

PLASTIC BAGS — CITY OF FREMANTLE BAN

**841. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the City of Fremantle's proactive initiative to benefit the environment by banning single-use plastic bags, and the minister's letter to me that stated that he had no issue with a local authority implementing such a positive policy.

- (1) Who is making environmental policy in the government: the minister or upper house backbenchers?
- (2) Why would any other local authorities pursue positive environmental policies if the minister is going to allow them to be overturned against the community's wishes?

**Mr A.P. JACOB replied:**

- (1)–(2) In direct response to that question, I set the policy, or have charge of environmental policy, for this government.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** The question was asked about who sets the policy, and the minister is answering about who sets the policy.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Is the Legislative Council the government of Western Australia, member for Fremantle? No. I am sure many people in this place would have liked the Legislative Council to follow the directives of the government of Western Australia, but that is not the way our system works. My position on this matter is very clear.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the third time.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** The upper house is a democratically elected house of Parliament. It is open to the upper house to move a disallowance motion, as a sovereign house of Parliament in its own right, should it wish to. My position on this matter is very clear. It was outlined to the member for Fremantle in a letter. I had no particular issue with this matter. It was not a matter for the state government; it was a matter for the Legislative Council of the Western Australian Parliament, and it is working through its process on that decision.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Willagee, I call you to order for the second time and the member for Kwinana for the first time.