

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CITY OF SUBIACO — PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETINGS

3940. Mr A. Krsticevic to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to a recent incident, reported on 21 July 2018, in which a Post Newspapers reporter was asked to leave a public City of Subiaco council meeting at the request of the head of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Reform Team, and ask:

- (a) Do local governments have the authority to ban media from public meetings:
  - (i) If so, why;
- (b) Was the head of the Reform Team instructed by any Minister or Ministerial Staff not to discuss issues at the meeting if media were present; and
- (c) Was the head of the Reform Team instructed by any Minister or Ministerial Staff not to discuss the planning review with media?

**Mr D.A. Templeman replied:**

- (a) No, however local governments have the authority to close council meetings or parts of a meeting to members of the public under section 5.23 of the Local Government Act;
- (b)–(c) This is a matter for the Minister for Planning.