

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM — GRANTS ALLOCATION

8268. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister for Local Government

- (a) In relation to grants to local government bodies in connection with the issue of local government reform: which local government bodies received a grant to compensate them for asset management, long-term financial planning and strategic planning undertaken for structural reform and capacity building;
- (b) was it a requirement for local government bodies to apply for one or more of the grants to help defray the costs of preparing submissions;
- (c) what criteria was used to decide which local government bodies should receive a grant; and
- (d) of those which missed out on a grant, was it because they:
 - (i) did not apply for a grant;
 - (ii) did not join a regional transitional group;
 - (iii) decided not to proceed with amalgamation; or
 - (iv) for some other reason?

Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:

- (a) Please see Legislative Assembly Estimates Committee B Supplementary Information No 33.
- (b) No
- (c) Eligibility to receive funding was determined by local government preparedness to progress reform through:
 - direct amalgamation;
 - forming a Regional Transition Group to examine the feasibility of amalgamation;
 - forming a Regional Collaborative Group to deliver joint services; or
 - expressing the wish to reform, however, impeded by neighbouring local governments opposed to reform.
- (d) (i)–(iv) There was no application process. Grants were offered if a local government was eligible as described in (c).