

Question on Notice

No. 260

Asked on 29 March 2022

MS A LEAHY asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (HON S MILES) –

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail any financial assistance provided directly to Local Government areas which border NSW for the specific purpose of assisting with the management of State Government border closures since the start of the pandemic (reported separately by Council and by financial year)?

ANSWER:

On 12 August 2021, I approved up to \$1 million of the 2022-24 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program be used for one-off reimbursements to eligible councils on the Queensland / New South Wales border for costs incurred in border control measures.

On 13 September 2021, I approved the release of the Queensland Border Councils funding for six eligible councils – Balonne Shire Council, Bulloo Shire Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council, Paroo Shire Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, and Southern Downs Regional Council. I determined Gold Coast City Council was not eligible for border control reimbursement under the funding program because border control activities in this area had been controlled by the Queensland Police Service.

The six councils were invited to submit applications for reimbursement and assessment by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP) by 31 October 2021. Five councils submitted applications totalling \$995,550.15.

Applications were assessed by DSDILGP, and it was determined \$841,826.79 of the \$995,550.15 were considered eligible for reimbursement as per below:

Council	Recommended Eligible Amount (excluding GST)
Balonne Shire Council	\$96,018.10
Bulloo Shire Council	\$46,286.00
Goondiwindi Regional Council	\$116,251.50
Paroo Shire Council	\$432,705.57
Southern Downs Regional Council	\$150,565.62
TOTAL	\$841,826.79

Payments for the approved amounts were made to council on 20 January 2022, with recipient councils being advised the same day.

In addition, as part of the Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy: *Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs*, on 19 May 2020 the Premier announced \$200 million would be made available for the COVID Works for Queensland funding program, to be delivered during 2020-21. The program was available to **all** Queensland councils.

The seven border councils received \$17.5 million in COVID Works for Queensland funding. The Gold Coast City Council and the Scenic Rim Regional Council also received a further \$6 million (in total) of Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package funding.