

LOCAL PROJECTS, LOCAL JOBS PROGRAM — FUNDING

393. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* funding program, and ask:

- (a) (a) which Minister is responsible for administering the \$39 million program and what do those responsibilities include;
- (b) (b) is this the same Minister who accepts responsibility for ensuring that the use of public funds to support the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* complies with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and other relevant legislation safeguarding the proper use of public funds;
- (c) (c) noting the financial value of the program, when were community groups advised of their ability to apply for funding through the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* program;
- (d) (d) how many groups applied for funding and how did they apply;
- (e) (e) what uniform objective criteria has been applied to assess the merits of individual projects seeking funding through the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* program;
- (f) (f) can Ministers provide information concerning how each of the 750 projects funded, or promised funding, through the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* program was evaluated or will be evaluated against the criteria referred to at (e) above;
- (g) (g) in relation to (e) and (f) above, which organisations have already received funding and for what purpose;
- (h) (h) if there is no uniform objective criteria governing the administration of the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* program, how and by who are decisions made to allocate funding and funding amounts; and
- (i) (i) how is the success of projects funded through this program proposed to be evaluated?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a) The Premier appointed Mr John Carey MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier to oversee the *Local Projects, Local Jobs* program. Mr Carey has liaised closely with all relevant local members to clarify the detail of each commitment.
- (b) All agencies responsible for delivering *Local Projects, Local Jobs* grants are doing so in accordance with agency specific processes and requirements, including acquittal reporting.
- (c)–(f) These were election commitments promised to community organisations in the lead up to the March 2017 State election.
- (g) As at 30 September 2017, of the 855 individual grants (some commitments involve a number of recipient organisations) 646 had received funding.
- (h) Please see (c)–(f). All commitments were approved through the Expenditure Review Committee and Cabinet processes.
- (i) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is monitoring the delivery of grants, including when projects are complete and appropriate acquittal information received.