

Question on Notice

No. 675

Asked on 12 September 2013

MRS CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (MR SEENEY) –

QUESTION:

As the limited first round of Royalties for Regions pilot has been completed and the Minister has now opened the funding to all Queensland Council's –

Will council's directly affected by mining and industry impacts receive positively weighted consideration of their applications for assistance?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Gladstone for her question.

Consistent with the original intent of Royalties for the Regions, the focus of the program remains on supporting infrastructure projects that respond to the most critical community needs that have resulted from resource sector activity. Royalties for the Regions funding is distributed to eligible councils through a competitive grants process and there is no guarantee that all eligible local councils will receive Royalties for the Regions funding.

As detailed in the Royalties for the Regions Program Guidelines for road and community infrastructure project, 'for an application to be considered eligible for Royalties for the Regions funding, the project must respond to critical community infrastructure needs that have resulted from resources sector activity'.

The objectives of Royalties for the Regions are reflected in the assessment criteria and objectives that are of a higher priority to the government and have a higher weighting in the assessment criteria. The criterion that assesses the extent projects respond to a need that has resulted from resources sector activity is given the greatest weighting.

The Member should note that eligibility has been extended from the program's initial 14 eligible local councils to all local councils in regional Queensland, but not to all Queensland councils. This means that all local councils outside of South East Queensland, including Toowoomba Regional Council are eligible to apply for Royalties for the Regions funding.

In addition, as a result of flood events in early 2013, eligibility to apply for Royalties for the Regions flood mitigation funding has been extended to Lockyer Valley Regional Council.