

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM — FUNDING

838. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the minister's mangled announcement today of changes to local government and the significant information withheld by him.

- (1) Will the minister reveal today the total costs for these changes?
- (2) If the minister will not reveal these costs, why is he continually and deliberately hiding this information?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

(1)–(2) I have not hidden anything from the sector at all. We have been through this process.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: Just so that we understand, I think the member may be referring to —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: I think the member may be referring to the amount of money that is on the table—the \$60 million. I have made the statement quite clear in this house on a number of occasions that just over \$3 million per new local government will be borne out of this process. It is similar to Queensland, it is even the same as New South Wales —

Mr P. Papalia: It is \$220 million!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: No. I ask the member a question: how much does the state government put towards it?

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: Very good!

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I have called you twice and we are 10 minutes into question time. Member for Warnbro, I do not want to hear from you. Minister, I do not want you to be asking questions across the floor; you will answer through the Chair. Thank you.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: Sorry, Mr Speaker. This government has made a decision. Local government reform is now a blueprint to move forward. The sector is supportive of it. It is now time to get on with the job and deliver good services for the ratepayers.