



House of representatives Standing Committee on
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

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Secretary: Bardell

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The Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Economics
Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Please find attached a short summary of examples of cost shifting that the Shire of Tambellup wishes to bring to the attention of the review committee.

Increasingly local governments are required to provide services to its community that had previously been provided by other levels of government. Apart from the added impost there is often no additional funding accompanying the requirement. Having said that Council acknowledges that it in some instances local government is best placed to deliver these services and is prepared to do so provided ALL the costs of the service are met.

If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

JM Trezona
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

In order for small rural communities to receive reliable mobile phone coverage Councils are currently required to make a contribution towards the establishment of CDMA mobile phone base stations.

Local Governments in WA were given to understand that the sale of part of Telstra would see a further 45 base stations established in the South West of WA. The cost of this project would be met equally by funds from the sale of Telstra, the Commonwealth Government and State Government. The state government in WA would be funding their contribution from the sale of Alinta Gas.

As the project progressed, Councils were required to provide contributions of either \$20,000 for the establishment of base stations at "Greenfield" sites or \$10,000 for an "existing" site. These contributions were to meet the costs for the connection of power to the chosen sites which the State Government would/could not fund. Councils that refuse to make the contribution do not have a base station established.

COMMUNITY LAND CARE OFFICERS

The Department of Agriculture has provided Community Land Care Officers in a number of rural Councils. The provision of these officers at the grass roots of their work required local governments to commit to providing such things as office space, a vehicle and accommodation.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HOUSING AUTHORITY

GEHA until recently, have been the provider of housing in our local authority for public servants such as teachers and police officers. The properties owned by GEHA are of a considerable age and in some cases require replacement. No additional houses are being built to meet the requirements and Councils are more and more required to fill the gaps. The placement of these public servants in our towns often hinges on whether or not Councils can provide or source accommodation.

INFILL SEWERAGE

Under a new pilot scheme the Water Corporation will provide a reticulated sewerage scheme in small towns around WA on the proviso that the Council agrees to pay 15% of the capital cost of installing the system. While a number of small towns are suffering from the debilitating effects of a rising water table and salinity, reticulated sewerage schemes are considered to have a marked impact on the fight against this problem. The pilot scheme is aimed at towns of less than 500 people however the communities must contribute 15%.

HEALTH SERVICES

Councils are increasingly playing a greater role in the provision of health services in our communities. Of note is the role that is played in attracting doctors, guaranteeing a certain level of income, provision of housing, cars, consulting rooms etc.

OTHER

- ❖ Delivery of motor vehicle registration, drivers license and gun licensing services for the Department of Transport and Police Department on a commission basis. The commissions fall a long way short of meeting the cost of providing the service.
- ❖ Collection of Building Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF) levy and Builders Registration Board (BRB) levy – again with commissions that do not cover the cost of doing so.
- ❖ Policing of smoking in public restaurants
- ❖ Declarations of Unmet Need
- ❖ The statutory requirement to have a Municipal Inventory and the added impost of reviewing (by consultants) this inventory on a regular basis.
- ❖ Proposed Fire and Emergency Services Levy to be collected and administered by Local Governments in WA.