Select Committee into Land Development and Planning in Western Australia (Notice given 25 June 2025)
Hon Neil Thomson: To move:
(1) That a Select Committee into Land Development and Planning in Western Australia be established.
(2) That the Select Committee inquire into and report on matters relating to land use planning, land transactions, and development in Western Australia, with particular regard to the optimality, efficiency, integrity, and probity of decisions made by the State and state agencies, including:
(a) in relation to land use planning decisions, the extent to which such decisions align with established local planning schemes, strategies, policies, and frameworks, particularly where made by the Western Australian Planning Commission or Development Assessment Panels, including but not limited to decisions made under the so-called Significant Development Pathway;
(b) in relation to land transaction decisions, the extent to which such decisions adhere to principles of probity and transparency, particularly where made by agencies such as DevelopmentWA, the Housing Authority, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, or the Western Australian Planning Commission; and
(c) high-profile development decisions to which the Government has committed or which are currently under consideration, including but not limited to the proposed Burswood Motorsports Facility development and the Smith's Beach development proposal.
(3) That the Select Committee report no later than 12 months after the date on which this motion is agreed to.
(4) That the Select Committee shall consist of five members.

NEIL THOMSON (Liberal); Special reference needs to be made to the PESP, Smith's Beach and the Auditor General's Report on land transactions. The aim of the review is to build trust with the community. There is a particular focus needed on the land transfer from Crown Casino to the Burswood racetrack project when Crown was granted their gaming licence within days of this happening.

BRAD PETTIT (Greens); SUPPORT the motion. Current home building in the State is being driven by Developers not by Government. Burswood had a well developed 20-year Masterplan and this was trashed as the Cook Government bulldozed its project through.
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS; In item (2)(c) to include WestPort, In item (3) that interim reports on those projects in (2)(c) to be made after 6 months.

AMENDMENTS PASSED

ANTHONY SPAGNOLA (Liberal); SUPPORT The Premier has not been humble as he promised he would be. Minister Carey spoke at the Sydney Institute where he named those opposing Government plans as Bananas and NIMBYs. The Minister needs to engage with the community and not insult West Australians from the safety of Sydney.

DR KATRINA STRATTON (Labor); OPPOSE the current fast track of planning allows land to be freed up for housing to be built faster. WA's faster planning is the envy of the rest of the country. It has greater transparency. Currently red tape is blocking housing and recreation developments.

MARYKA GROENWALDT (Australian Christians); SUPPORT at present planning favours developers over the public.

DR BRIAN WALKER (Legalise Cannabis); SUPPORT is there sufficient transparency with the current planning rules? Why is money being spent on a racetrack? Who benefits from it? None of his patients are in favour of the Burswood racetrack.

ROD CADDIES (One Nation); SUPPORT the racetrack has trashed the Burswood Masterplan. All this motion is asking for is transparency in the decision making. Politicians have lost the trust of the community. The racetrack will have a much wider impact than on the immediate surroundings.

NICK GORIAN (Liberal); SUPPORT the Government has opposed this motion without explaining why. All they have done is congratulate themselves. The Town of Victoria Park does not want the racetrack, the residents do not want the racetrack, Wanneroo wants the racetrack but the Minister responsible says "Too Bad". This is exactly what this Committee should be looking at.

AMANDA DORN (Animal Justice); SUPPORT
PROPOSED AMENDMENT Item (4) to be six members
AMANDMENT PASSED

The motion, as amended was PASSED.