

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ONE VOTE, ONE VALUE

**247. Hon MURRAY CRIDDLE to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:**

Councillor Gregorini and his team recently travelled around the mid west and the message they received from the councils is that they are expecting to move towards one vote, one value, a measure that will take representation away from the people who live in outlying areas. Has the minister given any instruction to local governments in the mid west on the issue of one vote, one value?

**Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:**

No, I have not, specifically in relation to the mid west. Hon Bruce Donaldson has asked similar questions about the general process of tackling the review of municipal boundaries across Western Australia. I responded to his questions by stating that there is no need to change the direction in which the review is being conducted and considered by the Local Government Advisory Board. The policy settings that were in place before I became the Minister for Local Government have not changed. I am delighted to have received a vast quantity of submissions, which are supported by the Local Government Advisory Board, for changes to the way many of Western Australia's municipalities will conduct their next local government elections. Many local councils have chosen to abolish wards or to modify them in such a way that will bring them closer to the principle of one vote, one value plus or minus 10 per cent. Such measures have resulted in a reduction in the number of wards in many municipalities. I am more than happy with the progress that is being made by municipalities from one end of the State to the other. Increasingly, there is good solid progress in this area, and I look forward to seeing more of it.