

**SHIRE OF PERENJORI — COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government)** [12.07 pm]: On behalf of the member for Belmont, I acknowledge the students of the Australian Islamic College in Kewdale and sincerely welcome them to the Parliament of Western Australia.

The McGowan government is committed to ensuring that local governments are providing the standard of governance expected and deserved by their communities. In response to continuing concerns and issues raised about the Shire of Perenjori, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries commenced an authorised inquiry into the operations and affairs of the shire. Due to the escalation of conflict between elected members and administration staff that was leading to ongoing acrimony and dysfunction, I issued a show-cause notice to the shire on 31 May 2019, informing the council that I intended to suspend it unless its response to the show-cause notice convinced me otherwise. However, on 17 June, five of the shire’s nine councillors resigned their positions on council, so the show-cause notice ceases to have effect.

It is disappointing when the level of dysfunction within a council requires intervention by the minister. Being an elected member of a community is a privilege, and the best interests of the community should be foremost in the minds of elected members when making decisions on behalf of their communities. As the council cannot function without a quorum, I have approved the drafting of a Governor’s order to declare the remaining offices of councillor vacant and appoint Hon Paul Omodei as commissioner of the shire to act as the council, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995. Mr Omodei is a former Minister for Local Government and former Leader of the Liberal Party who represented the seat of Warren–Blackwood for many years. Mr Omodei also served as commissioner of the Shire of Cue in 2011–12. The order will also require a poll of electors to be conducted on 30 May 2020, to fill the nine vacant positions on the shire council and complete Mr Omodei’s appointment as commissioner. I look forward to good local government being restored to the residents and ratepayers of the Perenjori community.