

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES — AMALGAMATIONS —  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

I refer to my freedom of information application concerning advice to the minister on amalgamation options for the City of Perth and the City of Vincent.

- (1) Will the minister overturn his department's decision to refuse access to at least nine documents relating to Perth and Vincent amalgamation options; and, if not, why not?
- (2) Does the minister agree with his department's decision that the release of these documents "may mislead the public and encourage ill-informed speculation"?

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:**

I thank the member for Mandurah for the question.

- (1)–(2) The freedom of information requests have been coming in thick and fast during this process. The member may remember our first round of maps in July when we tried to come up with a proposal that made the City of Perth widen its footprint to take in parts of Northbridge and parts of Vincent and south down to the university. That model went out through the public submissions process. We had a lot of debate about it. I think the campaign of the member for Perth was one in, all in with Vincent, recognising that Vincent is an inner-city area and part of the city, so we came back with that proposal. I imagine there are a number of other models around. As I said before, every time we draw a line on a map, it impacts on one and not the other one —

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** These were nine documents.

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** I agree.

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah!

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** These documents are made up of a cabinet submission, so we have gone through a lot of work. I believe that the department has it right. We just finished a six-week public submission period so that the public could have input into this process.

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah, I have given you a question and I will give you a supplementary question; I do not want to hear from you.

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** This process has gone through a six-week advertising period calling for submissions from the general public. We are now waiting for the Local Government Advisory Board to come back with a response. Releasing that now will not make any difference at all.