



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into Local Government funding and services

Hearing Date: 25 September 2024

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Received Date: 29 October 2024

1. The ACTING CHAIR (Evan MULHOLLAND), Page 3

Question asked:

The ACTING CHAIR (Evan MULHOLLAND): Thank you so much for that introduction. I will just start off with a couple of questions and then go to my colleagues. Has your council recently been advised of a new immunisation charge from the state government?

John BAKER: I am not aware of a new immunisation charge. That is not to say that we are not aware of it, but I am not personally aware of that. I will take that question on notice.

Response:

There are no new charges for immunisation services, I assume this question related to the announcement by the State proposing to introduce a charge to Councils for using the Central Immunisation Register Victoria (CIRV) system. The State has consistently stated that the platform that records vaccine histories, bookings, consent and stock would always be free.

Whilst this has been a concern for the sector and may impact other Councils / communities MPS (and others) had already commenced investigating transferring to VaxApp – noting it is a much better system, reduces administrative processes, has significantly improved functionality and is cheaper than CIRV.

This will not impact MPS community and will be covered by existing operating budget. Sector advocacy on this matter has been led through MAV. The State have since noted they are reviewing the decision.

2. The ACTING CHAIR (Evan MULHOLLAND), Pages 3 & 4

Question asked:

John BAKER: There are maternal and child health services, with costs estimated there of about \$1.5 million over the next five years of cost shifting.

Bev McARTHUR: What percentage is state and you?

John BAKER: For maternal and child health, I do not have the exact percentage in our report.

The ACTING CHAIR: Take it on notice if you like.

John BAKER: We will take that on notice and get back to you

Response: *MPS MCH services - MCH – Universal services are currently a 35:65 split (65% Council funded).*

3. David DAVIS, Page 9

Question asked:

David DAVIS: Then I am interested in energy costs and your energy costs over time. Over the last five to 10 years what has happened with your total energy costs? Do you have a time series on those?

John BAKER: Okay. Thank you. Maybe my colleague can look at the energy costs associated with that on the spreadsheet while I am answering that.

David DAVIS: You may not be able to give me that now. I understand that.

John BAKER: We might take it on notice.

Response:

4. David DAVIS, Page 10

Question asked:

David DAVIS: The previous country roads and bridges program – I do not know whether you are familiar with that.

John BAKER: Yes.

David DAVIS: Was that a good program for the peninsula?

John BAKER: We accessed some elements of that. They actually changed the area so that we were no longer eligible for some aspects of that, if it is the grant that I am thinking of.

David DAVIS: Is this the federal one?

John BAKER: The federal one, yes.

David DAVIS: No, I am thinking of the earlier state one.

John BAKER: I am not across that. I will take that on notice, though, if you want to understand the impact of the change.

Response:

The Victorian Government-funded Country Road & Bridges Program (Fixing Country Roads) announced in 2018 was only available to Rural and Regional Councils, therefore not accessible for Mornington Peninsula Shire.