

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - RECYCLING FACILITIES

4997. Hon Nigel Hallett to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for the Environment
- (1) How many Shire recycling facilities have been closed in rural and regional Western Australia in -
- (a) 2001-2002;
 - (b) 2002-03;
 - (c) 2003-04;
 - (d) 2004-05;
 - (e) 2005-06; and
 - (f) 2006-07?
- (2) How much funding has gone to local Government for recycling in the years -
- (a) 2001-02;
 - (b) 2002-03;
 - (c) 2003-04;
 - (d) 2004-05;
 - (e) 2005-06; and
 - (f) 2006-07?

Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:

1. The Department of Environment and Conservation does not keep records on the number of recycling facilities which have closed in rural and regional Western Australia. However, data from the Resource Recovery Rebates Scheme suggest that very few have closed. Over the life of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme since 1998, which was a scheme established to reward local government recycling efforts, claims for recycling rebate payments have consistently been received from the same councils, with between 71 and 76 claims submitted in each period. As this number includes some rural and regional councils, this suggests that it is unlikely that many recycling facilities have closed.
2. The following table outlines the amount of grants and rebate payments awarded to local governments for recycling in the years requested:

Year	Rebates	Data payments	Grants	Total
2001/02	\$2,329,775		\$514,165	\$2,843,940
2002/03	\$2,484,188			\$2,484,188
2003/04	\$2,589,418		\$899,425	\$3,488,843
2004/05	\$2,555,026		\$9,450	\$2,564,476
2005/06	\$1,401,395		\$62,500	\$1,463,895
2006/07		\$64,000	\$17,500	\$81,500
Total				\$12,926,833

The Hon Member will note that rebate payments ceased in 2006/07. This is because the rebate scheme is in the process of being replaced with a new scheme which will award local governments with funding totalling about \$3.1 million for the development of Zero Waste Plans. This will establish a strategic framework for local governments to improve waste management and recycling. Once local governments have Zero Waste Plans they will be able to apply for funding under the Government's new waste management assistance schemes.