

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — AMALGAMATIONS — NATIONAL PARTY POLICY

291. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Deputy Leader of the National Party:

I refer to a National Party media statement released in the last week of the election campaign in which the now member for Kalgoorlie stated that the Nationals would block forced amalgamations of local governments. The media statement, dated 3 March 2013, quotes the member for Kalgoorlie as saying, "... we would block any forced amalgamations."

- (1) Does the minister stand by his party's election promise that it will not support forced amalgamations?
- (2) Does the minister stand by his party's election promise that the Nationals will block any forced amalgamations?

Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:

I thank the member.

- (1)–(2) It is interesting that the member picked a time when the Leader of the Nationals is not here to make a comment, but the member is quite right: in the position of deputy leader, it is appropriate that I pick up a response. As all members will understand, all different parties take their positions to the election. The National Party took its party position on amalgamations, and, as a party, we do not support forced amalgamations. That is the position of the National Party in Western Australia, and that position has been consistent and we have not backed away from it. I am sure that the member for Kalgoorlie made the statement with the backing of the National Party of Western Australia.