

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — MEMBERSHIP — VACANCY

**17. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier advise the Electoral Commissioner to fill the vacancy, or does he intend to get a jump start on cutting regional voices from Parliament?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members! I am not 100 per cent sure that that question is in order because what the member is asking is not necessarily within the Premier's domain, even as leader. Premier, you may respond if you like.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I think I could have a team of professors from Harvard trying to interpret that and they would not be able to work out what the member was trying to get at. All I will say about it is this: the former member for South West Region Hon Alannah MacTiernan has decided to exit Parliament. There is a process, as I understand it, conducted via the Western Australian Electoral Commission. Once notice is given by the President of the upper house, which will start the process of replacing her, the process then goes down the ticket in terms of eligibility, and people are invited to apply. That process has not concluded. That will take place over the course of the next 10 days or two weeks, as I understand it. At the conclusion of that, there will be an analysis by the Electoral Commission about who is the eligible person to fulfil the vacancy provided by the former member for South West Region Hon Alannah MacTiernan who left. Obviously, someone will fill the vacancy in accordance with the law and that person will no doubt have been on the South West Region ticket. If I were you, National Party, in light of Hon James Hayward, I would not be asking these questions.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, that concludes question time.