

**CITY OF CANNING — INQUIRY REPORT**

*Statement by Member for Southern River*

**MR P. ABETZ (Southern River)** [12.55 pm]: I rise to applaud the tabling of the “Report of the Inquiry into the City of Canning” this morning by the Minister for Local Government. The residents of my electorate have been frustrated by the failure on the part of the City of Canning to proceed with the upgrade of Nicholson Road and Bannister Road intersection in a timely manner. What I heard unofficially from former staff at the City of Canning has been confirmed by the inquiry. Interference by the mayor and some elected councillors in operational matters has had a detrimental effect on the operation of the city. Thankfully, the upgrade of that particular intersection is now underway, but it should have been completed a year ago, which means that motorists have unnecessarily put up with a traffic jam every morning for a year longer than was needed. Clearly, the council was interfering with the operational matters that should have been left to the council staff. Their interference with operational matters in which they had no expertise resulted in poor decisions being made and the creation of extra difficulties for staff. The report also indicates that the former CEO, Mark Dacombe, acted appropriately, and that the breakdown of relationship between the mayor and councillors and senior staff was largely due to the mayor and certain councillors not understanding that their role is to make strategic and policy decisions, and not to micromanage operational matters. It is most concerning that the report found that the allegations made by the mayor against the CEO were made as a means to justify the removal of the CEO. I find this appalling. I urge the minister to implement the recommendations of the inquiry.