

CITY OF MELVILLE, REDUCTION IN COUNCILLOR NUMBERS

**73. Hon JIM SCOTT to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:**

- (1) Is the minister aware that the City of Melville intends to apply for an extension of time before the city needs to comply with a reduction in the number of councillors?
- (2) To what level is the City of Melville required to reduce its councillor numbers?
- (3) Is the minister aware of a City of Melville community comment carried out in 2000 in which the Melville community supported the number of councillors in the city council being reduced to 12, with a popularly elected mayor?
- (4) Does the minister support the policy that all Western Australian local governments should reduce councillor numbers?
- (5) What other city councils are still to reduce the number of councillors?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

- (1) No.
- (2) Under an order made by the Governor in January 2001, the number of councillors of the City of Melville is to be reduced from 18 to 12 - not including the mayor who is elected by the people. The reduction will take effect from the May 2003 local government elections.
- (3) No, the City of Melville submitted a proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board in November 2000 to reduce the number of councillors. As part of that process, it consulted its electors and the submissions received, together with the council's proposal, were submitted for approval to the then minister, Hon Paul Omodei MLA.
- (4) The Local Government Act 1995 prescribes upper and lower limits on the number of councillors. When a local government has a mayor or president elected by the electors, the maximum number is the elected mayor or president and not more than 14 councillors. I would consider any proposal to reduce councillor numbers within the prescribed limits if it could be shown that this would be in the interests of good government of the district.
- (5) No other city council needs to reduce its councillor numbers to comply with the Act.