

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS — REGIONS

**771. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Leader of the National Party:**

Are Hon Martin Aldridge's comments consistent with National Party policy regarding the amalgamation of councils in regional areas?

**Mr D.T. REDMAN replied:**

The member for Collie–Preston has caught me slightly by surprise, but I will endeavour to answer the question. The National Party has consistently held the position that it does not support forced amalgamations in regional Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** A question has been asked by the member for Collie–Preston. It is not your question, member for Armadale, nor yours, member for Mandurah. Just answer through the Chair, please.

**Mr D.T. REDMAN:** Is it not fantastic in a democracy such as ours that we can have an alliance government that is so effective in delivering fantastic outcomes for all Western Australia, including regional Western Australia, and can still preserve policy differences that the parties have?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr D.T. REDMAN:** What I find playing out on the other side of the chamber behind closed doors that is really hard to understand is how the hell they reconcile the differences between the Conservation Council at one end and the coalminers at the other end.