

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Question: 22

Topic: ACLG

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 43

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Senator JOYCE: The next two questions are about the national assessment framework. I might put them on notice. What will the government do if the assessment finds that a council or group of councils is falling behind? When will the questionnaire be made public? That must be part of the assessment framework. What is the future of the Australian Council for Local Government?

Answer:

The National Assessment Framework (NAF) project will identify the progress of councils in implementing improved asset management and financial planning. This initiative, which will include training tools for councils, will support their ongoing resilience and sustainability. The project is being managed by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government with financial support from the Local Government Reform Fund. A key aspect of the project is to gather nationally consistent data from councils. The design of the questionnaire has not been finalised.

When the NAF project has been completed, it will enable all spheres of government to assess the extent to which councils have been able to implement reform measures and what, if any, further action needs to occur.

Minister Crean chaired a meeting with the Australian Council of Local Government Steering Committee on 21 June 2011 to discuss measures to support the Australian Government's engagement with local government.