

TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND MAYOR — LABOR PARTY EXPULSION

486. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer the minister to an email dated 9 September from the Mayor of the Town of Port Hedland to the state Labor Party objecting to his expulsion from the party.

- (1) Is the minister aware of the email?
- (2) If so, is he aware that the email raised a number of allegations of interference in local government processes by a Labor Party branch president?
- (3) Is he also aware that the email refers to the Labor Party branch president demanding the mayor ensure that Labor members are employed at the Town of Port Hedland and contracts awarded to Labor Party members?
- (4) Is he aware also that reference is made to election tampering and extortion directly suggesting Mark McGowan and Stephen Dawson are backing the branch president's attempt to corrupt systems in place that regulate local and state policy in law?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

(1)–(4) I thank —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Members!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I thank the member for Warren–Blackwood. Is it not interesting? Local government elections are like duck season. All the conspiracies come out during local government elections.

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: No, member for Scarborough. Even the Leader of the Opposition has a staff member standing for election, as is her right.

Dr M.D. Nahan: I don't.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: She is associated with the Leader of the Opposition.

Dr M.D. Nahan interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Does she no longer work for the Leader of the Opposition? The fact of the matter is —

The SPEAKER: Excuse me, members. Minister, through the Chair; thank you.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The fact is this is the local government election season. It is a very important democratic process—a very important time —

The SPEAKER: Through the Chair, minister.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: — when people have an elected right to put themselves forward to stand for their local governments.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is their right, whether they be members of political parties, member, or members of the National Party who will be standing for election in local governments. Members of the National Party will be standing for election in the state of Western Australia, as is their right, and there will be people like the young woman in Mosman Park who was featured in the newspaper today. Good on her, as a young person who is seeking to stand for election in local government, as is her right.

These matters are not my matters because they are matters for the party that they may or may not be a member of. I might tell the member that he can raise all sorts of allegations that he likes, but my responsibility is to make sure that local government elections are conducted as per the act. They will be conducted as per the act.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warren–Blackwood, I call you to order for the first time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They will be conducted as per the act, and I am sure that if any allegations or concerns are raised, they will be raised through the appropriate parties and the appropriate process. I wish the record number of candidates standing for local government in Western Australia at the 21 October election all the very best, no matter what their background, age profile or diversity. I am sure they will ensure that they comply with the statutory responsibilities of the Local Government Act.