

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 25

Program: 3.2 Local Government

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Local government correspondence with the Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government

Proof Hansard Page: 129 (05 May 2016)

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Senator STERLE: No change. That is good. Has the minister received any correspondence from local governments complaining about the cuts?

Ms Fleming: Local governments are—

Senator STERLE: I have, but I am just asking whether the minister has.

Ms Fleming: Local governments do lobby from time to time around the pause of indexation, and he would have received correspondence from various local governments from time to time seeking—

Senator STERLE: Are you able to provide us which of those councils complained? Do you have that information?

Ms Fleming: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

Many local governments in Australia, and others representing local government, have written to the Australian Government on the Financial Assistance Grant programme. The Department has previously provided information to the Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015-16 (question number: 147) and Additional Estimates 2014-15 (question number: 179).

Between 20 September 2015 and 5 May 2016 two local governments (The City of Greater Geelong and Hobart City Council) wrote to the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government, about the pause of indexation under the Financial Assistance Grant programme.