

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — PORT HEDLAND COUNCIL

5274. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Minister's statement to the Town of Port Hedland in early June 2019 that he wanted to suspend the council following a report from council mentor Ron Yuryevich, and ask:

- (a) Did the Minister or anyone from his department meet with Mr Yuryevich in the three months before he was employed as a mentor to the council:
  - (i) When and where were the meetings and who from the department attended; and
  - (ii) What was discussed at the meetings;
- (b) Did the department recommend Mr Yuryevich for the mentor role at the Town of Port Hedland:
  - (i) Did the department recommend any other people for the role; and
  - (ii) If yes, whom;
- (c) Was Mr Yuryevich appointed and paid by the Town of Port Hedland or the department to act as mentor to the council;
- (d) Did Mr Yuryevich provide monthly reports to the department during his tenure with the Town of Port Hedland:
  - (i) If yes, how many reports did Mr Yuryevich provide to the department and when was each received; and
  - (ii) Was Mr Yuryevich paid by the department or the Town of Port Hedland for the reports;
- (e) If Mr Yuryevich was paid for his services by the Town of Port Hedland why was he reporting to the department;
- (f) Did the Minister or the department receive a copy of the scope of works Mr Yuryevich was to undertake for the Town;
- (g) Has the Town of Port Hedland been provided with a copy of Mr Yuryevich's report:
  - (i) If not, why not; and
  - (ii) If yes, when did the council receive the report;
- (h) Did the Minister and/or his department receive a copy of the Action Plan Mr Yuryevich was required to provide the Town of Port Hedland as part of his scope of works; and
- (i) Has the Minister considered using new powers that allows the suspension of individual councillors to solve issues within the Town of Port Hedland?

**Mr D.A. Templeman replied:**

The statement referred to in the Member's preamble is not correct. The show cause notice was not solely based on the Mentor's report, it was something that was considered, but not the basis for this action.

- (a) Yes.
  - (i) Senior officers from the department met with him on 1 June 2018 at 140 William Street, Perth.
  - (ii) Possible approach to mentor the Council at the Town of Port Hedland.
- (b) Yes.
  - (i) No.
  - (ii) Not applicable.
- (c) He was appointed and paid by the Town.
- (d) No.
  - (i) He provided two updates to the department, one on 9 October 2018 and the other on 17 December 2018.
  - (ii) No.
- (e) The updates provided detail of his observations and were not a report to the department.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) Yes.
  - (i) Not applicable.
  - (ii) 12 June 2019
- (h) No.

- (i) All options have been considered.