

**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: Local Government projects**

**Senator: MACDONALD**

**Question reference number: 87**

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

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

Is the Department aware of any project slippages, cost overruns and project delivery in regard to local government projects funded by the Commonwealth?

**Number of pages: 1**

**Answer:**

Yes. The Department monitors projects through information from local governments reported through Progress Reports, Final Reports, emails and calls to the Information Line.

The Progress and Final Reports are periodic reports provided by councils as often as required in the Funding Agreement that allow local governments to identify alert the Department to delivery, time and financial issues. Local governments may also report these issues, or any others, via email or over the phone at any time.

As projects progress, councils may need to make an amendment to the milestone content or timing, for instance, in order to better suit construction schedules or to accommodate delays due to unseasonal weather. In such cases the council advises the Department of the delay and requests a variation be made to the corresponding milestone. Cost overruns are met by the proponents, unless a variation is negotiated with the Commonwealth.