

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — AMALGAMATIONS

**451. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Local Government:**

I have a supplementary question. Why is the minister refusing to commit to adequate funding for these amalgamations when he planned for them to take effect from 1 July 2015?

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

As I have said before in this house, we are at the stage of waiting for the Local Government Advisory Board. There will be a lot of debate around how much this reform process will cost. We have put together a \$60 million package over the three years. Once we know the final outcome of the advisory board and the final boundaries and the number of local governments we will have, we can have a discussion around that money and how much more is needed. But we need to get some clear figures, and to do that, we need to work through that process with the advisory board. An amount of \$5 million is available to work out that costing.