

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION**

*Thirty-seventh Report — “Unauthorised Disclosure of Confidential Committee Correspondence by the City of Joondalup” — Tabling*

**MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot)** [11.19 am]: I present for tabling the thirty-seventh report of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, entitled “Unauthorised Disclosure of Confidential Committee Correspondence by the City of Joondalup”.

[See paper 1681.]

**Mr J.M. FRANCIS:** This is an information report primarily aimed at local councils. By way of a brief background, the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation first scrutinised the Cats Local Law of the City of Joondalup. On 18 May 2009 the committee sought further information from the City of Joondalup and resolved to move a notice of motion of disallowance of the local laws, for the purpose of preserving its position while giving the local law further consideration. A series of correspondence ensued. The committee sought undertakings from the City of Joondalup. Regardless of the outcome, on 14 August 2009 *The West Australian* on page 3 published an article titled “New cat laws to force desexing, microchips”, which is attached to the report. The article in *The West Australian* made reference to the contents of correspondence sent from the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation to the City of Joondalup. At the end of the day, the breach of parliamentary privilege by the City of Joondalup did not have any direct or indirect effect on the committee’s deliberations, but this report, as I said, is an information report that the committee will request the Minister for Local Government to circulate because there could be incidences when a breach of privilege by a local council could have far more serious implications, either financially, commercially or politically, for the deliberations of the committee. The committee feels it is important that it protect its right to privilege.

In closing, I take this opportunity to acknowledge—this being the last report to be tabled this year by the committee—the very hard work that the staff of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation do. I hesitate to say it, but they are perhaps the hardest working committee staff in the Parliament. I am sure that other committee staff work very hard, but the staff of this committee carry an immense workload, and I put on the record my appreciation and that of the other committee members for all the work they do.