

MEMBER FOR MOUNT LAWLEY — CITY OF PERTH GIFT ENTITLEMENT

155. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to recent media reports about a long-term campaign by the member for Mount Lawley to have his gift entitlement from the City of Perth increased from \$300 in total to a value of \$200 for each year of his council service, which would total \$2 800.

- (1) Has the member for Mount Lawley approached the minister about increasing the value of gifts that local governments can provide to retiring councillors?
- (2) If so, when was the minister approached, and what was the request?
- (3) Considering that the member for Mount Lawley receives a \$2 000 a year dining room tab at the Perth City Council as a freeman of the city, is the minister seriously giving any consideration to lifting the value of gifts for former councillors above the current \$300 threshold?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

- (1)–(3) Member for Warnbro, when the member for Mount Lawley was a councillor at the City of Perth, he actually wrote to the previous Minister for Local Government, Hon Jon Ford, on 15 August 2006, covering the same points that he has asked me. That was long before he became a member of this place.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bassendean, I formally call you for the first time. I know that some members may still be hungry. I hunger to hear the answer, minister.

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am trying to give the answer, but they do not want to listen! The previous minister, Hon Jon Ford, actually agreed with the report supplied to the former government and said that the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal —

Mr J.N. Hyde: He did not raise it!

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: No, he did not raise it, but he said that he may be in a position to get the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal to consider a bandwidth of remuneration that may be paid.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Answer the question!

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I am trying to answer the question, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr E.S. Ripper: You have not come to point one yet!

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I want to give members opposite some background and remind them of what the former government did. The member for Mount Lawley wrote to me on 28 October last year, asking about salaries and allowances. He sent me a copy of the letter that he had written to the former minister, as I have mentioned. He also asked me what the act says about gifts. I supplied him with an answer and told him what the act says. That was about the size of it.