

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT — SHIRE OF WYNDHAM–EAST KIMBERLEY

3621. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) I refer to the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley and ask:
 - (a) have complaints been made to the Department of Local Government (the Department) about the conduct of the Shire, its CEO and tender processes;
 - (b) if so, can the Minister advise whether the Department or the Minister is investigating these complaints;
 - (c) have there been complaints made to the Minister’s office by residents or Councillors relating to the Shire; and
 - (d) if so, can the Minister advise why he has not taken any action in response to these complaints?
- (2) Is the Minister or Department considering changes to the tender processes used by Local Governments?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

- (1)
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) All complaints received are assessed by my department in accordance with its Compliance Framework and undergo formal investigation where necessary.
 - (c) Yes
 - (d) Refer to (b) above

My department is continuing to closely monitor the situation at the Shire and provide advice and assistance, to both elected members and staff, to assist them in addressing community concerns

Additionally, officers from my department have undertaken a Probity and Compliance Audit at the Shire and this report will be finalised shortly. I expect that the report will provide a clear set of recommendations for the Shire to act on to improve their internal controls and governance processes.

- (2) Yes. Consultation has already begun with the Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Managers Australia.