

Question on Notice

No. 1798

Asked on Thursday 12 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the loss of vital subsidies to Logan City and Scenic Rim local government areas—

What strategies are in place to ensure adequate service delivery and ongoing viability for these regions?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Beaudesert for his question.

Since July 1998, the Logan City Council and the Scenic Rim Regional Council have received grants and subsidy payments as part of the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program totalling \$48 331 684 and \$9 194 655 respectively.

Queensland Councils have enjoyed significant levels of State funding. In July 2006, the State Government committed a total of \$700 million in grants and subsidies funding over five years to Local Governments. In just three years, more than \$880 million has been committed to fund diverse projects across the State. As at 18 November 2009, more than \$499.8 million has been paid to Councils for many of those projects.

The reform of Queensland's Local Governments is directed at ensuring there is a viable and sustainable Local Government sector. Structural and legislative reform, resulting in Council amalgamations and the new *Local Government Act 2009*, were two elements of the reform process. A third element is the ongoing implementation of sustainability and reporting processes for all Queensland Councils. This will assist in developing a consistent approach towards assessing the financial sustainability of each Council, improving asset management and financial and community planning practices, and identifying areas where Councils may require additional support.

These initiatives contribute to the final element of the reform process, namely capacity building. Other capacity building initiatives include the *Asset Management Advancement Program 2009-2010* and the *Guidelines for local government administration of community grants*.