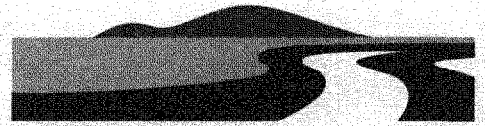


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EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

Good Government, better living

22 May 2003

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

Dear Madam

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INQUIRY INTO COST SHIFTING ON TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Further to our recent conversation, I now attach Eurobodalla Shire Council's submission to the Inquiry in a similar format to that of The City of Newcastle.

I hope this is of benefit to the Inquiry and look forward to receipt of the outcomes as soon as they become available.

Yours faithfully

JAMES F LEVY
General Manager

House of representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration	
Submission No:	394
Date Received:	6/6/03
Secretary:	

Land of many waters

Federal Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government Eurobodalla Shire Council

Issue	Description	Cost
Social Planning	<p>The Local Government Act requires Councils to prepare social or community plans for their Local Government Areas, and have now required preparation of a cultural plan. This requires considerable community consultation, research and report preparation.</p> <p>The reduction of State and Federal Government broad based social planning and service co-ordination capacity as a result of tighter program targeting has increased the pressure on local government to perform this function.</p>	\$55,000 p.a.
Stormwater Management.	<p>All councils in NSW have been required under statutory notice to prepare stormwater management plans for their urban areas. The plan also require identification of the assets, condition assessment and risk ranking</p> <p>Eurobodalla Shire Council has many wetlands or estuaries protected by state instruments or regulations, requiring more robust measures to protect those areas (such as gross pollutant traps or GPT) and improve quality of discharge.</p>	GPT \$60,000 per annum Maintenance \$100,000 pa
State of the Environment Reporting.	All councils are required to prepare annual State of the Environment Reports. The prescriptive nature of this requirement has generated the need for data gathering and mapping across a range of environmental media, the development of data analysis and storage systems, production, printing, community consultations and communication effort and resourcing.	\$17,000 p.a. comprehensive \$20,000 pa supplementary including data collection

Issue	Description	Cost
	However, through a resource sharing initiative with 17 councils and the ACT government, Eurobodalla Shire Council, a comprehensive report is prepared across the region at an annual cost of \$17000 plus the cost of staff time to prepare supplementary reports each year	
Biodiversity.	The extensive raft of biodiversity policy and regulation at a state and national level has created significant resource demands and challenges for local government. This has been amplified by the recognition that biodiversity needs also to be management in a strategic sense at an ecosystem or bioregion level requiring the development of an additional regional management layer. Regulatory and policy reform include the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, NSW and Commonwealth Biodiversity Strategies, amendments to the NSW Fisheries Act, the Vegetation Management Act and accompanying Vegetation Management Committees and the National Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.. Specialist advice, research, data management including GIS mapping, systems development, maintenance and regulation has been engaged to prepare a 'coastal capacity plan, in turn leading to National Parks requirements of council to prepare conservation plans and controls for a range of threatened species..	Share natural resource management (NRM) in Strategic planning at \$20,000 p.a. Biodiversity research and mapping and conservation plans est \$5000 pa
Coastal Management.	Governments forecast that 90% of the nation's population growth over the next 20 years will occur within the coastal zone. Sea level rise as a result of global warming is identifying new challenges in urban and infrastructure planning, natural resource and disaster management. This	Coastal/Estuary Plans/maps at a cost of \$60,000 p.a.

Issue	Description	Cost
	has focused significant planning emphasis on the coast. The NSW Government's Coastal Protection Package (2001) identifies additional demands on local government to provide an integrated and coordinated management framework and response along the NSW coastline.	
Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD).	<p>The national policy on Sustainable Development (1992) and the Local Government (ESD Amendment) Act 1997 have established new objectives and mandated a charter for local government and their communities to consider principles of ESD when undertaking their activities. These requirements have manifested in many ways and have required Council to develop new tools and learning programs and policies to facilitate this process.</p> <p>While recognising this is an important aspect of council business, the statutory imposition has redirected funds to the development of policy, training, work practice, education and reporting requirements</p>	This is incorporated into normal Land use/infrastructure plans and tender documents.
Community Land Management	Under the 1993 Local Government Act a new category of Council land was created with a specific management regime. Community Land requires defined planning, accountability and management processes which are intensive and onerous. Consultation is extensive and expensive	Estimated cost \$55,000 pa Reclassification at an estimated cost of \$20,000

Issue	Description	Cost
Companion Animal Management	<i>Companion Animal Management Plan.</i> Council is now required to have a Companion Animal Management Plan established, placing a resource drain upon Council during the review process as well as ensuring that the operational issues are being monitored and reported to the Advisory Panel.	Current staff costs equal \$10,000 approximately..
	<i>Administration.</i> Additional administrative requirements to input the registration and microchipping and keep the information up to date as placed an increased burden upon the administrative staff	Revenues offset administrative costs with no more admin.
	<i>Rangers</i> now place more emphasis on "Return to Owner" of straying animals. Together with costs of automatic neutering and extending the stay and maintenance of animals in pounds to allow owner recovery (and due process), this has created a larger workload upon Rangers' time	50% additional costs has been added to the Ranger/Pound/Roster budget by \$30,000 p.a.
Sewage Management Regulations 1999	Introduction of approval system requiring ongoing inspection program.	1 officer at \$60,000 p.a. with 3,500 Onsite Sewage Management Systems to inspect
Bush Fire Assessment	All rural Development Applications and Rural subdivisions require assessment for bush fire risk	\$10,000 p.a. which includes assessment and administration
Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and Biodiversity	Support of the South East Catchment Management Board Blueprint and assist National Parks prepare and implement threatened species recovery plans (eg Little Tern)	\$5,000 p.a.

Issue	Description	Cost
Food Regulation 2000	Inspection requirements	Part-time at a cost of \$15,000 p.a.
Waste Management:		
Trade Waste Fees	New trade waste regulations by state government insist on councils inspecting and managing quality of discharge into sewers by business and industry 574 premises x \$64 fee and \$60 inspection fee = \$71K	1.5 staff = \$90,000 p.a.
Issues arising from ICAC, Ombudsman and other State authorities include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demand for accountability and transparency of local government. Requires resourcing for policy drafting, compliance, and compliance monitoring. • Increased demand and statutory obligations (Protected Disclosures Steering Committee, S11 ICAC Act, Protected Disclosures Act), for local government employees to report suspected corrupt behaviour, gross mismanagement and waste of resources. • Increased demand for internal investigations to be performed by the agency rather than by the State Gov't Authority. • Increased demands for local government to deal with risk, especially risk of corruption. ICAC has published 7 guidelines (Waste, contracts, DA's, resources, corruption resistance, fraud, and investigations) already this year. 	Estimated additional staff time to fully comply is 1 officer 6 months full time to catch up with the demand, then 2 day/month on an ongoing basis to deal with new issues. (approx. \$35,000 for 2002/3 and \$5500 pa afterwards).
NSW Fire Brigade Contribution	Increased contribution requirement above rate cap for Fire Brigade and Rural Fire Service	\$100,000 increase v rate cap (increase of \$30k)