

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — ELECTIONS AND AMALGAMATIONS

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

- (1) Does the minister have any plans to defer local government elections due in October this year in the metropolitan area until 2014 or beyond?
- (2) If yes to (1), when will local governments be informed of this deferral?
- (3) When will local governments in the metropolitan area be informed of the government's forced amalgamation plans?

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) We have been going through a process of local government reform in the Perth metropolitan area since last year. Submissions on the Robertson report closed on 5 April this year. As the new minister, I am going through a process of meeting with all 30 mayors, presidents and CEOs in the next two weeks. As members are very much aware, the Robertson report contained 30 recommendations. There are a lot of recommendations that need to be talked about besides the final maths of the process of moving forward —

**Mr P. Papalia:** There were only two models.

**Mr A.J. SIMPSON:** Yes, but there were 28 recommendations about a number of things that affect all local governments in WA, not only those in the Perth metropolitan area. To answer the member for Mandurah's question about local government elections, I have no plans to put off the October elections. That is as it is at the moment. The elections will stay on 19 October. We will work through the process with the local governments and we look forward to coming up with an announcement sometime sooner or later.