

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — SOCIAL MEDIA

5279. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the Minister's comments in Assembly Estimates Committee B on 21 May 2019 about the use of social media by local government elected members and candidates, and ask:

- (a) What will be taught to local government election candidates about the use of social media in their mandatory training;
- (b) Will social media guidelines be included in the code of conduct;
- (c) Who will pay for the training;
- (d) What is the cost per candidate for the training; and
- (e) What sanctions will candidates face if they go outside the social media guidelines outlined in the mandatory training:
  - (i) Who will enforce the sanctions?

**Mr D.A. Templeman replied:**

- (a) The use of social media is addressed in the candidate induction. Candidates are reminded that campaign and conduct rules apply online and that they must be respectful of other's opinions. The candidate induction course is available on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' website at [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au).
- (b) The Code of Conduct will require all forms of media, including social media, to be used in a way that complies with the code.
- (c) There is no cost for the candidate induction training.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Once the Code of Conduct is implemented, a candidate who breaches the Code of Conduct will be subject to the complaints process in the code once elected.
  - (i) Local governments will enforce any sanction for a Part B breach. Failure to comply with a Standards Panel sanction can be referred to the State Administrative Tribunal.