

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, SALARY PACKAGES AND TERMS OF
EMPLOYMENT

2417. Hon Jim Scott to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

- (1) Will the Minister detail for each metropolitan Local Government Authority in Western Australia -
- (a) who the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent is;
 - (b) the salary package they receive;
 - (c) the term of their employment; and
 - (d) whether their position was advertised?
- (2) Will the Minister list which metropolitan Local Government Authorities in Western Australia permit residents to view all review reports of CEO performance and salary increase proposals?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

- (1)-(2) Local governments are autonomous bodies. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) salaries, terms of employment and advertisement details would be available from each local government but my Department does not compile such information as a matter of course.

The Local Government Act 1995 currently specifies that a person's right to inspect information regarding an employment contract relates only to the salary or the remuneration or benefits payable under the contract. Therefore, a person would have the right to find out variations in salary but would not have access to reports dealing with the CEO's performance, unless volunteered by the CEO.

The Honourable Member would be aware that the Local Government Amendment Bill 2004 has passed through this place and is currently in the other place awaiting second reading debate.

This Bill will require Councils to take account of a Salaries and Allowances Tribunal report, which is expected to be produced annually, when signing an employment contract for a Chief Executive Officer. Whilst Councils will not be bound to accept the recommendations of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, it would be wise for Councils to consider the recommendations carefully.

In addition the amendment bill will change the current ability of Chief Executive Officers to determine what information relating to their employment will be publicly available. Once the Bill is passed, regulations will determine what information will be released and what information will be deemed to be confidential.