

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 28

Topic: Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. The Government has given its commitment to holding a referendum on constitutional recognition of local government before or at the time of the next election. When will the Government be responding to the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition's final report released last year?
2. The Government has said that it would respond in early 2012. What is the Government's response?
3. Is the Government supportive of a national campaign for constitutional recognition of local government?

Answer:

1. The Government will release its response after due consideration of the Expert Panel's Final Report and any other relevant issues.
2. See 1.
3. The Government will consider this as part of its response.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 29

Topic: Review of Financial Assistance Grants

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. A review of Financial Assistance Grants was announced in the 2011-12 Federal Budget. Can you provide an update on when the terms of reference for this review will be released?
2. When will this review commence and how will it be conducted?
3. Will local government be involved in determining the scope of the review?
4. Will issues of the quantum of funding be included in the review?
5. Will state distributions and council distributions form part of the review?

Answer:

1. The Financial Assistance Grants Review is scheduled for completion in 2012-13. The terms of reference and arrangements for the Review are under consideration by the Minister.
2. See 1.
3. At the Local Government Ministers' Forum in December 2011, the Minister agreed to consult with the States and Territories and the Australian Local Government Association.
4. See 1.
5. See 1.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 30

Topic: Review into Local Government Infrastructure Finance

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. Who is undertaking the review into local government infrastructure finance?
2. What is the cost of the review?
3. How is the review progressing and when is it due to report?

Answer:

1. The review into local government infrastructure finance is being conducted by Ernst & Young.
2. The cost of the review is \$161,270 (including GST) plus travel.
3. The review is on schedule. Ernst & Young is due to provide a report to the Government in the first half of 2012.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Additional Estimates 13 - 16 February 2012

Question: 31

Topic: Australian Council of Local Government

Asked By: Senator JOYCE

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

1. What is the future of the Australian Council of Local Government?
2. Will the Australian Council of Local Government meet again?

Answer:

1. The Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) Steering Committee met last year and agreed that the Steering Committee, together with a range of ALGA and other local government fora, provided an effective mechanism for the Commonwealth and local government sectors to engage on issues of mutual interest.
2. We anticipate that the Steering Committee will continue to meet at least once a year.