

CITY OF CANNING — MINIMUM RATE INCREASE

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

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister not categorically rule out that those ratepayers in the City of Canning will see an increase in their rates under the minister's supposed sustainable reform process?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

The most important thing to note is that if it stays as it is today, the rates will go up anyway. Of course they will. There is no guarantee that rates will not go up if the council does not amalgamate —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, you can ask a question about the commissioner.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I call you for first time. Member for Belmont, I call you for the first time, and, member for Mandurah, I do not want you getting so excited, please.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: Just for the record, the City of Canning has put up its rates by 15.8 per cent over the past two years. The member said that \$621 is the minimum amount, and he asked whether it will go up under the amalgamation? The reality is that over the past two years, it has gone up by 15.8 per cent. If we stay as we are, what will be the outcome? It will be another seven per cent rate increase. The only benefit that I can put on the table is that, through the reform process, creating economies of scale will put downward pressure on rates.