

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION — APPOINTMENTS

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

I refer to the minister's last-minute statement of clarification to the house at 10.49 pm last night.

- (1) Will the minister now appoint two of the original panel of candidates as submitted by the Western Australian Local Government Association on 8 December last year to the vacant positions on the Local Government Grants Commission?
- (2) Given that WALGA selected this panel of candidates in accordance with legislation following a merit-based selection process, on what basis has the minister requested WALGA to repeat this process and submit a new list of recommendations?
- (3) Why does the minister not trust the judgement of the members of the WALGA State Council?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

- (1)-(3) I admitted last night that the two Local Government Grants Commission appointments were not undertaken in accordance with what I thought I could do. I was of the opinion that I could appoint those two people.

Mr E.S. Ripper: You broke the law.

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I did not. I was of the opinion that I could appoint those people. They are two very decent people who have done a lot for this community and they are very highly regarded. I have made the position clear to WALGA. I have asked WALGA to supply me with another list of names. I am entitled to do that. I will assess that list when it has been given to me.

I have also instructed my department to check with the State Solicitor's Office to ascertain whether it is within my power to ask for a new list. That is the process I am currently adopting. Those considerations will come to bear. Once that is known I will look at WALGA's list and, if I cannot make the appointments in any other way, I will make a determination from the names on that list.