

Estimates Committee 2004 Questions Taken On Notice

(22/06/2004 to 01/10/2004)

Date: 23/06/2004 Output: 1 Local Government and Regional Development
Sub Output: 1.1 Local Government
Subject: Tiwi Islands Local Government Council

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Mr John AH KIT
Minister for Local Government

Question: **6-1**
Minister, could you say how much money each year, since your government was elected, has your government spent on the Tiwi Islands Local Government Council as distinct from money from the Grants Commission?

Could you give also a break down of the Grants Commission figures for the Tiwi Islands over that same period?

Minister, could you say what was the total budget for the TILGC in this financial year?

In the last financial year of independent councils on Bathurst and Melville Islands, what was the total budget for all of them put together?

Could you say how many non-Tiwi persons were employed on the Tiwi Islands in local government in 2000-01 financial year? Could you also say how much that amounted to in wages and salary packages?

How many non-Tiwi persons are employed in local government now?

Could you also say how much that amounts to in wages and salary packages?

How many Tiwi people were employed in management positions in 2000-01 and how many people are now employed?

What evaluation has been done of the financial benefits of amalgamation of the Tiwi Island councils?

What evaluation and comparison has been done of residents' democratic rights between the old system and the new system?

Answer:
Answered On: 24/06/2004

Answer:

(a) The majority of funds provided to the Tiwi Islands Local Government have been provided in accordance with the funding distribution methodology that applies for all councils. Details of funds provided are:

Sub-Program	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	TOTAL
Capacity Building	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Capital	\$134,633	\$131,490	\$266,123	
Dump	\$37,258	\$37,150	\$37,665	\$112,079
Inf. Maint.	\$129,039	\$129,039		
NT Operational	\$1,146,282	\$1,324,887	\$1,408,429	\$3,879,598
Special Purpose	\$50,000	\$84,000	\$134,000	
Total	\$4,540,839			

(b) Funds provided pursuant to the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act and distributed on the recommendation of the NT Grants Commission are:

	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	TOTAL
FAA	\$263,565	\$378,387	\$433,015	\$1,074,867
Roads	\$387,684	\$578,176	\$592,117	\$1,557,977
Total	\$2,632,844			

(c) The total budget for TILG in 2003/2004 is \$18.6M.

Of this amount \$2.0M is own sourced revenue generated largely from service charges.

(d) The actual expenditure for all councils in their last year of operation was \$16.8M.

It is noted that Nguiu Council, which was the largest of the three councils that came together, was unable to produce a budget in its last year of operation and, thus, the figure above is of actual expenditure rather than budget.

(e) This is information that is not routinely collected by the Department. It is information that should be properly obtained from the Tiwi Islands Local Government. All Northern Territory councils incorporated pursuant to the Local Government Act have general competence powers. They are accountable through a variety of means including by the requirement to publish annual reports that must contain financial data.

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(h) No evaluation has been carried out on the financial benefits of the amalgamation.

(i) The Tiwi Islands Local Government operates under a constitution developed with the Tiwi and within the parameters established by the Local Government Act.

Should there be a desire for change to the system of representation a facility exists under the Local Government Act for the review of any constitution. Such a process can be commenced either by a group of 10 residents or the council.