

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS — PETITIONS

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

I refer to the numerous petitions addressed to the minister that were presented to the Leader of the Opposition and myself yesterday on the steps of Parliament House by community representatives from numerous metropolitan councils.

- (1) Why is the minister so afraid to face these community members by refusing to receive the petitions personally yesterday, as he was invited to do?

**Mr A.J. Simpson:** I was not invited.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes, you were.

- (2) Why will the minister not simply allow people from places such as Kalamunda, Canning, Serpentine–Jarrahdale and Mundaring to have a direct say on their future by way of a poll?
- (3) Why is it that as part of the minister's forced amalgamation process he is prepared to give some communities, such as those in the western suburbs, a direct say in their future and others will have no say?

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:**

I thank the member for his question.

- (1)–(3) Three weeks ago I stood in this house to announce the government's reply to the Local Government Advisory Board's report and accepted the recommendations from the advisory board. We made a decision as a government to move forward on local government reform. We have gone through that process. I am the minister; we have gone through 17 weeks of public advertising. There have been 30 submissions into those 38 proposals. We have consulted wide and far with the sector to come up with the Local Government Advisory Board proposal. It made a recommendation to me through its report in regards to boundary adjustments versus amalgamation. The government accepted those proposals and is moving forward with the reform process.