

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS — NATIONAL PARTY POSITION

550. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Leader of the National Party:

I have a supplementary question. Why is the Leader of the National Party so reluctant to defend country Western Australians and so enthusiastic to rush in to support Queensland billionaires?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:

That is a very good supplementary question. I will compare the record of this side of the house on local government with the policy of the opposition. This side of the house provided \$100 million in 2008 in local government funds and \$100 million this year; a complete system to help them build strategic and asset management plans and a complete agenda to assist in reform, with many local governments deciding to go down that path. In comparison, the policy of the opposition is to do nothing.