

LORD MAYOR OF PERTH — CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION REPORT

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

I refer to the Corruption and Crime Commission report titled “Report on an Investigation into Acceptance and Disclosure of Gifts and Travel Contributions by the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth” released on 5 October 2015.

- (1) Why has it taken over five months and we have still not had a report from the minister’s department in response to the finding in this report?
- (2) When will the minister receive the report from his department and will he ensure that that report is made public?

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

I thank the member for his question.

- (1)–(2) For the record, the Corruption and Crime Commission report was received in October 2015. I acknowledge that it has taken a little bit of time—it has been five months—but we have had Christmas and New Year in that time, so it has taken a little bit longer to get to the bottom of it.

It is clearly pointed out in the Local Government Act 1995 that in this situation the department will do the investigation, and then go through that process. If the member turns to the page in the Local Government Act, he will see it quite clearly states that if a councillor does not declare gifts on their annual return, there is a penalty in the Local Government Act that will be implemented through a process.

There is strong public interest in the possible outcome for the Lord Mayor, but I make one point clear: it is in the hands of my department. The department is working through it. I know it is a little bit frustrating for members in general, but also, and more importantly, we have to get to the bottom of this. It will take time. I have made it the top priority for my department to work through it.

**Mr M. McGowan:** Five months!

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** I cannot make it go any faster. It is out of my hands; it is in the hands of my department. I have asked my director general to make sure she makes it a top priority. I am confident —

**Mr D.A. Templeman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mandurah!

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** More importantly, it cannot be rushed; we need to make sure we get it right.