

WRITTEN QUESTION – No. 207

MR WESTRA VAN HOLTHE TO THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Shire Council Payments

1. What is the Territory Government payment to each shire in the financial year 2010/11?
2. For each shire what portion of these payments are grants?
3. What portion of these payments are charges? Please detail what these charges are?
4. What portion of these payments are in the form of rates for NT government property?
5. What other payments are made and at what amount?

The questions ask for details of payments by the Territory Government to shires in 2010-11. The answers provided relate to payments made by my Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services. Payments to councils by other Agencies are subject to variation through the year in line with the specific Agency programs, grant application processes and service level agreements.

The attached table shows DHLGRS grant payments (excluding those Special Purpose and Closing the Gap grants that will be assessed in March-April 2011) and rates and charges paid, or to be paid, to each shire council by DHLGRS in 2010-11.

Question 1: What is the Territory Government payment to each shire in the financial year 2010-11?

Answer: Payments by DHLGRS as described above total \$55,679,326. The payments range between \$176,212 to the Wagait Shire Council and \$8.6M to both the Victoria Daly Shire Council and the East Arnhem Shire Council.

Question 2: For each shire, what proportion of these payments are grants?

Answer: The grant-proportion of these payments is shown for each council in the attached table. The proportion ranges between 80.9 per cent for the Belyuen Shire Council and 100 per cent for the Wagait and Coomalie councils. For the eight larger, regional shire councils the proportion varies between 87.5 per cent for the Tiwi Island Shire Council and 95.6 per cent for the Roper Gulf Shire Council.

Question 3: What proportion of these payments are charges? Please detail what those charges are.

Answer: The charges-proportion of these payments is shown for each council in the attached table. The proportion ranges between zero

per cent for the Coomalie and Wagait Councils and 9.5 per cent for the Belyuen shire council. For the eight larger, regional shire councils the proportion varies between 0.9 per cent for the Roper Gulf Shire Council and 5.2 per cent for the Tiwi Islands Shire Council.

There are only two local government charges levied – waste management charges and an environmental charge. The latter charge is levied by only two councils: Belyuen and Tiwi Islands Shire councils. The environmental charges total \$40,200 per annum, and the remainder are for waste management.

Question 4: What proportion of these payments are in the form of rates for Northern Territory Government property?

Answer: The rates-proportion of these payments is shown for each council in the attached table. The proportion ranges between zero per cent for the Coomalie and Wagait councils and 9.55 per cent for the Belyuen shire council. For the eight larger, regional shire councils the proportion varies between 3.5 per cent for the Victoria Daly Shire Council and 7.2 per cent for the Tiwi Islands Shire Council.

Question 5: What other payments are made and at what amount?

Other DHLGRS payments include payments for contracted services, such as housing tenancy and property management services and housing maintenance services. These payments are expected to total \$36,596,791 for 2010-11. This figure is indicative only as councils invoice the Northern Territory Government for works as they are approved.

Shire Council	QUESTION 1 \$	QUESTION 2 %	QUESTION 3 %	QUESTION 4 %
Barkly Shire Council	6 491 290	93.05	2.15	4.80
Central Desert Shire Council	6 549 721	94.04	1.19	4.77
East Arnhem Shire Council	8 638 838	94.00	1.19	4.81
MacDonnell Shire Council	7 898 899	94.11	1.18	4.71
Roper Gulf Shire Council	7 613 577	95.61	0.90	3.48
Tiwi Islands Shire Council	3 825 822	87.53	5.23	7.24
Victoria Daly Shire Council	8 607 093	93.68	2.80	3.52
West Arnhem Shire Council	4 812 499	93.32	1.34	5.34
Belyuen Shire Council	228 811	80.92	9.53	9.55
Wagait Shire Council	176 212	100.00	0.00	0.00
Coomalie Community Government Council	836 564	100.00	0.00	0.00
Total	55 679 326			