

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT — TOWN OF PORT HEDLAND COUNCIL —
GOVERNOR'S DECLARATION**

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [12.14 pm]: I rise to inform the house that today the Governor has declared vacant the remaining four elected member positions at the Town of Port Hedland. Members will be aware that elected members were suspended and a commissioner appointed to the Town of Port Hedland in July. The council of the town was suspended in July following an investigation by the department, which identified clear and significant failures by the council to perform its functions properly. Commissioner Fred Riebeling was appointed to administer the town. Commissioner Riebeling will continue in this role until fresh local government elections can be held on 17 October 2020. The positions of four elected members expired at midnight on 19 October 2019, when local government elections were held throughout Western Australia. In addition, one of the remaining five councillors has resigned. The town's chief executive officer has notified me that the council is unable to form a quorum, because more than 50 per cent of positions are now vacant. The Town of Port Hedland normally has nine elected members. I have notified all remaining elected members, the CEO and the commissioner of the Governor's declaration. Fresh elections in 2020 will pave the way for an entirely new council.