

12/16. Sun  
23/11/85

● Rehana Kalim comforts her daughter, Somaira . . . "she's a fighter."

earlier this year.

It read simply: "Fiji di

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# Ministers to probe conspiracy claim

THREE government departments will investigate Kyneton Shire Council's role in an alleged conspiracy to prevent a land sale.

Mr Max McDonald (MLA, Whittlesea) told Parliament on Thursday that the council had colluded with the Kyneton Water Board and a private land developer to stop a Whittlesea man selling his property.

Mr McDonald said Mr Glen Thompson tried for two years to sell his land but was stopped by the Water Board's refusal to service the property and the council's unwillingness to issue building permits for unserviced land.

He said the dispute also involved a time-sharing resort

By GAYLE AUSTEN

called Woodleigh Heights. The resort had a water supply agreement with the Water Board and intended to buy Mr Thompson's land.

Mr McDonald claims Kyneton's shire secretary, Mr David Parkinson, told Mr Thompson to remove auction signs from his land because "they were an embarrassment to the resort."

He claimed Mr Thompson's estate agent was told no water or building permits would be available.

"This is the worst example of collusion between a water board, a council and a private developer to deprive a citizen of

his democratic rights," Mr McDonald told Parliament.

Mr McDonald called on the Local Government Minister, Mr Simmonds, to investigate "this sordid affair."

Mr Simmonds said the Ministers for Water Supply and Police and Emergency Services also would study the case.

Kyneton's shire engineer, Mr Graeme Wilson, yesterday said he welcomed the Government's inquiries.

"The matter is very complicated, and it would appear no one wants to come to us to resolve the matter," he said. "I think the sooner the matter is aired and resolved the better."

Mr Wilson said the council and the board merely had carried out their legal functions.

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