

From: Greg Smith [Greg.Smith@yass.nsw.gov.au]  
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2002 1:51 PM  
To: Cardell, Susan (REPS)  
Subject: Addition Information

Susan

Following is the information firstly that I was not able to provide on the day and secondly additional comments for the committees consideration.

1. Total roads to recovery funding for 2002/03 is \$500,000. Total federal grant funds in the same budget are \$1,785,518 and State funds are \$2,170,290. This represents some 1.9% of total budget of \$20m.

2. i) a suggestion to substantiate some of the costs shifting claims maybe the committee could undertake or recommend that a national audit/review be undertaken of the cost shifting claims. This may further highlight, demonstrate the extent of the issue and possible solutions for better integrated/co-ordinated government service & program delivery. I think there should be some Local Government industry involvement in the audit.

ii) I mentioned reform options without any specifics. Also there is not one option that fits all and there may well be a number of options used to deliver services at a local level. The following are some reform options for Local Government in NSW:

\* Leave political structure in place in small communities and have one delivery agency

\* Regional co-operation for delivery of some services eg Libraries, Weed Control, Waste disposal and still leave Councils in place

\* Regional Councils - have a regional council with a number of community committees - this would substantial decrease the autonomy of local communities and reduce these towns to second class communities. Also loss of community of interest

\* A number of Councils agree to provide a specific service for the member group. For example three Councils come together one provides rate services to all three, one provides waste services to all three and one provides payroll/HR services to all three.

\* An agreement/contract between Local Government (LG) and other tiers of government for LG to provide state & federal services locally.

\* Boundary adjustments - remembering LG boundaries were drawn up in 1919 this would be useful to better define community of interests and catchments.

\* Amalgamations - this would be an option in some cases eg donut Councils or non viable Councils.

I hope this is of use to the committee.

Regards  
Greg Smith