

CITY OF KALGOORLIE–BOULDER — COUNCILLORS’ REMUNERATION

588. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of Wednesday, 25 April titled “Increase to councillors’ pay packets to total \$115,000”.

- (1) Will the minister confirm that this will cost ratepayers an extra \$114 874 in the council’s 2018–19 budget?
- (2) Is the minister aware that the councillors voted to increase the ratepayers’ levy by three per cent at a council meeting, and subsequently adjusted this rate to 1.8 per cent at a special meeting?
- (3) Given the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal’s ruling for a pay freeze for councillors to help reduce the need for rate increases, does the minister deem this pay rise warranted?
- (4) Given the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal’s ruling for a pay freeze for councillors to help reduce the need for rate increases, does the minister deem the 1.8 per cent increase in levy warranted?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) Local governments are established as autonomous organisations, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995. This is a decision to be made by the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, within the range approved by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. It is the city’s responsibility to justify to its ratepayers and residents any increase to elected member annual meeting attendance fees, within the applicable band limits. In the current economic climate, I have encouraged, and will continue to encourage, local governments to recognise the challenges faced by ratepayers and show moderation in the rate and fee increases they adopt.