

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CITY OF MELVILLE INQUIRY — ADVICE

2459. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) I refer to the inquiry into the City of Melville and ask, is the Minister aware whether the City sought assistance or advice from any of:
 - (a) the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries;
 - (b) the Public Sector Commission;
 - (c) WorkSafe; and
 - (d) the Public Administration Committee?
- (2) If yes to (1)(a), (b), (c) and/or (d), what advice or assistance was provided by each of the bodies referred to in 1(a) to (d) above?
- (3) Will the inquiry consider the capacity and ability of the bodies referred to 1(a) to (d) above to support the Local Government sector?
- (4) If no to (3), why not?

Mr D.A. Templeman replied:

- (1)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b)–(c) The Minister is not aware of the City of Melville seeking assistance or advice from these agencies.
 - (d) The Minister is aware that the Chief Executive Officer of the City made a submission to the Public Administration Committee in late 2017.
- (2) Officers from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries met with officers from the City on three separate occasions to address issues of concern and discuss strategies for dealing with the volume of complaints and correspondence being received.

The Department recorded and responded to complaints and expressions of concern from members of the public, and attended council meetings.

The Department suggested to the City that it appoint an independent person to manage complaints from several community groups, and suggested that the City consider training for all senior staff in complaint management.
- (3) No.
- (4) Part 8 Division 1 of the Local Government Act 1995 sets out the powers of the Department to inquire into the operations and affairs of local governments. This does not include the power to consider the capacity and ability of other government agencies or bodies.