

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 225

Program: 3.3 Local Government

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Financial Assistance Grants – Number of Councils 2016-17

Proof Hansard Page: 32 (22 November 2016)

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

Senator STERLE: What was the total figure again?

Ms Fleming: The amount of funding that we provide to local governments annually is around \$2.3 billion. There was a pause to indexation, and the savings from that pause were estimated at around \$925 million over the three years.

Senator STERLE: Over how many councils?

Ms Fleming: Council numbers have recently changed with some of the amalgamations. From memory, it is around 544 councils now. I believe that is the current number, but I will take that on notice and confirm.

Answer:

There are currently 546 local governing bodies with allocations approved under the Financial Assistance Grant program.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 226

Program: 3.2 Local Government

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Financial Assistance Grant programme Indexation Pause

Proof Hansard Page: 32 (22 November 2016)

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

Senator STERLE: I will just come back to the grants commissions. Have any of those grants commissions quantified the funding loss from their states as a result of the FAGs freeze?

Mr Dreezer: Not that I am aware of. I think we would need to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department is aware that some Local Government Grants Commissions have published estimates in their Annual Reports.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 227

Program: 3.2 Local Government

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Financial Assistance Grant funding

Proof Hansard Page: 33 (22 November 2016)

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

Ms Fleming: I will ask my colleague to tell you the amount that is distributed to each state for this financial year. We would have to take it on notice for the previous financial years.

Answer:

The current 2016-17 financial year Financial Assistance Grant allocations for states and territories are published on the Department's website at www.regional.gov.au/local. Previous financial years allocations may be found in Local Government National Reports, which are available at www.regional.gov.au/local, or state and territory Local Government Grants Commissions reports.

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 228

Program: 3.2 Local Government

Division/Agency: Local Government and Territories

Topic: Financial Assistance Grant indexation pause impact on jurisdictions

Proof Hansard Page: 33 (22 November 2016)

Senator Sterle, Glenn asked:

Ms Fleming: What we have is the \$2.3 billion disbursed to the states. There is an estimated saving over the forward estimates; I would have to take on notice how that related to each state.

Senator STERLE: Yes, I just wanted to see what the cuts were to each state.

Ms Fleming: There were not cuts; there was a—

Senator STERLE: Freeze.

Ms Fleming: There was a freeze on indexation.

Senator STERLE: Sorry, wrong word.

Ms Fleming: So we cannot predict, other than the global figure, how that would have been disbursed by states. We would have to take that on notice

Answer:

The 2014-15 budget estimated the pause on indexation under the Financial Assistance Grant program would save \$925 million from 2014-15 to 2017-18. The Department is not able to calculate the full impact of the indexation pause on jurisdictions.