



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Minister for Local Government

Jeanette Powell
18 May 2012

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Local Government Key Statistics

Local government is a complex and diverse sector:

- 79 municipalities – 48 rural & regional, 9 interface and 22 metropolitan
- Populations range from 3,300 to more than 261,000
- Annual revenue of \$7.1 billion (as at June 2011)
- Responsible for \$66.6 billion in assets (as at June 2011)
- Each municipality manages significantly different budgets:
 - Rural council budgets average \$50M (smallest is approx \$7M)
 - Metropolitan council budgets average \$137M (largest is approx \$471M)
- Governed by 620 elected councillors and 3 administrators (Brimbank)
- Employs 44,300 people

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Key Achievements 2011-12

Electoral Changes

Timing of Council Elections

- Bill passed Parliament in September 2011 moving local government elections from November to October

Melbourne City Council

- Legislation passed in December 2011 allowing the Council's electoral structure to be reviewed independently by the Victorian Electoral Commission

Electoral Representation Reviews

- 28 councils have undergone independent electoral representation reviews by the Victorian Electoral Commission

Direct Election of Mayor at Greater Geelong City Council

- Bill passed Parliament in February 2012 providing for the direct election of the Mayor of Greater Geelong City Council

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Key Achievements 2011-12

Ministerial Mayors Advisory Panel

- Initial Panel established in October 2011
- 2012 Panel established and first meeting held in March 2012

Flood and Bushfire Recovery Programs

- Continued support for Murrindindi Shire in rebuilding its capacity following the Black Saturday bushfires
- Funding for *Vulnerable People in Emergencies Program* – will be delivered in conjunction with the *Municipal Fire and Emergency Management Resourcing Program*

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Key Achievements 2011-12

National Local Government Reform Fund

- Successful delivery of a program to support local governments in their adoption of the national frameworks for Asset Management and Financial Sustainability

State Local Government Reform Fund

- Delivery of three reform programs in partnership with councils covering Procurement, Best Value and Internal Audit.
- Delivery of a research program promoting better integration between asset management and financial planning

Support for Regional Victoria

- Country Roads and Bridges, Local Government Infrastructure and Putting Locals First Funds

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Key Achievements 2011-12

Improvements to Library Services

Library Services Review – *Tomorrow's Library*

- Bipartisan Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries is considering a range of issues that impact the delivery of library services

Public Libraries Capital Works Program

- \$17.2M program over 4 years to assist councils and regional libraries in enhancing public library infrastructure
- In the first round 10 projects were funded

Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund

- \$1M provided to councils and regional libraries to purchase books encouraging young people to read more and participate in the Premiers' Reading Challenge

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Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate Key Achievements 2011

- Completed 78 Investigations for breaches of Local Government Act
- Successfully prosecuted 7 cases for criminal offences
- 12 Investigations resulted in recommendations to councils improve practices
- Conducted 27 compliance audits of selected councils
- 101 recommendations emanating from audits to improve compliance and practices

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Emerging Issues/Priorities for 2012-13

Initiative	Description
Performance Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a mandatory performance reporting framework for councils
Victorian State - Local Government Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renegotiation of the Agreement
Public Library Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional \$3.1M provided in 2012-13 and 2013-14

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Emerging Issues/Priorities for 2012-13

Initiative	Description
Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries - Review	Late 2012 – completion of Stage 1, focussing on the future needs of libraries Early 2013 – commencement of Stage 2, focussing on funding arrangements
Councillor Conduct	Reforms to address the issue of councils' costs in enforcing their codes of conduct.
Roadside Weeds and Pests Management	Funding to support the management of invasive weeds and established pest animals on municipal roads

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