

**Question on Notice
No. 1017
Asked on Tuesday 7 August 2007**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Local Government Reform Process—

Will he provide for each year since the election of the Beattie Labor Government (reported separately for each year and each council) (a) details on the number of councils that have required financial assistance and/or financial controllers from his department, (b) the total amount of financial assistance paid out to each individual council and (c) the total amount spent by the department on financial controllers to each council and how much of the cost was recovered by the department from each council for each of these years?

ANSWER:

(a) Each and every Council has received financial assistance each year. I refer the Member to reports of the Local Government Grants Commission.

(a) Financial controllers have appointed to:

2000-2001 Umagico Aboriginal Shire Council

2000-2001 Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council

2002 Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

2003-2004 Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council

2004-2005 Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

2006-2007; 2007-2008 Mer Island Council

2007-2008 Badu Island Council

2007-2008 Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council

2007-2008 Saibai Island Council

2007-2008 Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council

The provisions of the Local Government Act were amended in April this year to provide for financial controllers in Councils under the Local Government Act. It should be noted however:

- an administrator was put in place for Johnstone Shire Council in 2007; and
- an independent advisor was provided for Murgon Shire Council to assist develop a financial recovery plan in 2007.

(b) In the past the following Aboriginal and Island councils have received advances of funding, over and above their allocation from the State Government Financial Assistance Grants, which are required to be repaid on agreed terms over agreed timeframes.

Council	Amount
Doomadgee	\$250,000
Palm Island	\$1,720,000
Umagico	\$348,351
Woorabinda	\$2,100,000
Wujal Wujal	\$972,000

In 2006/07 Johnstone Shire Council also received a special funding package beyond the provision of disaster relief funds of \$9 million, which consisted of a special purpose \$5 million grant and an additional \$4 million to subsidise interest charges on Council's significant borrowings.

(c) The following provides an estimate of the amount of salaries and on-costs (including travel allowances) spent or budgeted by the department on financial controllers to each council.

Umagico Aboriginal Shire Council - \$46,728

Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council - \$40,418

Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council - \$38,568

Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council - \$53,086

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council - \$83,107

Mer Island Council - \$97,389

Badu Island Council - \$107,878

Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council - \$107,878

Saibai Island Council - \$62,929

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council - \$53,939

With respect to councils under the Local Government Act the following funds were provided to support State Government assistance:

- Administrator for Johnstone Shire Council - \$178,000
- Independent adviser for Murgon Shire Council - \$24,543