

CITY OF ALBANY — DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVICE

**569. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the minister's letter of 3 February to Mr Paul Richards, the then chief executive officer of the City of Albany, and his reference to correspondence from Deputy Mayor Dennis Wellington advising of a council resolution that the minister inquire into the inappropriate, recalcitrant and threatening behaviour by some elected members towards staff.

- (1) What advice was given to the City of Albany by the Department of Local Government?
- (2) To whom, from the City of Albany, was that advice given?
- (3) Who, from the department, provided that advice?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) In response to concerns about inappropriate, recalcitrant and threatening behaviour by some elected members towards staff, officers of the Department of Local Government attended at the city on 17 November 2009. These officers held a meeting with the senior staff and councillors of the city, and provided advice on the expected standards of behaviour of elected members and staff. Advice was also provided on the appropriate processes to follow in making conduct complaints to both the department and the local government standards panel.
- (2) This meeting was attended by elected members, the chief executive officer and directors of the city.
- (3) This advice was provided by one officer from the investigations section of the department and one officer attached to the administration of the local government standards panel.