



**Australian Government**

**Department of Regional Australia,  
Local Government, Arts and Sport**

**Supplementary  
Submission Number:  
194.1**



**Date Received: 16/02/2013**

**Questions on Notice – Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**

**Public Hearing – Wednesday 16 January 2013 – Sydney**

**Answer QON1:**

The \$195 million East Kimberley Development Package (the Package) was launched in Kununurra on 3 July 2009. The Package had its origins in Economic Stimulus announcement of December 2008 and was developed by the Australian Government in close collaboration with the Western Australian Government. The Package includes key investments across the areas of health, education and training, housing, transport and community infrastructure.

A central element of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (2009)* is National Partnership Agreements, which are a mechanism to drive reforms or improve service delivery standards. The National Partnership Agreement on the East Kimberley Development Package was signed by the Australian and Western Australian Governments to enable 21 of the 29 projects to be directly implemented by the Western Australian Government.

The remaining 8 projects are delivered through the Department with Funding Agreements, as they are payments either to the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and private providers (Waringarri Arts Aboriginal Corporation and Warmun Community Incorporated).

**Answer QON2:**

To date the Government has engaged with states by setting up the Expert Panel through which written submissions were made by the states. The Chair of the Expert Panel, James Spigelman AC QC, engaged state local government Ministers at the Local Government Minister's forum on 16 November 2011. The Commonwealth and states have had subsequent discussions on the issue at officials' level.

In November 2012, the Government also established the JSC to inquire further into the issue and states were given an opportunity to provide a submission and attend a public hearing on 16 January 2013. Western Australia is the only state to have provided a written submission. South Australia was the sole state to attend the public hearing. In addition the Government has provided the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) with \$250,000 to assist with its campaign to raise awareness within communities of the need for constitutional recognition of local government.