

ELECTORAL REFORM — LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

40. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the minister's electoral reform agenda for the Legislative Council.

- (1) Does the minister concede that this is being treated as a priority for the Labor government, despite the Premier and others clearly saying otherwise when they went to the election?
- (2) Why was the abolition of ticket voting not included in the government's Electoral Amendment Bill 2020?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

- (1)–(2) Firstly, if I can answer that back to front and answer the second part first, which is why it was not included in the 2020 electoral reform bill, I was not the minister at that time and I had not personally turned my mind to that at that time. I was the minister representing a minister then and I just brought the bill forward as brought forward. Obviously, there has been a call, as I understand it, by your good self, Leader of the Opposition, for reform in that area. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition publicly called for that reform after the election of the Daylight Saving Party in the Mining and Pastoral Region, which, with 98 first preference votes, pinched a seat off the Nationals WA. I can understand the Leader of the Opposition's call in those circumstances.

The first part of the question was: why was it not a priority and why is it a priority now? I like to consider myself a reformer. I brought in 58 bills in the last Parliament. When someone gives me a job to do, I like to get on and do it as quick as I can! I have done that with the no body, no parole legislation, which I brought in in the first week. The bill to lift the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse victims, I got that on as quick as I could, and when I was given this task of electoral reform, I looked at it and said, "Well, I haven't done this before and I haven't been involved in this, but I'm going to get cracking on it!" I do not know whether I will get 59 bills up in this term, but I am going to give it a good shot. I thought, "I'll just get going on this."