

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT— REFORM

**1181. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer the minister to the recent changes to the electoral system as it applies to local government vacancies.

- (1) When did the government decide to insert a quota system into local government elections?
- (2) Am I correct in recalling that there was no mention of quotas during the lengthy debate we had on the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 earlier this year?
- (3) When were local governments informed of this aspect of the new election system, and what feedback, if any, has been received from local governments and/or the Western Australian Local Government Association since then?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. He has turned my world on its head—there was no reference whatsoever to cannabis in the question!

- (1)–(3) The state government announced the introduction of preferential voting as part of the proposed package of local government reforms that was released on 10 November 2021. Clause 92 of the Local Government Amendment Bill 2023 provides for the use of quotas in elections for two or more councillors using the single transferable voting system. An equivalent system is used for elections for this house. This was explained in the explanatory memorandum. Proceedings of the debate are recorded in *Hansard*, including specific references to preferential voting on 10 May 2023. The Cook government’s local government reforms have been the subject of extensive consultation, including a three-month public consultation period and ongoing engagement with the local government sector.