

Cracks in heritage reports

By LLOYD GORMAN

Serious flaws have emerged in measures meant to protect heritage homes being damaged by the development of the Pavilion Market site, Subiaco council will be told on Tuesday night.

The row of 110-year-old terrace houses in Catherine Street, as well as the Subiaco Hotel and Regal Theatre, were all meant to have dilapidation reports before Blackburne began demolition or construction.

But one dilapidation report was so wrong that a Catherine Street homeowner had to push hard to get a second, correct one, done.

In a motion for next Tuesday's meeting, councillor Stephanie Stroud says Land Surveys first inspected Ines Janca's home in mid March but it was not until April 15, that she got a copy, on request.

On April 8, Subiaco issued a demolition permit and the wreckers moved in.

Ms Janca had her own dilapidation report done, which showed 21 out of 24 cracks in the Land Surveys report had been measured and categorised incorrectly.

She wrote to the council to say she was not satisfied with the quality of the original report.

Ms Stroud says in her motion: "The revised [July 19] dilapidation report for 28 Catherine Street by Land Surveys proved that the first report was incorrect and therefore invalid.

"This inconsistency could have had major repercussions for this heritage property had there been any damage from the demolition.

"There may have also been legal repercussions for the City."

She will say previous advice from the council CEO was that homeowners' cases against developers were civil matters.

Her motion calls for an in-depth report into the approval process for demolition and building permits for heritage properties.



Callan Arav holding his chicken.

Callan's an animal's very best friend

By HUGO TIMMS

Six-year-old Claremont boy Callan Arav has given up eating meat and only eats fish certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

The Christ Church Grammar School student has also constructed his own worm farm, and has written a letter to Coles criticising the supermarket giant for using plastic.

"I had to walk into Coles with him to help him ask for the manager's email address," his mother, Tharanga, said.

"He's just a really interesting young boy.

"With no prompting from us, he turned to me one day and told me he wanted to

stop eating meat for the sake of animals.

"I thought it was a passing phase, but he's really stuck to it.

"Now he gets into me when I use the plastic vegetable bags you get in shops, and he even has a go at his dad when he arrives home with a non-reusable coffee cup."

For his sixth birthday Callan refused all presents, except Lego, and instead wanted money to be donated to the preservation of whale sharks.

The industrious six-year-old succeeded in raising \$118 for the cause from the four friends who attended his most recent birthday party.

"I think he will end up as a bit of a tree hugger," Tharanga said.

Subi keeps public council words secret

By LLOYD GORMAN

Subiaco council blocked its councillors from seeing their own submission to a parliamentary probe this week – even though it is available online.

Councillors David McMullen, Julie Matheson, Stephanie Stroud, Hugh Richardson and Malcolm Mummery co-wrote the document for the probe into local government in WA.

"I haven't actually seen it since I submitted it a week ago," Mr McMullen told this week's agenda briefing forum ahead of Tuesday night's council meeting.

He wanted to know what the actual submission would look like.

"I was one of the councillors who worked on the document but I haven't actually seen the attachment."

The document was listed as confidential in attachments to the agenda papers, but was not included.

Staff told him it hadn't been changed since he submitted it to the administration.

Acting CEO Alan Millard said that "under the Act" and advice from the Parliament "we are required to keep our submission confidential until the committee decides to publicly release it".

Mr Millard said Subiaco and other councils had asked Parliament if the council could make the information available or if it had to remain confidential.

He said they were expecting a response in the next day or so.

At one point mayor Penny Taylor said if they needed to discuss it further they may have to go behind closed doors because of "the ruling of Parliament".



David McMullen



Penny Taylor

"That document is a public document and therefore can't be confidential," Mr Mummery said.

The four-page submission was posted on the Subiaco Residents and Ratepayers' Facebook site last week.

It recommends:

- Council resources and staff should not be used in investigating or collecting evidence in complaints against councillors;
- The legal rights of councillors to get the information they need from the CEO and administration to act in their role needs to be beefed up;
- Rates should be set by an independent body which can report across all councils;
- CEOs should be made more accountable while the WA Local Government Association needs a shake-up; and
- Abolishing the WALGA-preferred legal services supplier panel, which firms pay a substantial annual fee to join.

The submission is on the agenda for Tuesday night's council meeting.

The parliamentary committee issued a statement on August 7 about the issue of submissions and Parliamentary privilege.

"Submissions, when received by a parliamentary committee, are protected by parliamentary privilege," it said.

Wellness Wednesdays @ Remède

Natural Help for Auto-immune Disease

a seminar with Naturopath, Lauren Reid

Wednesday 21 August 7.30pm



In an evening with Lauren, you will learn how you can take a holistic approach to addressing autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, diabetes, crohn's disease, graves disease, hashimotos thyroiditis, coeliac disease, multiple sclerosis, ulcerative colitis, scleroderma, vasculitis & many