



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Minister for Local Government

Hon Jeanette Powell MP
18 May 2011

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Key Achievements & Emerging Priorities

Election Commitments

Ministerial Mayors Advisory Panel

- Establishment of a panel to provide high level advice on issues impacting local government

Direct Election of Mayor: Greater Geelong City Council

- Consultation completed
- Submissions closed 16 May 2011

Timing of Local Government Elections

- From 2012, elections will be brought forward from late November to October.

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Key Achievements & Emerging Priorities

Budget Decisions

Green Light Plan

- Also an Election Commitment \$20M over 4 years for the upgrade of energy intensive mercury vapour streetlamps to energy efficient lighting

Public Libraries – Capital Grants Program

- \$17.2M over 4 years in funding to build new libraries, refurbish and modernise existing libraries and replace or refurbish mobile libraries
- Regional Library projects are also eligible under the \$100M Local Government Infrastructure Fund

Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund

- \$4.5M over 4 years to public libraries to purchase books encouraging young people to read more

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Key Achievements & Emerging Priorities

Disaster Recovery

Flood Recovery

- \$5M Local Government Clean Up Fund to assist flood affected Councils

Bushfire Recovery

- Continuing support to bushfire affected Councils including management of the Murrindindi Shire Assistance Package
- Funding to build additional Emergency Management Capacity in Councils and the MAV

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Key Achievements & Emerging Priorities

Government Relations

Victorian State-Local Government Agreement

- The Victorian State-Local Government Agreement will be reviewed along with development of the Local Government Ministerial Mayors Advisory Panel

Local Government Performance Reporting

- Essential Services Commission pilot services report & streamlining review

VCEC Inquiry into Streamlining Local Government Regulation

- Government's response to the recommendations will focus on streamlining local government regulation and support best practice administration by councils

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Key Achievements & Emerging Priorities

Government Relations

Sustainability & Asset Management

- Build organisational and financial capacity through further integration of strategic Asset Management principles

Capacity Building

- Focus on building local skills and expertise

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Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate

Key Achievements

- Investigated allegations of breaches of Local Government Act
- Delivered proactive compliance audit program of local councils
- Promoted accountability and transparency in local government
- Provided specific recommendations for councils to improve governance arrangements

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