

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 254

Topic: Building Better Regional Cities

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Payne asked:

Please provide an update on the BBRC program upon Ministerial approval of funding applications, including any detail you are able to give on the councils that applied, approved applications, the quantum of funding and the type of proposals that have been made.

Please outline the process by which the department or Minister selected successful applications, including the level of ministerial discretion permitted under the program guidelines or other internal government requirements.

Please outline the nature and details of any funding decisions that deviated from the typical process of the department making a recommendation and the Minister accepting that recommendation; that is, any decisions to fund an applicant that were not recommended by the departmental process but were approved nonetheless, and any applications that the department recommended for funding approval that were rejected by the Minister.

Answer:

There were 43 applications received from 36 eligible local councils. Councils that were successful were included in the Minister's announcement on 30 June. The total funding approved is just over \$112.1 million, with the Minister identifying additional funds to allow the budget to be increased from \$100 million. The attachment provides a full list of the successful projects.

The Application Guidelines for the Building Better Regional Cities program set out the assessment process. As indicated in those guidelines the Department, in conjunction with an expert panel, made an assessment of applications against the selection criteria.

The guidelines provide that the final decision is that of the Minister and he is to have regard for the efficient, effective, economic and ethical use of public money. The Minister prioritised the funding of projects in areas experiencing the highest socio-economic disadvantage. Further, to distribute the opportunities provided by the program the Minister decided to fund only one project for each successful municipality.

All successful projects met the requirements of the guidelines, which is to bring forward the provision of lots within the area and provide support for low to moderate income earners in being able to either purchase or rent those lots/dwellings.

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Attachment

Regional City	Description of Project	Australian Government investment
New South Wales		
Ballina	Wollongbar – development of Sports Fields	\$4.5 million
Lake Macquarie	Wyee - sewer infrastructure	\$6.3million
Lismore	Lismore - Invercauld/Ballina Road intersection and the Oliver Avenue bridge	\$5 million
Maitland	Central Maitland - realignment and upgrade of Athel D’Ombrain Drive	\$11.3 million
Port Macquarie	Thrumster –Sancrox water reservoir at Cowarra State Forest.	\$3 million
Tamworth	Coledale - redevelopment project including road works, lighting and youth facilities.	\$10.7 million
Tweed Heads	Tweed Heads South –intersection works, parks and trunk works for the Homestead at Fraser Drive	\$8.4 million
Wagga Wagga	Forest Hill - roads, recreational elements and sewer works for Brunslea Park	\$6.3 million
Wollongong	West Dapto – road works to open up Urban Release Area.	\$13.9 million
Wyong	Warnervale Town Centre - Water and sewer infrastructure.	\$4.5 million
Western Australia		
Geraldton	Karloo/Wandina – roads, bridges and underpasses in the City’s south eastern suburbs to enable the release of land	\$9 million
Mandurah	Mandurah (adjacent to the Train Station) - Pedestrian bridge to span Mandurah Road and Railway line	\$5.4 million
Victoria		
Bendigo	Huntly – road construction, park and sewer works for Viewpoint Huntly Development Area.	\$3.9 million
Shepparton	Mooroopna West – flood mitigation, drainage and sewer infrastructure.	\$5.4 million
Warrnambool	Dennington North – redevelopment of Coghlan’s Road.	\$2.5 million
Queensland		

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Hervey Bay	Kawungan – construction of trunk road and intersections.	\$12 million
Total		\$112.1 million