

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM — CITY OF CANNING — MEMBER FOR RIVERTON'S COMMENTS

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

Mr Speaker! Mr Speaker!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah. Member for Midland!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Mr Speaker, I cannot get a word in edgeways here!

I refer to the email to constituents from the member for Riverton that pre-empts the outcome of the Local Government Advisory Board deliberations on metropolitan council mergers in respect to the future of the City of Canning in which he stated that an independent Canning is no longer an option.

- (1) Does the minister support the actions of the member for Riverton?
- (2) Is it appropriate that the member undermines the independence and processes of the Local Government Advisory Board?
- (3) Has the minister already determined that an independent Canning is no longer an option?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

(1)–(3) I thank the member for his question in regards to local government reform.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Albany, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: It is very appropriate to be asked the question today, because today is 14 August, which is the closing day for those three new proposals that were advertised three weeks ago through the Local Government Advisory Board. Just so members are aware, last July we advertised to our local governments to say that the reform process was happening. We gave our reply to the Robson report and we told local governments they had until October last year to put in their proposals to the advisory board. In October, I put in 12 proposals and they became public in February this year. Through that process the advisory board has looked at all the 38 proposals and advertised three of its own. What the member for Riverton did was actually advertise the fact that there is a proposal out there that is open for a public submission period and that the community should get involved.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time. I will give you a supplementary question, but let the minister answer.

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: In regards to the member's question about the City of Canning, the City of Canning did not put in a stand-alone proposal for Canning. There was no proposal for that. The member for Riverton was trying to inform the community and his electorate that proposal 10 for the City of Melville would bring the boundary line between the Cities of Canning and Melville back to where it currently is. Like all good members, he is telling his community about the changes that are happening. He is working very hard to make sure that he is representing his community and informing it of the reform process. I still have to wait until the end of the month to get the final report back and then we will find out the final boundaries of the reform process so we can move to the next level.