

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATIONS — DEMAND NOTICES

1. 774. Hon MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM to the minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the *Farm Weekly* article of 14 June 2012 titled “State wants shire merger money back”.

- (1) From what budget line item and from what financial year were the funds to the three local government authorities sourced, and what was the total allocation of funds?
- (2) In response to its demand notices, has the Department of Local Government received the money from the LGAs named in the article; and, if so, how much was demanded and how much has been returned from each shire?
- (3) Has the Department of Local Government issued demand notices to any other LGAs where funding was provided and no amalgamation occurred?
- (4) If yes to (3) —
 - (a) what are the names of those LGAs;
 - (b) when were the demand notices issued;
 - (c) how much money was demanded from each LGA; and
 - (d) how much money was received from each LGA?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The budget line item was “Grants and Subsidies”, made up of the following components: “Financial Support to Local Governments”; and “Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund in 2010–11”. Four grants were provided to the Mt Marshall, Trayning, Koorda Regional Transition Group, and the total allocation of funds was \$380 500.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)
 - (a) The Shire of Carnamah, representing the Carnamah and Coorow Amalgamation Group; Subiaco–Nedlands Regional Transition Group, comprising the City of Subiaco and the City of Nedlands; and the Yilgarn–Westonia Amalgamation Group, comprising the Shire of Yilgarn and the Shire of Westonia.
 - (b) Letters requesting a return of unspent funds were sent to the Shire of Carnamah on 1 November 2010; to the City of Subiaco, representing the regional transition group, on 3 August 2011; and to the Shire of Yilgarn, representing the Yilgarn–Westonia Amalgamation Group, on 12 July 2012.
 - (c) Unspent funds requested were as follows—Shire of Carnamah, \$12 943.50; City of Subiaco, \$129,816; and Shire of Yilgarn, \$296 093.
 - (d) Funds received were as follows—Shire of Carnamah, \$12 943.50; City of Subiaco, \$129 816; and Shire of Yilgarn, \$296 093.