

LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM — RECIPIENT ORGANISATIONS —  
ACQUITTAL PROCESS

1271. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) I seek details concerning the acquittal process, including the information provided by recipient organisations regarding the funding they received via that portion of the Local Projects Local Jobs (LPLJ) scheme administered by the department, in particular I ask:
  - (a) was there a standard form provided to all recipient organisations to acquit the LPLJ revenue they received against their expenditure;
  - (b) what standard documents were each recipient organisation obliged to provide the department prior to/after LPLJ funds were released;
  - (c) by when was this information required by the department;
  - (d) did the department undertake any audits to confirm the accuracy of acquittal documentation submitted by recipient organisations;
  - (e) did any organisation's project expenditure deviate from the purpose for which the grant was provided, or from the amount provided by the department by an amount of five percent or more (in either direction);
  - (f) if yes to (e), what are the details; and
  - (g) whenever there was concerns arising from the acquittal information submitted by a recipient, how were concerns followed up, and what was the outcome?
- (2) Will the Minister please identify the project, recipient organisation and associated funding for acquittals that are/were:
  - (a) thirty to forty four days overdue;
  - (b) forty five to fifty nine days overdue;
  - (c) sixty to eighty nine days overdue; and
  - (d) over ninety days overdue?
- (3) Are any acquittals presently outstanding and, if so, which project and organisation is involved?

**Hon Alannah MacTiernan replied:**

- (1)
  - (a) Yes.
  - (b) Prior to funds being released to grant recipients, a signed grant agreement was required to be in place. After project completion, grant recipients were required to provide evidence of appropriate expenditure of funds (for example through photographs of the project, itemised tax receipts etc) to authenticate that the funds had been spent in the manner required for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to formally acquit the project.
  - (c) The grant agreement requires projects to be acquitted within 60 days of project completion.
  - (d) Standard small grants administration processes were followed to ensure that appropriate documentation was received that would provide for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to agree to a final acquittal.
  - (e) None, as at 30 May 2018.
  - (f) Not Applicable
  - (g) The standard small grants administration process was used to ensure that final acquittal only occurred following sufficient evidence (including photographs, receipts etc) provided of appropriate expenditure of grant money. This includes the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development seeking additional information if required.
- (2)–(3) [See tabled paper no 1529.]