

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — RATES CAP

**54. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer the minister to media reports that the Victorian government is considering setting a rates cap of 3.5 per cent for its local government sector this year, after tabling a report in December that stated that rates capping was successful in its aim of alleviating expenses to ratepayers and forcing councils to manage their finances more appropriately.

- (1) Is the McGowan government considering, or will it consider, a rates cap for Western Australian local governments in 2023–24?
- (2) If yes to (1), what level of cap is being considered?
- (3) If no to (1), why not; and will the government at the very least consider offering advice to local governments on what it considers an appropriate scale for any rates increases?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Local Government.

- (1)–(3) The state government is currently prioritising the largest package of reforms to the Local Government Act 1995 in over 25 years. Significantly, the announced reforms contain a range of increased accountability and transparency measures, including standardising financial reporting, the creation of several online registers, and a rates and revenue policy that will make it easier for ratepayers to see how their local government is budgeting.