

Question on Notice

No. 619

Asked on 16 May 2018

MR T MANDER ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the ‘Cities Transformation Taskforce’ within Treasury—

Will the Treasurer advise (a) the total cost of this unit, including salaries and all expenses (broken down separately for the current and last financial year), (b) how many city deals have been established to date, (c) how many city deals are expected to be signed in the coming financial year and (d) what other outputs the Taskforce has achieved this year?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

Prime Minister Turnbull launched the Australian Government’s Smart Cities Plan in April 2016. According to the Australian Government, “*City Deals are a new approach in Australia, bringing together the three levels of government, the community and private enterprise to create place-based partnerships... City Deals will help to secure the future prosperity and liveability of our cities.*”

Subsequently, the Premier executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Prime Minister to “*work cooperatively and collaboratively to agree priority locations and improve Queensland’s cities through the implementation of tailored City Deals.*”

The Cities Transformation Taskforce (CTT) was established in mid-2016 to lead the Queensland Government’s engagement and participation in City Deals, delivering Australia’s first City Deal for Townsville, which was signed by all three levels of government on 9 December 2016.

My Ministerial Charter Priorities include a key priority to “*pursue a City Deal for SEQ to align planning, investment and governance to accelerate growth and job creation, stimulate urban renewal and support the future prosperity and liveability of the region*”.

In relation to the member’s specific questions, I am advised:

- (a) The Cities Transformation Taskforce team spent a total of \$1,498,639.37 in the 2016-17 Financial Year and \$1,552,944.14 for the current (2017-18) Financial Year (as at 10 May 2018).

Below is a table that outlines the breakdown of total cost for the last financial year and the current financial year.

2016-17 Financial Year	Costs
Staffing (including salaries and expenses)	\$239,841.97
Contractors	\$1,256,866.97
Supplies and Services	\$1,930.43
Total Cost	\$1,498,639.37

2017-18 Financial Year (as at 10 May 2018)	Costs
Staffing (including salaries and expenses)	\$361,556.93
Contractors	\$1,173,807.87
Supplies and Services	\$17,579.34
Total Cost	\$1,552,944.14

- (b) As well as the Townsville City Deal, City Deals have been signed for Launceston and Western Sydney. The Australian Government is negotiating or investigating a number of other City Deals across Australia, with discussions currently underway in relation to a potential City Deal for South East Queensland (SEQ).
- (c) The Queensland Government is working with the Australian Government to identify future candidate cities and regions for the next City Deal in Queensland. In partnership with the SEQ Council of Mayors, the Queensland Government is actively pursuing an SEQ City Deal in the coming financial year. Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and I recently met with Commonwealth Minister Paul Fletcher to present the preparatory and scoping work we have undertaken to date.
- (d) The CTT has an extensive role to:
- Lead investigations and negotiations under the MoU, engaging with a broad range of stakeholders across local government, state government, private sector, peak bodies, and research entities;
 - Ensure delivery of the commitments under the Townsville City Deal, acting as Secretariat to coordinate across three levels of government and across Queensland Government agencies;
 - Contribute to and deliver reporting, including the Townsville City Deal Annual Progress Report and Implementation Plan;
 - Preparing significant pieces of research work as the foundation for the proposed SEQ City Deal, including the recent release of the Economic Foundations Paper and SEQ Benchmarking Study, which were tabled in Parliament on 16 May 2018.