

ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS

428. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the government's plan to cut regional representation in the state's Parliament. Will the Premier allow Labor members to have a conscience vote on this legislation so that his regional members of Parliament will have the freedom to reject any cuts to regional representation while still supporting sensible reform to group voting tickets?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

After the state election, there were obviously some very significant issues thrown up about the electoral system. People will know what happened in the upper house with some of the really quite outrageous outcomes that came about, which were a denial of democracy. Post that, we commissioned Mr Malcolm McCusker, AO, an eminent Western Australian, to examine all these matters, and he has prepared a report that cabinet will consider in due course. Obviously, at the end of that, the government will make a decision on what to do.