

**CITY OF MELVILLE — INQUIRY**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government)** [12.20 pm]: I rise to inform the house that an inquiry into allegations involving the council and administration of the City of Melville has commenced. The chief executive officer and mayor were informed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries this morning of the intent and terms of reference of the inquiry, undertaken under division 1 of part 8 of the Local Government Act 1995.

Since 2014, the department has received nearly 300 complaints regarding the city. As a result of the quantity and ongoing nature of the complaints, and the allegations made against the city, the department now considers an inquiry is required to verify the veracity of the complaints. It is important to note that this inquiry is not a result of a single issue. Over the past 12 months, the department has attempted to assist the city to improve its relationship with its community. Unfortunately, these efforts have been unsuccessful, and many complaints remain unresolved.

Under the terms of reference, the inquiry will examine the council's relationship with the city's administration, the adequacy of council policies and procedures, acquisition of land, and any other issues of relevance. This is not an accusation of wrongdoing or failure by the City of Melville; it is about ensuring that the council and its administration are acting in the best interests of their community. As Minister for Local Government, my priority is to ensure that ratepayers have confidence in their elected members to provide them with good governance and community services. I trust that the City of Melville will work cooperatively with the departmental officers authorised to undertake the inquiry to ensure that it will be completed as expeditiously as possible.