

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MANAGERS AUSTRALIA — MEETINGS WITH MINISTER

**558. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to yesterday's gratuitous personal attack in question time by the Treasurer on the head of the Western Australian Local Government Association.

- (1) Will the minister call on the Treasurer to apologise in Parliament for his false accusations against Mr Mitchell?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that WALGA and Local Government Managers Australia executives have been unsuccessfully seeking formal meetings with the minister since he made his threat in February to force amalgamations unless voluntary amalgamations of councils were undertaken?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that the last time he formally met with WALGA and LGMA executives in accordance with the state-local government partnership agreement was in November last year?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, Treasurer!

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:**

I thank the member for Warnbro for his question.

- (1)-(3) I reject the assertion that the Treasurer attacked the president of WALGA, Mr Bill Mitchell; rather, I think that the Treasurer was stating a few home truths on the matter and that the —

Several members interjected.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** The Treasurer highlighted some differences, but I can tell members —

**Mrs M.H. Roberts** interjected.

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI:** No, I did not say that.

There are a lot of similarities between WALGA's position and the government's position in terms of its systemic sustainability study report and what is contained in its report—we agree with WALGA's position. Since becoming minister, I have met extensively with the local government industry, the members and their officers. I met WALGA in, I think, November and the next meeting is scheduled for July. Maybe I have not had as many meetings with WALGA as the member for Warnbro appears to have had; however, I have met with about three WALGA zones already. Last Friday I met with a group of Blackwood councillors and on Monday I met with the mayor and the chief executive officer from the City of Stirling. I will continue to have meetings with WALGA zones. I like going out and meeting people. I do not really need to meet with WALGA every day of the week to obtain feedback from local government. I appreciate the opportunity of meeting with as many WALGA zones and as many people from local government as possible because I gauge from them that some of them may have different views from WALGA.