

**SHIRE OF PERENJORI — INQUIRY**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government)** [2.04 pm]: As Minister for Local Government I am now in receipt of a report following the Shire of Perenjori authorised inquiry. Pursuant to section 8.3 of the Local Government Act 1995, in January 2018 the director general of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries authorised the inquiry to commence.

The inquiry was initiated following a probity audit conducted by the department into tendering and procurement and a number of concerns raised by electors. The investigation made 30 findings and five recommendations. Poor record-keeping practices were highlighted in the report, which serves as a reminder that good records support good decision-making, effective business practice and improve accountability and efficiency. The shire and affected parties have seen the report and had the opportunity to comment before its release.

Prior to the report being finalised, I issued a show-cause notice to the council. Five councillors resigned and left the council with no quorum. All remaining positions were therefore declared vacant by the governor and I have appointed the Hon Paul Omodei as commissioner. The report will assist the commissioner, shire and members of the community to refocus on the key issues that are relevant to providing the good government the community deserves and has the right to expect. Maintaining a strong system of local government that operates efficiently, effectively and in the best interests of the community is a priority of the McGowan government. I table a copy of the “Report of the Inquiry into the Shire of Perenjori”.

[See paper 2632.]