

McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — INFORMATION SUPPLY

Statement

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [5.18 pm]: Earlier today in non-government business, Hon Peter Collier raised questions about this government's tabling of various reports and put the case that our treatment and tabling of those reports was not good enough. I think the member claimed—I do not have the corrected *Hansard* in front of me—earlier in August that this government had complete contempt for Parliament for the way that it was tabling ministerial and consultant reports. I want to deal with those issues. On 16 August, Hon Peter Collier said —

We have had one consultant's report from this government in the 18 months it has been in power. We have had two ministerial travel reports.

He went on to say —

The government is now six months behind in presenting those reports.

Actually, at that point in time, we had tabled two consultants reports, not one, both covering 2017. We had tabled three ministerial travel reports, not two. Today, during non-government business, he made the point that as at March this year there were no ministerial travel reports and that the government did not table one travel report in 12 months. Actually, we have tabled four ministerial travel reports since being in government. Two of them had been tabled by March this year, both on 13 February. It took 12 months for the opposition to get one report in. There is always a lag between the end of the period that the report covers and when it is actually tabled. The difference between this government and the previous government, and how much time that has taken, is that under this government that delay has ranged between 4.5 months and 7.5 months, not 12 months. However, under the previous government, that same time lag period ranged between five and 11 months.

The member this morning said that two consultant reports were tabled nine months late. Actually, we have tabled four consultant reports since we have been in government. Consultant reports are tabled every six months. Under our government, the time difference between the end of the period reported on and the tabling of the report has been between five and seven months. Under the previous government, the range was between 11 and 14 months. The other point that the honourable member made, in asking a question about when we received the last consultant report, was that he thought it was last year and that we have not had a consultant report for the entire year. The last consultant report was tabled this year on 28 June 2018. In fact, we are performing better than the previous government. It may also be useful for members to be aware that the process has not changed since the previous government. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet officer who is responsible for helping to collate this information is the same officer who did it under the previous government, and I think the record needs to be corrected.