

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS**

**PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO**

**Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Outcome: 1**

**Topic: Mersey Aquatic Centre**

**Senator: COLBECK**

**Question reference number: 85**

**Type of question: Written, Tuesday 19 October 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

- a) During the election, the Government committed funds to the Mersey Aquatic Centre? From which program will this be funded?
- b) What 'total project figure' does the Department have recorded for the project, that is, what contributions will be made by other parties?
- c) What is the total commitment of Commonwealth funds to the project and to which financial years will this money be allocated for Budget purposes?
- d) Had any previous submission for funding for a Devonport Aquatic Centre upgrade project been rejected by any Commonwealth Department, and if so, which Departments and on what grounds was the submission rejected?
- e) Was the funding committed for the project in July 2010 the result of any new funding application from the Devonport City Council or any other proponent?
- f) What meetings/communication has the Department had with the Devonport City Council or the Tasmanian Government about this project since the election? When? With who? Where?
- g) What timeline has been agreed to, if any, for the completion of the project?

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**Answer:**

- a) The Mersey Aquatic Centre project will be funded from the Community Infrastructure Grants of \$165 million announced in the 2010-2011 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.
- b) The Department understands that the total cost of the project is estimated at \$12 million, the Tasmanian Government will contribute \$5 million and Devonport City Council will contribute \$2 million.
- c) The Government has committed \$5 million to the project. The funding profile across financial years is yet to be determined.
- d) Yes. An application was received from the Devonport City Council for the Mersey Aquatic Centre through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. The application was unsuccessful as the Council failed to provide all documentation required as part of their application.

- e) No.
- f) The Department has not had any communication with the Devonport City Council or the Tasmanian Government about the project. Following the confirmation of funding in the Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook for Community Infrastructure Grants for election commitments, the Department has commenced contacting proponents of election commitments to advise of the implementation process.
- g) Commencement and completion dates are yet to be determined.