

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

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

I ask a supplementary question. Is it true that the minister has a basis for local government reform but no idea of how much it will cost the Western Australian taxpayers?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

Does the member for Mandurah have an idea of how much it will cost?

Mr D.A. Templeman: You are doing the reform!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: Okay!

Mr D.A. Templeman: You are doing the reform, you goose! You are doing the reform, and you say that there are going to be sustainable councils, and you have no idea of what it will cost! Give us the six and we will tell you!

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: The toolkit has been set up for this model purposely to find out what the costs will be. We have a fair bit of an idea about the costings. The final part of the jigsaw puzzle is what the final map will be once the advisory board has done its work to get —

Ms J.M. Freeman: The jigsaw puzzle?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: What I mean is where the boundary lines come together. One of the biggest problems with the reform process is that one local government says that it wants more or less of the other one. But, as we know, when we talk about a jigsaw, it has to come together to make sure that both are sustainable and not just one on each side of the boundary. When the advisory board comes back with a report, and we have done the toolkit work to work out the full costings, we will be fully ready to make sure we can support local governments for a new era and make sure they are more sustainable in the future.