

ELECTORAL REFORM — LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

181. Hon STEVE MARTIN to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to a response given yesterday by the parliamentary secretary on behalf of the Minister for Electoral Affairs to Hon Tjorn Sibma regarding electoral reform of the upper house, in which reference was made to widely expressed community concern.

- (1) Can the minister advise what consultation process was used to gauge the widespread community concern at the election result?
- (2) Over what time period did the consultation process take place?
- (3) Was the consultation undertaken in regional WA, and what percentage of the population in regional WA was concerned?

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 March 2021 general election prompted widespread media coverage of the anomalous results in the Legislative Council. The government established the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform to review the electoral system for the Legislative Council and provide recommendations. The committee is undertaking wide consultation with the Western Australian community. It has asked interested members of the public and organisations to make submissions on its terms of reference, and there has been considerable interest from the public regarding the review. The committee has received over 50 submissions, which it is currently considering. Submissions are open to the public until Tuesday, 8 June 2021. Information, terms of reference and public submissions can be found on the committee website at waelectoralreform.wa.gov.au.