent a suitable response, given that there are 15,000 potential residents, not to mention park owners. Fortunately for my constituents and others in their situation, it appears that this government has done very little with the information it previously received.

A delegation of manufactured home owners met with representatives of the relevant government agencies and were informed that a working draft of a proposed amendment bill would be released for further consultation before Christmas 2008. No such working draft has materialised. My constituents now see this as a blessing in disguise, and I agree. That is why I have sponsored both a written petition and an e-petition which, given delays in making amendments to the act, calls on the government to undertake additional consultation that includes residents of parks as well as park owners.

Having viewed some of the concerns manufactured home owners have with the current act, I can reassure the minister and the government that the additional consultation will lead to improvements in the application of the legislation. Homeowners are interested in making reasonable and sensible contributions in the areas of: key definitions, including of 'manufactured homes' and 'park owners'; clarification of rental charges and contractual arrangements and expectations; licensing of park owners that also operate as real estate agents in the marketing and selling of vacant homes; and dispute resolution.

At this point I would like to acknowledge Ms Del McGlashan, who is the principal petitioner, and Mr Sam Dawes, who first brought the matter to my attention. I look forward to tabling the petitions in the near future and to hearing from the Minister for Fair Trading that his department will commit to more appropriate consultation before presenting an amendment bill to the House.