

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

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

I have a supplementary question. How much state, federal and local government money has been spent on this complete and utter failure of a process which the minister initiated two years ago?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

That is a fantastic question! Guess what? I am the only one who has had the guts to do something about local government.

Several members interjected.

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: The former government did absolutely nothing.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It has been a resounding failure!

The SPEAKER: I give a resounding formal call to order to the member for Mandurah for the first time. I do not know how many seconds the minister had an opportunity to answer that question; I would suggest less than 10. I believe that the member for Warnbro asked the question in all seriousness and expects an answer from the minister. I say to other members in this place: give the member for Warnbro the opportunity to hear that answer. At least remain in silence for a little bit longer than last time. Minister for Local Government.

Mr P. Papalia: Do you know?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I do know, member for Warnbro.

Mr P. Papalia: How much state, federal and local government money?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I will tell the member in a minute. I will tell him what I have spent over the past three years since I started this.

Mr P. Papalia: Federal money as well?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I will tell the member exactly the money we have spent in terms of regional transition groups, regional collaborative groups, amalgamations, plus all the capacity building—structural planning, asset management planning, regional development and business planning, all the templates we have developed for local government —

Mr D.A. Templeman: One hundred and thirty-nine to 139—no difference! Where is the difference?

The SPEAKER: The difference might be, member for Mandurah, that you might not be here in a little while! I do not want to do that, member for Mandurah, because I know you like being in here. It might sound curious to some members that I actually like having the member for Mandurah in here. I formally call him to order for the second time today.

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: The opposition is a bit desperate because it knows the state of local government in this state. It has not had the courage to do anything. Let me tell members that 36 per cent of the 139 local governments in this state undertook limited or no strategic planning. This was at the start of the process. Eighty-one per cent undertook limited or no —

Mr P. Papalia: How many councils are there?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI: I will get to that question right after I finish this, member for Warnbro. What did the former government do? It did absolutely nothing.

Eighty-one per cent of local governments in this state undertook limited or no planning for asset maintenance and renewal. Seventy-seven per cent of local governments in this state undertook limited or no financial management planning. Eighty-two per cent of local governments in this state undertook limited or no financial planning to identify the maintenance or renewal gaps in their asset management. I get worried when I see stuff like that. When the opposition looks at stuff like that, it does nothing for the state of Western Australia; absolutely nothing! In the past three years we have spent approximately \$7.2 million on that process.