

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT — REVIEW — RECOMMENDATIONS

3998. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the recommendation of the working group attached to the phase one review of the *Local Government Act 1995* and its recommendation that councillors should declare online all gifts totalling more than \$500, and ask:

- (a) why was the monetary threshold for reporting gifts reduced to \$300 in the reforms announced by the Minister on 1 August 2018;
- (b) who made the decision to reduce the recommended threshold to \$300;
- (c) was the working group consulted about the decision to reduce the threshold to \$300; and
- (d) did the working group provide any feedback on the decision to reduce the threshold to \$300:
 - (i) what was that feedback?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (a)–(d) The Working Group was established in 2016, under the previous Government, the paper was never released nor acted upon. The Working Group Membership consisted of local government stakeholders and government departmental representatives.

The McGowan Government committed to reviewing the *Local Government Act 1995*, and established a Reference Group with wider membership than the Working Group and consulted with the public on the matter of declaration of gifts.

The government decision to establish the threshold at \$300 was made, after consultation with the sector and the community, to balance the expectations of the community and the local government sector in relation to transparency and the influence of gifts on decision making.