

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM — MEMBER FOR SOUTH PERTH'S COMMENTS

105. Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. How many more disaffected and nervous Liberals will attack before the Premier and his hapless minister abandon the ill-conceived, uncostered, illogical and undemocratic local government reform program that they are foisting on the people of the metropolitan area?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

The government has a broad policy that there are too many local authorities, and there are. If members opposite think 145 or 140 is a sensible number, they should please promote that.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Mandurah, I call you to order for the first time. I do not want to hear any more talking.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We are working towards halving the number of councils in metropolitan Perth from around 30 to around 15.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Halving the number of councils in metropolitan Perth is in the interests of ratepayers and of effective local government and the proper management of a rapidly growing city. The opposition has no policy and no view on that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: They just giggle about it; they have no position.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: We on this side of the house do not abdicate the responsibility. Yes, it is contentious in areas. A number of councillors and supporters of councils are going to great lengths to try to create mischief in opposition. Take my electorate: from memory, in my electorate of Cottesloe, there are in the order of 55 local councillors. There are about seven different councils that cut across it. There are councils that cover an area of less than five square kilometres.

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: If members opposite think that is consistent with a modern, functioning city in the twenty-first century, they are wrong.