

Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 17/06/2009 Output: 1.0 - Local Government
Sub Output: 1.1 - Local Government
Subject: Local Government - IT system - failure - number of officers affected

From: Mr Willem Westra van Holthe to Hon Robert Knight
Department of Local Government and Housing

Question: **6-4**
Minister, can you tell me please, after 1 July 2008, how many shire staff did not receive their fortnightly pays on time due to the failure of the shire IT system?

Answer:
Answered On:
Answer:

There was no failure of the shire payroll system after 1 July 2008.

The Department of Local Government and Housing was aware that some shire councils had difficulty in collecting and entering into the payroll system, accurate personal information for all of their staff prior to the first pay day after 1 July 2008. Consequently, some shire employees either did not receive their pay on time or were not paid the correct amount.

In almost all cases, the shire councils had to collect the personal information required for the payroll system from the employees as the records from the previous community councils were in so many different forms, systems and locations that it was impossible to collect and reconcile them.

Preparation for the initial payroll runs was also complicated by the late decision of the Australian Government to have Community Development Employment Project programs operated by the new shire councils. Across all shire councils, this added an additional 4,000 people to the payroll.

The Department of Local Government and Housing does not own information regarding any payments made by shire councils, including payroll payments, and details of the number of staff affected can only be obtained from each shire council.