

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1650**

**Asked on 29 October 2009**

**MR HOBBS ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MR FRASER)—**

### **QUESTION:**

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 1001 of 2009—

- (1) How many councils have handed down deficit budgets over the last five years (reported separately)?
- (2) What targets are used to assess if a council requires monitoring to address financial sustainability issues in the short and long term?
- (3) How many councils have been monitored over the last five years?

### **ANSWER:**

The Shadow Minister has had difficulty in directing questions to the relevant Minister. These are matters within the portfolio of the Local Government Minister but despite the opportunity to merely refer the matter to the relevant Minister, I have chosen to answer the question to assist the Shadow Minister.

- (1) This information is published by each council.
- (2) See the published “Financial Management Sustainability Guideline 2009” which has been developed to be consistent with the National Framework for the sustainability of local governments.
- (3) DIP has appointed financial controllers to eight councils over the last five years. Four of these councils (Badu, Dauan, Mer and Saibai Island Councils) were merged into the Torres Strait Island Regional Council through the local government reform process.