

**CITY OF FREMANTLE AND TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE TRUST FUNDS  
(AMENDMENT AND EXPIRY) BILL 2013**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr A.J. Simpson (Minister for Local Government)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

*Second Reading*

**MR A.J. SIMPSON (Darling Range — Minister for Local Government)** [12.27 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle Trust Funds (Amendment and Expiry) Bill 2013. This bill is essentially about repealing an obsolete act and reducing red tape. The Fremantle Municipal Tramways and Electric Lighting Act 1903 created a board to undertake the provision of electricity, tramways and passenger transport in Fremantle and East Fremantle, with the now City of Fremantle having six-sevenths interest and the Town of East Fremantle having one-seventh interest. By 1961, these functions were no longer provided. The City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle Trust Funds Act 1961 dissolved the board and transferred assets to a trust with interests held in these proportions. The 1903 act was repealed. Currently, these assets and liabilities must be managed and reported on in accordance with a range of legislation, primarily the act that is to be repealed and the Local Government Act 1995. The amendment and expiry provisions will remove a double compliance burden on these two local governments. Removal of an unnecessary layer of compliance is certainly welcomed by the city and the town.

This government is committed to ensuring that local government assets and finances are managed in a manner that ensures that the public gets the best value for money in the services delivered, but at the same time the community can be assured that public moneys are being managed in a safe and accountable manner. The current requirement for the city and the town to manage the subject assets separately from their main assets is not efficient and imposes an additional administrative burden, when the Local Government Act 1995 provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for local government management of, and reporting on, finances and assets. Under this government, this framework has been considerably strengthened by initiatives such as introducing the requirement for integrated planning and fair value accounting of assets. It is completely appropriate, therefore, that the assets be transferred to the city and the town and be managed under the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995.

At 30 April 2013, the fund assets currently being managed by the City of Fremantle were as follows: current cash and receivables of over \$3.7 million; Tapper Street freehold properties comprising three buildings with a total of 11 units, operating as a retirement village; and a heritage-listed property on reserve 34837, known as the old Fremantle fire station, currently leased for commercial purposes. At 23 May 2013, the Town of East Fremantle fund's only asset was a term deposit at bank with a balance in excess of \$201 500. Repealing the City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle Trust Funds Act 1961 will serve to eliminate a duplicate layer of compliance.

The bill provides for the transfer of the assets and liabilities, inclusive of any existing financial agreements and proceedings, of the Fremantle fund to the City of Fremantle; revesting of reserve 34837 from the Fremantle fund to the City of Fremantle; transfer of the assets and liabilities of the East Fremantle fund to the Town of East Fremantle; subsequent abolition of the Fremantle fund and the East Fremantle fund; and registration of documents with the Registrar of Titles and the provision of reports to the Minister for Local Government prior to ministerial notice of the expiry of the act.

This bill represents yet another step in this government's strategy to improve legislation for local governments. Removing this obsolete layer of compliance will result in administrative cost savings for both the city and the town, to the benefit of their communities. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.