

Question on Notice
No. 130
Asked on Thursday 14 February 2008

MR SEENEY asked the Minister for Main Roads and Local Government (MR PITT) –

QUESTION:

Will he outline the budget allocations for regional councils after 15 March 2008 to compensate for the costs of the forced amalgamations of local government for each of the following Regional Councils (reported separately) – (a) South Burnett Regional Council, (b) North Burnett Regional Council, (c) Bundaberg Regional Council, (d) Banana Regional Council, (e) Fraser Coast Regional Council, (f) Gympie Regional Council and (g) Gladstone Regional Council?

ANSWER:

To support the transition to the new arrangements, the Government announced a \$27.1 million funding package, which includes allocations for Local Transition Committees (LTCs), including \$12 million for the comprehensive Staff Support Package that will ensure job security for council employees.

This funding package provides funding for LTCs to support their planning and transition activities in the lead up to the March 2008 elections. The package also provides funding for new councils following the elections to support business system reviews. The funding will also support change management activities, community engagement, and communication undertaken by the LTC and the new council.

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) put forward a submission requesting \$26 million and the State exceeded this with a \$27.1 million package. The Government has already provided \$8.75 million in funding to LTCs with more than \$17 million allocated to assist the new councils after the election.

This is the most significant level of direct support for structural reform in Australia. The Government is contributing \$1.2 million to support the local government elections.

Council	LTC funding	Post election funding
South Burnett Regional Council	\$280,000	\$500,000
North Burnett Regional Council	\$360,000	\$1,675,000 (includes special assistance payment of \$1,000,000)
Bundaberg Regional Council	\$280,000	\$500,000
Banana Shire Council	\$130,000	\$350,000
Fraser Coast Regional Council	\$280,000	\$500,000
Gympie Regional Council	\$240,000	\$500,000
Gladstone Regional Council	\$240,000	\$500,000