

ELECTORAL REFORM — LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

161. Hon TJORN SIBMA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the process the government intends to follow in reneging on repeated commitments given by the Premier during the campaign that electoral reform of the upper house was not on the government's agenda.

- (1) Is it the government's official policy position that non-metropolitan Western Australia is presently over-represented in the Legislative Council?
- (2) If yes to (1), by a measure of seats currently occupied in the chamber, how many are considered superfluous to the government's conception of electoral equality?
- (3) How many seats in the Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral and South West Regions must be sacrificed to achieve this model of perfection?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I provide the following response on behalf of the Minister for Electoral Affairs.

- (1)–(3) The government has not reneged on any election commitment. The government has responded to widely expressed community concerns about anomalous outcomes following the 2021 general election by establishing the ministerial expert committee, and has asked it to recommend how electoral equality might be achieved for all citizens entitled to vote for the Legislative Council. The committee is yet to report, and the government will consider the options once they have been presented.