

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT — REVIEW

139. Hon SIMON O'BRIEN to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the paper recently presented to a local government forum at the Town of Cambridge by former Labor MLA Larry Graham criticising the McGowan government's approach to the review of the Local Government Act.

- (1) What action is the minister taking to modify the process of review of the act?
- (2) What action, if any, is the minister taking to address the allegations of conflict of interest held variously by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Professionals WA?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The McGowan government has committed to a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act, which includes an extensive consultation process with stakeholders, including ratepayers, community organisations, local businesses, the Western Australian Local Government Association and Local Government Professionals WA. Best practice requires this level of consultation during such reforms.

Feedback received will be considered following the close of the public submission period on 31 March 2019. To date, more than 1 500 responses have been received, with more than 100 workshops, forums and stakeholder meetings held across Western Australia to engage with the community on the future of local government. WALGA and LG Pro, along with ratepayers, community organisations and local businesses, are key stakeholders in this process. It is unclear how the member considers this to be a conflict of interest.