

CITY OF MELVILLE — RATE REVENUE

**678. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the minister's answer to question without notice 608.

- (1) Can the minister explain how the MyCouncil website can show the City of Melville has a rate revenue growth of 40.11 per cent for 2014–15 and the Know Your Council website shows the City of Melville has an average rate revenue rise of 5.5 per cent?
- (2) What calculation methodology has the Department of Local Government and Communities used to calculate rate increases for the MyCouncil website?
- (3) How does this methodology differ from that used by the Western Australian Local Government Association?
- (4) Does the minister agree that the publication of such conflicting information could be confusing to ratepayers?
- (5) Is the minister consulting or in discussions with WALGA regarding the knowyourcouncil.com website and the discrepancies between the two sites?
- (6) Is the minister considering any amendments to the MyCouncil DLGC website; and, if so, what are they?

**Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) Between 2013–14 and 2014–15, the City of Melville's own audited financial statements report that total rate revenue grew from \$56 065 000 to \$78 551 344. This is a growth of 40.11 per cent. MyCouncil reports a local government's annual growth in total rate revenue using audited financial statements provided by local governments.
- (3)–(6) The Know Your Council website was developed by a private organisation and the government is therefore unable to respond to questions regarding the information contained within it. The Minister for Local Government has requested his department engage with stakeholders, including other government agencies, local governments and community organisations, to consider whether there is other data currently reported by local governments that may be of interest to the community.