

Question on Notice

No. 1766

Asked on Wednesday 11 November 2009

MR HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (MS BOYLE)–

QUESTION:

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1001–

- (1) Which mainstream local governments have been identified by Queensland Treasury Corporation as being at risk financially?
- (2) When were they identified and what risks have been identified?
- (3) What assistance is the department providing to these councils (reported separately by council)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Warrego for his question.

The Queensland Treasury Corporation provides independent advice to Councils on an ongoing basis on a range of matters, including financial sustainability. The Department of Infrastructure and Planning evaluates the sustainability of all Local Governments on an ongoing basis.

The Local Government Reform Commission report of 2007, prepared with the assistance of the Queensland Treasury Corporation, specifically identified the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council and South Burnett Regional Council as requiring ongoing monitoring and support.

The Department of Infrastructure and Planning is assisting these Councils in a number of ways, including the use of a business coach to support the Councils in areas such as; liquidity, financial performance, the moderation of expenditure and strategies for revenue raising.

The Department also evaluates the ongoing sustainability of all mainstream Local Governments through the Sustainability and Reporting process, which includes the implementation of the National Frameworks for Sustainability. This process supports Councils with forward financial planning and focuses on issues such as identification and management of business risks and the effective management of infrastructure assets.