

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — AMALGAMATIONS — FUNDING

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

I have a supplementary question. The minister did not answer the second part of the question but I will ask another one: is this not an admission that the minister's amalgamation process is very much poorly planned and simply unaffordable?

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

Not at all. There will be some very good savings out of the reform process —

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Name them!

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** Where does the member want me to go? If we go to the western suburbs, how about six chief executive officers costing \$2 million a year! Let us go through the asset base of every local government that has a grader, a truck, a water truck and lawnmowers. Where does the member want me to start? The asset management base is huge. There are a lot of cost savings there.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Pilbara, I call you to order for the second time. I cannot hear the minister.

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** I think the important part here is that reform is happening; it is on its way. We are just working through the nuts and bolts at the moment. I am confident we can get a really good outcome in July with the announcement. I am confident we can actually get better services for our ratepayers.