

CITY OF PERTH BILL 2015 — PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

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

I understand that the Premier has now indicated that the government will not support the opposition's proposed amendments to the City of Perth Bill.

- (1) Why will the minister and his government not support open and accountable transparency amendments to the City of Perth Bill, given the recent Corruption and Crime Commission report and subsequent concerns associated with governance issues at the City of Perth?
- (2) Given that a new City of Perth act is all that the minister has salvaged out of the \$40 million of ratepayers' and taxpayers' money spent on forced amalgamations, is the minister now walking away from that bill?

Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the shadow minister for his question on accountability. At this year's Local Government Week annual general meeting, I spoke about a number of issues that I was taking local government to task on. There were a few issues we had to try to deal with. Number one, I mentioned councillor training. That is something that we need to review and find a better way to make sure our councils have the right tools to do the job. Number two, I spoke about bringing in the Auditor General to local government. And number three, I spoke about accountability and transparency in local government; there is not enough transparency. To answer the opposition's question with regard to supporting some amendments to the City of Perth Bill about transparency and what has happened through this process around the gift register and travel allowances and so forth, I agree with the opposition and I think it is important that we look at that.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah!

Mr A.J. SIMPSON: The most important thing is that all local governments should be able to look at that review and we should make it for all local governments, not just for the City of Perth. I take it on board, but if I am going to make changes to the act to make sure that there is more transparency around gifts and travel, it will be for all local governments and not just for the City of Perth.