

MP's racetrack crash out

Letter reveals WA Government was warned over Burswood plan

EXCLUSIVE JESSICA PAGE

A divide within Labor ranks has deepened over the \$217 million Burswood racetrack plan, it has been revealed, as it was confirmed a business case for the controversial project will not be released in full.

The West Australian has obtained a letter Federal Labor MP Patrick Gorman had written and sent to Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti, slamming the process and warning it will “forever” change the area’s peninsula —

days before he went public against it.

“It will forever impact my constituents and our city,” Mr Gorman wrote, in the letter dated September 3.

“My simple request is this: the concerns of local residents must be respected through new fair, transparent and inclusive process including a full site selection process.”

And he warned a street circuit for the V8 Supercars would impact future housing development in the area.

“At best, it creates delays and increases costs,” Mr Gorman said. “At worst, it can stop much-needed housing from being built.”

The plan for a racetrack and amphitheatre — known officially as the Perth Entertainment and Sporting Precinct — was the subject of heated questioning on day one of a parliamentary inquiry into the State’s planning laws, which the Government has called an attempt by the Opposition to “drum up fear”.

Ms Saffioti also on Friday

revealed a long-awaited business case into the Burswood project had been completed but wouldn’t commit to releasing it in full.

“It has been finalised and we’ll be providing a summary of that business case, like we do with every project,” she said.

“The business case has been finalised, but I can’t give you a timeframe.”

Opposition Leader Basil Zempilas accused the Government of hiding from scrutiny.

“How shifty and shonky do

this State Government want to be,” he said.

“This is the most talked about project.

“There is huge interest in it and everybody knows how important the business case is to see if it stacks up.”

The \$217m project would include an outdoor amphitheatre that would fit up to 20,000 people for live music and events, as well as a V8 racetrack the WA Government says would be multi-use for cycling and community sport.