

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — COUNCIL RATE INCREASES

**529. Mr A. KRSTICEVIC to the Minister for Local Government:**

I have a supplementary question. Why has the mean-spirited McGowan Labor government failed families in Western Australia by not protecting them from these local government rate increases during tough economic times?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

Is it not ironic that we have someone lecturing us on budgets and how costs should be kept to a minimum when that person, when he was in government, under the Liberal–National government, oversaw appalling increases in debt and deficit and skyrocketing costs? Electricity charges went through the roof. It is very ironic that the member has asked that question when he was a part of that. The member is an accountant, for goodness sake. Goodness me; the member is an accountant by trade. I would not go there for my tax! No! No! He is from the bottom of the harbour; I am sure it.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The fact of the matter is that we are reforming local government. We have put through three pieces of legislation in just over two years, but members opposite did nothing when they were in power—not a thing. All the former government did was mumble about some amalgamations, and even that fell over. That fell over like a big piece of—but anyway. Let us just say this: we are reforming local government and we are very keen to make sure that we have a robust local government system because we believe in a strong local government sector. You do not, you did not and you will not!