

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM — MEMBER FOR SOUTH PERTH'S COMMENTS

104. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's parliamentary secretary, the member for South Perth, who has openly attacked the government for using "trickery" and deliberately "misleading" constituents on council amalgamations.

- (1) Does the Premier agree with the member for South Perth that he and his constituents have been conned by the Premier?
- (2) Why has the Premier allowed the Minister for Local Government to sidestep the triggering of the Dadour poll provisions, thereby avoiding local polls?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

- (1)–(2) No; I do not agree with the comments of the member for South Perth. In fact, I met with the Mayors of South Perth and Victoria Park just after Christmas, early in the new year, and there was a lot of goodwill and they expressed to me their desire to see a merger take place. There were some issues about revenue from the Burswood Casino complex, and we discussed a solution to that.

Mr D.A. Templeman: You didn't tell them you wouldn't give them a poll.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Dadour poll provisions are still in the act; they have not been changed, but they are anything but democratic.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: All the opposition is doing is trying to frustrate the process; it has no sensible or productive —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Members opposite have no contribution. They have no policy—they have none.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It is pointless; they are a rabble.