

HERALD NEWS

Family can't go home after loss

THE parents of a two-week-old girl mauled to death by their pet dog are too traumatised to return to the family home, where the attack occurred.

Kate Elise Morey died of head injuries at Perth's Princess Margaret Hospital for Children on Tuesday after she was dragged from her cot by the family's Siberian husky the night before.

Kate's grandfather, Alex Coffey, of Burnett Heads in Queensland, said his daughter Tanya and her partner Michael could not bear to go back to their Perth home.

"They are unable to return to their home as the memories are too devastating," he said.

Incest to make 'good wives'

A FUNDAMENTALIST church pastor had sex with two of his teenage daughters to educate them on how to be good wives, a South Australian court has heard.

The 54-year-old man, who cannot be named, was sentenced yesterday in the SA District Court to 8½ years' jail after pleading guilty to seven counts each of incest and unlawful sexual intercourse.

The court heard that the man had sex with his daughters for nearly a decade from 1991, when they were aged 13 and 15, at various locations at the family property and house of the girls' grandparents.

The man will be eligible for parole in four years.

Forum a 'charade'

Residents critical of housing talks

SOUTH-EAST Lake Macquarie residents criticised Coal & Allied yesterday after emerging from four days of talks with the company over its plans to build 1090 houses in the area.

The company intends to build 300 houses at Catherine Hill Bay, 700 at Gwandalan and 90 at Nords Wharf.

Seven people represented those suburbs at a four-day forum held by Coal & Allied at Rafferty's Resort.

The company labelled the forum a "charade", but some representatives said it was a charade.

Coal & Allied corporate development manager Matt Coulter said he was pleased with the forum's results.

"A heritage walkway, retirement centre, boat ramp and foreshore reserve were among the suggestions," Mr Coulter said.

He said the forum had produced "a list of issues and features" to be included in concept plans, to be submitted to the State Government under its controversial Part



DAMON CRONSHAW
LAKE MACQUARIE

3A, planning powers.

Nords Wharf representative Kevin Fitzgerald said the company had used the Part 3A laws to override residents' suggestions.

Mr Fitzgerald said Nords Wharf would lose precious habitat.

Catherine Hill Bay representative Jennifer Hill said the company had a preconceived notion of what it wanted and "didn't seem interested in community consultation".

But Mr Coulter said: "We are serious about wanting to incorporate the community's needs and values in this proposed development".

Ms Hill accused the company of "economic double-dipping".

"They've already got an enormous amount of wealth out of this land from coal mining, now they're coming back for more," she said.

"Their economic gain is our environmental loss."



SUGGESTIONS: From left, resident representatives Melanie Symington, Kevin Fitzgerald and Jennifer Hill walk along Lake Macquarie near Rafferty's Resort. — Picture by Stefan Moore