

PARLIAMENTARY PLAY

By Julie Davis

Barrister



Most of our readers have better things to do than trawl through the Hansard (the official report of the proceedings of Parliament). This (edited) excerpt followed on from the debate around the new Local Government Act and caught my eye due to the subject matter – namely the Casey controversy. A bit of fun on the side. (Amendment C129 to the Casey planning scheme proposed changes to the Casey Planning Scheme to facilitate the future use and development of the affected land for residential purposes, by amending the applied zoning of the land from Commercial 2 Zone to the General Residential Zone.) (Hansard, page 4647, Legislative Assembly, Thursday, 28 November 2019)



QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE AND MINISTERS STATEMENTS

PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENTS

Mr M O'BRIEN (Malvern—Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Planning. Yesterday the minister said that no current Labor MP had approached him regarding planning amendment C219, the dodgy rezoning promoted by John Woodman and accompanied by \$160 000—

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn members: I know it is the last question time of the year, but it is not going to be—

Ms Ward interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Eltham can leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour. I am not going to have shouting across the chamber. Members will be removed without warning.

Member for Eltham withdrew from chamber.

Mr M O'BRIEN: I will start that again. My question is to the Minister for Planning. Yesterday the minister said that no current Labor MP had approached him regarding planning amendment C219, the dodgy—

Ms Green interjected.

The SPEAKER: The member for Yan Yean can leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour.

Member for Yan Yean withdrew from chamber.

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER: Order! Disorder in itself is not a reason for more disorder.

Mr M O'BRIEN: That is a bipartisan ruling there, Speaker, if I could say so. Yesterday the minister said that no current Labor MP had approached him regarding planning amendment C219, the dodgy rezoning promoted by John Woodman and accompanied by \$160 000 in donations to the Labor Party.

Who were the former Labor MPs who made representations to the minister's office?

Mr WYNNE (Richmond—Minister for Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Planning) I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. There would not be a week that goes by in this Parliament that representations are not made to me right across this Parliament in relation to planning matters. As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, he himself has made representations to me in relation to a heritage matter, which was

entirely appropriate—it was entirely appropriate that he did. The Leader of the National Party has made representations to me in relation to matters as well—any number of members across on that side of the chamber have in relation to wind farms—and indeed on my side of the chamber as well. It is entirely appropriate that members of Parliament should make representations in relation to various planning matters.

.....

But the point needs to be made that regardless of what representations may or may not have been made to me, there has been no approval made of that planning scheme amendment. So whatever representations—

.....

Mr M O'Brien: On a point of order, Speaker, when I made representations to the minister regarding Lauriston Girls School, they did not give me \$160 000 to do it.

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The house needs to come to order.

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Mr WYNNE: Oh, dear. I do not know where to go now. Whatever representations were made,

they have had no impact on my decision-making on this particular amendment.

(Go to hansard.parliament.vic.gov.au)

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