

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — AMALGAMATIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the views of Hon Simon O'Brien, Hon Nigel Hallett, Hon Phil Edman, Hon Col Holt, Hon Martin Aldridge, the members for South Perth, Hillarys, Kalgoorlie, Pilbara, Central Wheatbelt, Moore, Wagin and North West Central, how much more does the minister need before he realises that his forced amalgamation process is a dud?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

I thank the member for the question. This has been an issue for a hundred years —

Mr B.S. Wyatt: A hundred years?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: For more than a hundred years! These boundaries have not moved in over a hundred years. This government will make a decision very soon on local government reform. This is the only government that has had the gumption and guts to front this issue.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Butler, you can ask a question if you put your name down; I call you to order for the first time. Member for Armadale, I call you to order for the first time; and, member for Victoria Park, you were lucky you were drowned out.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: As I said, the government is going forward with the reform process. We are now at the stage at which I have received the report of the Local Government Advisory Board and I am currently going through the process of dissecting it and pulling it apart. I have been asked to go through the process of making sure we have got it right. The important part is that this process will make sure we have sustainable local government now and into the future. We will make sure that our local governments are sustainable not only now, but also in years to come. We are at the point at which we will make a decision and resolve this issue once and for all. That is where it stands. We will make a decision and will go down in history as a government that did something about local government.