

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

**801. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the upcoming local government elections.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house why it is important that these elections are held without any interference?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of any attempts to intimidate any candidate running to represent their community?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I thank the member for Bicton for her very important question.

- (1)–(2) It is, of course, local government election season. As we know, nominations have closed for candidates throughout the state. I want to congratulate those elected members who have been elected unopposed, and there have been some of those in various parts of the state. I also congratulate those people who have put themselves forward to represent their communities and are now, indeed, feverishly seeking support and endorsement from their community. I also want to acknowledge some of the people who are retiring from local government now. Mayor Henry Zelones from Armadale is retiring from local government. He has been an outstanding leader.

**The SPEAKER:** Through the Chair, minister.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Mayor Sue Doherty from South Perth is another long-term serving local government member who is retiring. Again, I acknowledge her contribution.

It is disturbing that we hear news from the southern part of the world—the southern part of the metropolitan area—that federal members and a federal member in particular is deciding to get involved in not only local government elections, but also actually I believe bullying candidates. Some would call Hon Ben Morton, MP, the member for Tangney —

**Dr D.J. Honey:** A fine member of Parliament.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I do not know about that, not with his behaviour, member for South Perth.

**Mr J.E. McGrath:** I didn't say anything.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member said he was a very good —

**The SPEAKER:** It was the member for Cottesloe.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Whoever said that will not think that when they hear about this. This is very disturbing. The member for Tangney, of course, as we know, has been railing against this government's commitment to ensure that we have an outer harbour in the long term and that Roe 8 is not pursued.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, can you talk towards the Chair. Hansard has trouble picking up your comments.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** He took it upon himself to write to candidates, particularly in the City of Melville. He wrote to them not only demanding that they sign a pledge, which he would then seek to advertise widely to the broader electorate, for which I hope he is not going to use his appropriate parliamentary —

**Mr F.M. Logan:** He has.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** He has! Oh my goodness; he has already. So, now he has done that. Apparently, he is using full-page ads, wraparounds and all of those. Here is the pledge, not only does he ask candidates to pledge; he writes the pledge for them. I have one here! It has Roe 8 and 9 on it.

Several opposition members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** What is wrong with members opposite? Does the member for Hillarys not like this? I hope the member is not going to show a pattern of behaviour and bully candidates like that outstanding candidate in, of course, the seat of Joondalup—the former member for Hillarys. I hope the member is not getting on the phone! Do not get on the phone! Do not get on the phone at night and start bullying him! You bully, you! Do not get out there and start bullying him!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I have said a couple of times to look towards the Chair; this is the Chair, not over there.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I hope the member does not go and do that.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP:** I think there was some imputation that the member for Hillarys is somehow a bully. I ask that that is withdrawn.

**Mr T.J. Healy:** Only when he is drunk at 3.00 am.

**The SPEAKER:** Member, you withdraw that.

**Mr T.J. Healy:** I withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, the member for Hillarys put the phone up to his ear, so I thought he did encourage that, so it is not a point of order. Through the Chair, please.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I hope we never see bullying like that. The pledge that he is demanding candidates sign calls upon them to pledge that they will support the building of Roe 8 and 9; that the candidate will actively call on the state government to access moneys being made available, apparently, by the federal government; and that he will campaign against the deletion of the Roe 8 road reserve by the state government. Of course, he then says, “Yours sincerely”, and he has filled out the name of the candidate for them as well and requests that they sign it by yesterday. If that is not bullying, I do not know what is! That is appalling bullying.

We have been trying to highlight that in local government we want quality people putting themselves forward and they should not be bullied. We know that in previous campaigns we have seen bullying of candidates and it is appalling. We are seeing it here by a federal member of Parliament—Scomo’s horse whisperer! There he is, Scomo’s horse whisperer. It appears that this is simple political smearing by the member for Tangney. It is simply there for his own political agenda and it is not in the best interests of the community. It is an attack and a smear and a bullying technique. I hope the people of Melville and Cockburn look very closely at the candidates with regard to this because it is simply very, very poor behaviour by the federal member for Tangney.