

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

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

Mr Speaker, I am still here.

The SPEAKER: That is good!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Almost two and a half years ago the minister attacked local governments and said they had to amalgamate or they would be forced to. The Premier then said there were far too many councils and that there should be fewer than 100. The minister has spent millions of dollars and kept thousands of local government employees in a state of uncertainty for years, all because there were 139 local governments in Western Australia. How many local governments are there today?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

One hundred and thirty-nine.