

LIBRARIES — INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICE

**645. Mr A. KRSTICEVIC to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the recent interlibrary loan service cuts that will deny many Western Australians, particularly those in regional hubs, access to important educational materials and information.

- (1) Why would the minister prevent the public from obtaining more than half a million items through the State Library of Western Australia network?
- (2) Why was the trial of the restricted library loan service kept secret?
- (3) Does the minister have a different view on interlibrary loans than he did in June 2016 when he complained to the *Mandurah Coastal Times* that amendments to the service under the previous government was axing funding at a time when public libraries were experiencing even greater popularity?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. As the member would be well aware, a very thorough review of library services is underway. That has included extensive consultation through the extensive library network throughout the state, including the issue of the library inter-loan process, and also, of course, the availability of library resources to libraries across the state. As the member would be well aware, the State Library of Western Australia has been leading that consultative process. It has been a significant process that has received a significant number of submissions, because one thing we do not do, of course, is attack local libraries, as the former Minister for Culture and the Arts found in that 2015–16 experience. I saw the former minister this morning at a very important exhibition that was launched at the Western Australian Maritime Museum. It was good to see Hon John Day. He is looking good. He is enjoying his appointment by this government to the Art Gallery of Western Australia. We appointed him because we wanted to recognise the contribution that he has made, and continues to make, in the field of culture and the arts. He was looking relaxed. He is looking good. I highlighted to him that he was not missing much in this place, had he still been in this place and not been knocked off by the new member for Kalamunda. I am sure he would have been as despondent as the new member is with regard to not only the outcome of the election, but also the state of the finances that the former government left us. One thing that I can assure the member is that when we release the final outcome of the review of library services and outline the issues associated with that, people will be confident that quality services will be delivered to libraries throughout the state in an efficient and economically viable way.