

Question on Notice
No. 1014
Asked on Tuesday 7 August 2007

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport (MR FRASER) –

QUESTION:

With reference to page 25 of *Local government reform – a new chapter for local government in Queensland* and in particular the funding per capita of \$88.50—

- (1) What funding per capita will be given to local governments from the Queensland State Government post amalgamation?
- (2) What analysis has been carried out as to how the amalgamation of local government areas, as recommended by the Local Government Reform Commission, will affect the Federal Assistance Grants to Councils, and if so, what were the findings for individual councils (each council reported separately)?
- (3) What analysis has been carried out as to how the amalgamation of local government, as recommended by the Local Government Reform Commission, will affect the rates per capita of property owners within the new local government areas (each council reported separately)?

ANSWER:

- 1) Funding for local governments for 2007-08 is found in the 2007-08 Budget Papers.
- 2) In February 2006 the Commonwealth Government added an additional National Principle that stated that councils that amalgamate will continue to receive funding at the existing level of each individual council for a four-year period. The Local Government Reform Commission recommended the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (QLGGC) undertake a review of the Financial Assistance Grant methodology. This has been accepted by the State Government. The QLGGC make recommendations to me which are forwarded for approval from the Commonwealth Government. I also refer you to my previous correspondence to you on this matter.
- 3) The setting of rates within individual councils will remain the responsibility of councils. I presume the Leader of the Opposition is not advocating State Government intervention in rate setting for local governments, given his otherwise slavish support for all policy positions of the Local Government Association of Queensland.