



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024** **Answers to Questions on Notice**

Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service

**Local Government**

Hearing: Friday 10 November 2023

**Answers due by:** Thursday 7 December 2023

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## Pages 8 - 9

### Sydney Dogs and Cats home

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. I'm just wondering why the work has not commenced now that the funding has actually been given to NSW Public Works to deliver it.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** I would have to ask Mr Whitworth that if you don't mind, Chair.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** We actually have provided the first set of funding to enable the electricity to be connected to the site, so I would believe that we've actually commenced work.

**The CHAIR:** My understanding is that the original project schedule was that they would have the new shelter constructed by the end of 2024, but, with a whole lot of delays, it now looks like it will be as late as June 2025. My understanding is that the next step that they're waiting for is a memorandum of understanding and the terms of reference for the project governance to be provided from the Office of Local Government, but it has not being forthcoming for several months, and that's actually holding up the work. Are you aware of this, Minister?

**Mr RON HOENIG:** No, but I will take that on notice and get back to you, because I am anxious for that facility to be built as soon as possible, as efficient as possible.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I can assist, Ms Hurst, if that helps. Firstly, I don't agree with the proposition that it will be completed by the middle of 2025. We are working to ensure that we can have the facility built. I have seen figures that say February/March 2025, and I also have, in conversations with Sydney Dogs and Cats, discussed with them time frames, and they were concerned about the extent of work.

**The CHAIR:** I might come back to you this afternoon for some of that level of detail.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Certainly. I just wanted to correct the record on that matter.

**The CHAIR:** I just wanted to understand why the memorandum of understanding and the terms of reference have been sitting with the Office of Local Government for months.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Certainly. We have sent them information. I'm happy to go into this this afternoon, but we sent them information about the project control group, and it's in the throes of next week that they'll get the MOU.

### ANSWER:

The answer was provided during the hearing, on page 9 of the transcript.

## Page 10

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. Obviously, it is up to the Government whether they put it under POCTAA or the Companion Animals Act. The Companion Animals Act is only under your portfolio; it's not under Minister Moriarty, I believe. There are a lot of concerns from councils. Murray River Council, for example, has had a 500 per cent increase in development applications for puppy farms since puppy farming was made illegal in Victoria. Have you spoken to any of the councils on the border of New South Wales who are really struggling with this?

**Mr RON HOENIG:** No, I haven't. The only thing that springs to mind with Murray River is the councillor squabble and codes of conduct issues that are taking place down there. But, no, I haven't spoken to them and it's certainly not something that has been raised with me by the local member, who speaks to me often about a variety of local government issues.

**The CHAIR:** One thing that was suggested by a lot of councils last year, and it also came up a lot in the puppy farm inquiry that we did, was that councils actually don't have the power to refuse a development application on concerns around animal welfare. They would be inundated with community objections to a development application for a puppy farm, but they didn't actually have the ability to refuse it. Is that something that you would be open to looking into or meeting with some of those councils?

**Mr RON HOENIG:** As far as development applications are concerned, you should generally direct those to the Hon. Paul Scully. He is the Minister for planning. My recollection, though, of what used to be section 79 (c) of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act—I don't know what section it is now. Do you know, offhand?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** No, I would have to take that on notice.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** The equivalent of what was section—because, for some reason, the former Government changed all the numbers. Now I don't even know what the numbers are anymore. But I think you'll find that under the heads of consideration for development applications, you could pretty well argue—I mean, as a public interest provision there, you could pretty well fashion a refusal of a development application providing you had the ample material on puppy farms to justify a refusal, I would have thought. It is worthwhile having a look anyway, Chair.

## ANSWER:

The answer was provided during the hearing by Kiersten Fishburn, on page 17 of the transcript.

**The CHAIR:** I want to ask about breed assessors under the Companion Animals Act. According to the guidelines, to be a breed assessor you just need to be an ANKC breeder or judge—that's a kennel club breeder or judge. Many welfare experts say that it's impossible to determine what a breed of dog is simply by looking at them, especially when we've got a dog that's a mixed breed. Why are we relying on people who judge dog shows to determine whether a dog, effectively, lives or dies?

**Mr RON HOENIG:** I can't answer that. Can you answer that, Mr Whitworth?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I don't necessarily agree with that characterisation. The advice that I have is breed assessors are regulated and trained by Dogs NSW and that they use a guideline for breed assessors that is available on the Office of Local Government website. There's a training course for breed assessors, and the criteria—I'm happy to read this out if you want. The criteria is that people becoming a breed assessor should be—there is an abbreviation here:

an ANKC All Breeds Judge, having judged the Terrier Group for 2 years, or

be an ANKC Terrier Specialist Judge, or

be an ANKC Group Judge for a minimum of 2 years, or

have owned ANKC registered American Staffordshire Terriers or Staffordshire Terriers or Bull Terriers for a minimum of

5 years and have bred a minimum of 3 registered litters ...

The applicants also need to demonstrate—

**The CHAIR:** Can I just interrupt. This that I have, Companion Animals Act 1988 and Companion Animals

Regulation 2008, Guideline For Breed Assessors, May 2013, is out of date?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I don't know what you've got.

**The CHAIR:** I just read it out. The guideline for breed assessors.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I've got a link here, as well, but there is a link on our webpage for breed assessors. As I was saying, there are also other elements that are beyond being judges and so on, that they've got to have competence in assessing without supervision, demonstrate management and conflict resolution skills, demonstrate extensive involvement in purebred dog structures, organisation, breeding and showing, understanding the legislative provisions of the Companion Animals Act—

**The CHAIR:** That's the same sheet that I've got here.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Okay. That's fairly comprehensive. That's not just being a judge.

**The CHAIR:** But my understanding from experts in the space is that it's nearly impossible to actually judge, just by looking at an animal, what breed they are. Minister, I just wanted to ask you why we have such loose regulations around this when the experts are saying that somebody just looking at an animal won't be able to assess what breed they are and that will actually mean whether a dog will live or die.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** Mr Whitworth?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Again, it doesn't mean that a dog lives or dies just based on its breed. I think I have given evidence before, to a similar parliamentary inquiry, when I talked about its important to identify that a dog that has been collected, that has been where there's a—

**The CHAIR:** Mr Whitworth, when you say that you disagree—

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Let me cut to the chase, then, perhaps, Ms Hurst. What you're saying is that you simply identify the dog as being a restricted breed and therefore euthanasia can occur.

**The CHAIR:** Correct.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** It needs to fail a temperament assessment as well.

**The CHAIR:** That's not my understanding. My understanding is that there are many dogs that have been killed simply because they're a restricted breed.

**BRETT WHITWORTH: That's not my understanding. Can we take this on notice? We'll come back.**

My understanding is there was an incident of a dog that the council collected, and it failed both a breed and a temperament assessment, and it was for that reason that it was euthanised.

**ANSWER:**

The answer was provided during the hearing, on pages 19 and 20 of the transcript.

**The CHAIR:** Mr Whitworth, can I just clarify, is OLG notified when pound facilities close in New South Wales?

**BRETT WHITWORTH: I'd like to take that on notice.** I mean, every council has an obligation to have pound facilities in place under the Companion Animals Act. Now, the question as to how they operate that—some councils share those pound facilities with others, or they outsource, such as Sydney Dogs and Cats. So it may well be that the pound facilities close, but the council has arrangements in place with another council. But we'll make inquiries and we'll come back to you this afternoon.

**ANSWER:**

Councils are not required to notify the Office of Local Government if pound facilities close.

## **Page 32 – Community Recovery Officers**

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** I understand that the funding for Community Recovery Officers into councils is due to expire at the end of the calendar year, just as communities are facing another particularly devastating fire season. Will you be extending the funding for those Community Recovery Officers to make those positions permanent.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** Mr Whitworth, do you know?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I believe that's a matter I would have expected for the NSW Reconstruction Authority. So that's probably a matter for the Minister for Emergency Services and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. They're not funded through the Office of Local Government.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** But we'll take on them on notice and get you whatever information you need, Dr Cohn.

### **ANSWER:**

Community Recovery Officers are joining funded by the Federal and NSW Governments. See <https://nema.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/ten-new-community-recovery-officers-in-nsw150623>

## Page 34 - WestInvest

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** That's all right. You've led me straight into my next question. Did the Office of Local Government have any input into the design and rollout of WestInvest—noting that it's not run by the Office of Local Government?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** That predates my involvement with the Office of Local Government. I'd like to take that on notice, and I can come back to you this afternoon.

**Dr AMANDA COHN:** Thank you. Please do. I'm interested if there was any discussion, including with councils, about councils' ability to deliver staff and maintain the facilities that were promised with WestInvest funding and discussion of future costs, as well.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I again would like to take that on notice, but I think there's a broader issue there about—and this goes to some of the very issues the Minister was talking about before, with the expenditure and the expenditure review of councils, that, where councils are receiving grant funds and where they're actually building new facilities and new assets, there is not just the lovely money to build it, but you need the money to maintain it and operate it into the future. Again, councils are independent, local. They're run by locally elected, democratically elected councillors. It's their job to ensure that, when they engage in these projects, they can actually run them, as well.

**KIERSTEN FISHBURN:** Can I just provide a bit of further clarification about WestInvest? It was, at the time, run out of the Premier's department. So, obviously, those questions would need to materially go to the Premier's Department. I can confirm, though, having worked with that unit in my previous role, that they certainly did communicate regularly with councils, and they were able to do that outside of the Office of Local Government relationships, as well.

### **ANSWER:**

No one from the Office of Local Government was involved in the input into the design and rollout of WestInvest.



## **Page 34**

**Ms ABIGAIL BOYD:** Unless there's been some change of responsibility—in the last term of Parliament, the Minister for Local Government had responsibility for animal-boarding establishments and companion dogs and cats. In particular—I understand this is from 1996—the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice on dogs and cats and animal-boarding establishments was the responsibility of the previous Minister for Local Government.

**Mr RON HOENIG:** That's not the advice I've been given, but I will check to make sure whether that's correct or not. But I've been given clear, specific advice in respect of my ministerial responsibility.

### **ANSWER:**

The NSW Department of Primary Industries publishes the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5, Dogs and Cats in Animal Boarding Establishments, under the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales.

**Page 44 – FOR DPI**

**The CHAIR:** I might look it up in a moment rather than trying to do it now. I might ask Mr Hansen if he knows if any of the POCTAA enforcement agencies are conducting routine regular audits of pounds to ensure they comply with the boarding code and other animal welfare standards.

**SCOTT HANSEN:** They do, and I think there was nine investigations carried out in 2022-23 in addition to routine inspections. Four of those—

**The CHAIR:** Sorry, what are the routine inspections? Is that something the authorities do?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** That's right. My understanding is that'd be—

**The CHAIR:** How routine are they?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** I'd have to come back to you as to how they set that. It's normally based on the fact that the compliance agencies—both RSPCA and Animal Welfare League—being scattered across the State in terms of people on the ground, have good intel in terms of what's happening in their local communities. It's probably triggered off what they hear and what they see in terms of those inspections that they do of council pounds. As I said, there were nine investigations in the last financial year that finished 30 June 2023. The vast majority of those inspections or investigations lead to on-the-site advice about recommended actions to take or amendments that need to be made that are promptly carried through. We can get you some more details with regard to the number of inspections undertaken over the course of the last couple of financial years. Again, so when they're going to look, they're going to look for compliance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

**ANSWER:**

Routine inspections are those which occur in a 'proactive' manner, that is, they are not conducted because of the enforcement agency responding to an animal welfare complaint.

**RSPCA NSW – proactive (routine) inspections**

|               |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| FY            | 21-22 | 22-23 |
| # inspections | 1     | 1     |

**AWL NSW – proactive (routine) inspections**

|               |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| FY            | 21-22 | 22-23 |
| # inspections | 0     | 1     |

## Page 50

**The CHAIR:** So OLG doesn't receive statistics annually from councils around euthanasia?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I've not seen any euthanasia statistics that have come across my desk. I've seen many other statistics, but maybe if I can ask Mr Baxter to come and talk about the return.

**KIERSTEN FISHBURN:** Yes, Mr Baxter is aware of that. He's just whispered in my ear that it's the pounds return.

**KEITH BAXTER:** We do get an annual pounds return, but I'd prefer to take on notice the detail on how we receive that. Councils send a pounds return to the office on a regular basis, but, on the detail, I'll let Ms Bishop chase that.

**KARIN BISHOP:** I'll find out exactly how we get those figures, but it has just been drawn to my attention that they're available on the website as part of the annual pounds data. Whether we collect that quarterly and how it's sought, I'll get more detail.

**KIERSTEN FISHBURN:** We'll find out.

**The CHAIR:** Yes, I wanted to get the background information from that data. I have a couple more questions, and I'll put them on notice if it's not something that's handy. Is there a standardised form that is received in? And what kind of checking is undertaken by OLG in regards to cross-referencing or verifying the statistics, if any?

**The CHAIR:** And are any councils required to keep records regarding animals that come in and out of their pound facility, on top of those other statistics? Are statistics sent directly from ranger or shelter managers, or do they need to be signed off from somebody within council, like a general manager, before they are submitted?

Sorry about all these questions. They'll also get sent to you, so you don't need to write them down.

**KIERSTEN FISHBURN:** Yes. We're happy to provide you the information. It's just that there's a level of granularity there that we just want to check so we're not giving you inaccurate information.

## ANSWER:

The answer was provided during the hearing, on page 66 of the transcript.

**Page 54**

**The Hon. AILEEN MacDONALD:** Just following on from the Chair's question with regard to the Pet Registry and the timeline for completion, do you think it will be December this year?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** No. It was never December this year in terms of completion. I think someone's heard that it was going to be December. It was never December in terms of time frame. There were a number of different elements that were going to be rolled out. I mean, we've already had a pilot program for the Pet Registry, a proof of concept, so I'm wondering whether Ms Bishop—she's just sorting herself through in terms of her notes—would be happy to take that question in a bit more detail.

**KARIN BISHOP:** Yes. I think I can talk to your question and if there's anything else, I'll need to look it up. The Pet Registry is well underway. It's going to be a staged rollout. The initial connection will be between breeders to new owners and the transfer of registration. The next stage we'll be looking at how we bring in vets and then rehoming organisations. It's going to be rolled out in stages, probably starting early next year for that first stage, and then through till ideally the end of next year, maybe a little after—so a staged rollout, but it is progressing well. One of the things that we've done—

**ANSWER:**

The answer was provided during the hearing, on page 54 of the transcript.

## Pages 56-57

**The Hon. AILEEN MacDONALD:** Because I'm rurally based—regional and rural councils are extremely concerned about their financial viability. What is your department doing to address this concern?

**KIERSTEN FISHBURN:** I might ask Mr Whitworth. That's an OLG-detailed question.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I think the Minister identified this morning, and I talked about it in some of my earlier evidence about the Government's election commitment to undertake a financial sustainability of councils. The IPART has flagged, as part of its rate peg methodology report, that it would be keen to undertake that work. As part of the structure of the Office of Local Government, we have engagement managers, we have what we call the performance team and we have the investigations team. If I take a particular council, like Snowy Monaro, we've been actively meeting with Snowy Monaro around some of its financial challenges and seeking to work with it on how it can address those.

I think from a high-level perspective, understanding the costs that the council has, understanding the service delivery expectation that the council has—the Minister's example this morning of a council that was running four museums was not a throwaway line. It's a genuine—if that council is experiencing difficulty in matching its expenditure with its revenue and revenue is challenging to obtain, it's not appropriate to go looking necessarily for grants because that might have a downstream impact on your operational expenditure. It's not necessarily appropriate to go to the community and say, "We'd like to increase rates through a special rate variation". I know that a number of councils are going through that process of engaging with their communities about whether a special rate variation is appropriate.

If a council has done that and the community is saying, "We don't want to do it", and the council has decided not to do it, the next step is to look at expenditure and to look at service levels and service delivery. Those are the challenges. We have been also doing a lot of work with Central Darling, as an example. Again, that is a council that is—broad-scale numbers—just north of \$25 million in terms of overall operating sort of tempo, yet it can only obtain \$900,000 in rates. It can obtain up to about \$2 million in own source revenue. So the remainder of its operations are funded through grants. We've been looking at whether there are ways of—and grant revenue will, by its nature, be lumpy in terms of when grant opportunities arise. We've been working with our State colleagues to see whether there might be opportunities to equalise that out.

The final area—and this is staying within the sort of rural and regional perspective—is the financial assistance grants that come from the Commonwealth. Again, they have been forward funding a number of those so that's created a degree of uncertainty in when the funds will come. But the Minister has identified a concern that—we've been working on the basis that no council would be left worse off, but that is actually, by its very nature, creating some councils to be worse off. The larger, richer councils are receiving higher amounts of funding.

That's not a New South Wales perspective; that's also an across-the-nation perspective. We had the senior officials group meeting of local government just yesterday and, as I said earlier, financial sustainability was clearly on the agenda and what can be done to assist those rural and remote councils in particular. There is a hope that maybe

the Commonwealth can assist us to a degree in that area.

**The Hon. AILEEN MacDONALD:** On that, you've got the Local Government Grants Commission. Are you asking the Federal to step in further or separately from—

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I think the way in which the financial assistance grants operate is there is a grants commission, and the grants commission is an independent authority that provides advice on the formula for the distribution, but they work within a broader Commonwealth set of parameters. **If you've got a question about how financial assistance grants are distributed, we're happy to take that on notice because that's something we'd put to the grants commission.**

**ANSWER:**

No question was asked.

**The CHAIR:** How many full-time equivalent staff are working on the Pet Registry upgrade?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I would like to take that on notice, because any questions around staffing are always somewhat challenging. Ms Bishop, can you give a flavour for how many people we have working?

**KARIN BISHOP:** Yes, I can. We've got two full time, and we're currently recruiting, and just about to appoint, another three. I should stress that that is from the OLG side. There are a number of staff, obviously, working from DCS around the technical build. We've got experts on the Amanda platform. They've got design, technical and software people on that side as well. I'm not sure exactly the numbers on that side but can come back to you.

**ANSWER:**

The answer was provided during the hearing, on page 60 of the transcript.

**Pages 61 – FOR DPI**

**The CHAIR:** Apologies for my question before; that was my mistake. It is the boarding code that has the no minimum kennel sizes rather than the Companion Animals Act. My question should have been more about the audits in regards to the rehoming practices under the Companion Animals Act. Mr Hansen, in regards to the POCTAA review, with the removal of the director of animal welfare role, who within the DPI will lead on that POCTAA review?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** That will actually be led by both the Chief Animal Welfare Officer plus our director of strategy and policy. As we talked about in Minister Moriarty's hearing, whilst that role has changed, there is no decrease in the actual resourcing of the reform. It's just a reorganisation as to the resources applied to it.

**The CHAIR:** Have the changes in the roles created any change in time line for the review?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** No.

**The CHAIR:** So that stays the same?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** No.

**The CHAIR:** Could I get on notice what the remuneration was for that role, the director of animal welfare?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** I'll take that on notice, yes.

**The CHAIR:**

Is Ms Suzanne Robinson still employed now? You said that she now has other responsibilities.

**SCOTT HANSEN:** That's correct.

**The CHAIR:** Could I get her title and what her responsibilities are now?

**SCOTT HANSEN:** Yes. I'm happy to get those for you. She is currently assisting us with the independent Biosecurity Commissioner's work—so supporting Marion Healy—and the reforms that, hopefully, you'll see soon in the upper House for consideration. But in terms of the actual title of that role, I will come back to you on that.

**ANSWER:**

The role of Director Animal Welfare was a Band 1 Senior Executive and remunerated within that range. Ms Suzanne Robinson is now the Director - Office of the Commissioners.



## Page 66

Have you had any feedback from council with respect to those guidelines at all and council's response? I'm sure you get feedback from councils all the time on a whole range of—

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I do get feedback from councils all the time. Some general managers text me quite regularly. General managers are always very up-front in their views, which I always find incredibly refreshing.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** I'm sure.

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Yes, I have had some feedback. The feedback that I have had has varied from, "Look, this is what we are doing to make sure that we can address DA improvements and DA work." Some councils have identified that the use of DA withdrawal—or that the number of DA withdrawals is quite minimal.

Other councils have given me a breakdown of where the DA withdrawals have come from. So their stats are more granular than our statistics, which we've taken through the Planning Portal. One council has been able to identify that some—they have a large number of DA withdrawals, but some of them are about shopfront fit-outs, for example, rather than for housing. They wanted to bring that to my attention. I have not had a council that has put in writing that they object to the DA guidelines, but I do know that some general managers felt that it was us—they were concerned that we were trying to tell them how to run their development assessment systems.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** How to suck eggs in their local—

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** I was trying to avoid that phrase, Mr Farlow.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** That's why I thought I would say it rather than you. On notice, would you be able to provide us with the numbers in terms of over the last three years—I think that was the period you were talking about—and the 9,000 withdrawals, as to that figure by local government area?

**BRETT WHITWORTH:** Yes, that's available.

### ANSWER:

The following table contains DA withdrawals since July 2021. Any further questions regarding this matter should be directed to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

### Table of DA withdrawals since July 2021

| Council name           | Count of Local DAs |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Liverpool City Council | 372                |
| Central Coast Council  | 323                |

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| The Hills Shire Council       | 322 |
| Canterbury-Bankstown Council  | 265 |
| Inner West Council            | 248 |
| Northern Beaches Council      | 242 |
| Blacktown City Council        | 241 |
| Wollongong City Council       | 232 |
| Sutherland Shire Council      | 231 |
| Lake Macquarie City Council   | 231 |
| Council Of The City Of Sydney | 219 |
| Penrith City Council          | 213 |
| Camden Council                | 204 |
| Shoalhaven City Council       | 202 |
| City Of Parramatta Council    | 200 |
| Tweed Shire Council           | 192 |
| Cumberland Council            | 187 |
| Newcastle City Council        | 182 |
| Wollondilly Shire Council     | 163 |
| Blue Mountains City Council   | 155 |
| Mid-Coast Council             | 155 |
| Ku-Ring-Gai Council           | 145 |
| Cessnock City Council         | 140 |
| Maitland City Council         | 131 |
| Ballina Shire Council         | 128 |

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Wingecarribee Shire Council          | 118 |
| Coffs Harbour City Council           | 115 |
| Bayside Council                      | 107 |
| The Council Of The Shire Of Hornsby  | 106 |
| Byron Shire Council                  | 105 |
| Port Macquarie-Hastings Council      | 101 |
| Shellharbour City Council            | 97  |
| Goulburn Mulwaree Council            | 94  |
| Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council | 93  |
| Port Stephens Council                | 93  |
| Randwick City Council                | 90  |
| Clarence Valley Council              | 88  |
| Campbelltown City Council            | 87  |
| Hawkesbury City Council              | 84  |
| Waverley Council                     | 82  |
| Bega Valley Shire Council            | 80  |
| City Of Canada Bay Council           | 78  |
| Murray River Council                 | 77  |
| Yass Valley Council                  | 75  |
| Wagga Wagga City Council             | 75  |
| Willoughby City Council              | 72  |
| Albury City Council                  | 70  |
| Eurobodalla Shire Council            | 68  |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Woollahra Municipal Council              | 68 |
| Georges River Council                    | 62 |
| North Sydney Council                     | 60 |
| Mid-Western Regional Council             | 59 |
| Fairfield City Council                   | 59 |
| The Council Of The Municipality Of Kiama | 59 |
| Ryde City Council                        | 58 |
| Orange City Council                      | 54 |
| Lismore City Council                     | 52 |
| Bathurst Regional Council                | 49 |
| Snowy Monaro Regional Council            | 47 |
| Tamworth Regional Council                | 42 |
| Dubbo Regional Council                   | 36 |
| Singleton Council                        | 36 |
| Kempsey Shire Council                    | 35 |
| Griffith City Council                    | 35 |
| Federation Council                       | 35 |
| Upper Hunter Shire Council               | 32 |
| Bellingen Shire Council                  | 30 |
| Strathfield Municipal Council            | 28 |
| Mosman Municipal Council                 | 28 |
| Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council    | 25 |
| Burwood Council                          | 24 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Hilltops Council                                | 23 |
| Gunnedah Shire Council                          | 23 |
| Lane Cove Municipal Council                     | 23 |
| Lithgow City Council                            | 22 |
| Wentworth Shire Council                         | 21 |
| Upper Lachlan Shire Council                     | 20 |
| Muswellbrook Shire Council                      | 20 |
| Nambucca Valley Council                         | 20 |
| Snowy Valleys Council                           | 20 |
| The Council Of The Municipality Of Hunters Hill | 19 |
| Berrigan Shire Council                          | 19 |
| Richmond Valley Council                         | 18 |
| Dungog Shire Council                            | 18 |
| Temora Shire Council                            | 17 |
| Moree Plains Shire Council                      | 17 |
| Kyogle Council                                  | 17 |
| Cowra Shire Council                             | 17 |
| Cabonne Shire Council                           | 16 |
| Cobar Shire Council                             | 16 |
| Tenterfield Shire Council                       | 16 |
| Walgett Shire Council                           | 14 |
| Armidale Regional Council                       | 14 |
| Liverpool Plains Shire Council                  | 14 |

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Greater Hume Shire Council | 13 |
| Blayney Shire Council      | 13 |
| Bland Shire Council        | 13 |
| Leeton Shire Council       | 13 |
| Junee Shire Council        | 11 |
| Inverell Shire Council     | 11 |
| Broken Hill City Council   | 10 |
| Oberon Council             | 10 |
| Forbes Shire Council       | 9  |
| Uralla Shire Council       | 9  |
| Murrumbidgee Council       | 9  |
| Narrandera Shire Council   | 9  |
| Coolamon Shire Council     | 8  |
| Narromine Shire Council    | 7  |
| Edward River Council       | 7  |
| Gilgandra Shire Council    | 7  |
| Lachlan Shire Council      | 6  |
| Carrathool Shire Council   | 6  |
| Coonamble Shire Council    | 5  |
| Gwydir Shire Council       | 5  |
| Bogan Shire Council        | 5  |
| Warrumbungle Shire Council | 5  |
| Narrabri Shire Council     | 5  |

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Weddin Shire Council            | 5            |
| Parkes Shire Council            | 4            |
| Hay Shire Council               | 4            |
| Lockhart Shire Council          | 4            |
| Balranald Shire Council         | 3            |
| Glen Innes Severn Shire Council | 3            |
| Bourke Shire Council            | 2            |
| Warren Shire Council            | 2            |
| Walcha Council                  | 2            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>9,040</b> |

## Budget Estimates 2023-24 – Questions on Notice – Office of Local Government

| Asked by                    | Question   | Answer  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Scott Farlow<br/>MLC</p> | <p>Lindsay Nylund</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Also with respect to the City of Canada Bay, are you aware of the case of Lindsay Nylund with the City of Canada Bay?</p> <p><b>Mr RON HOENIG:</b> In relation to what?</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> Lindsay Nylund is an Australian medallist when it comes to gymnastics, and he has sought a meeting with your office to discuss his concerns with the City of Canada Bay. He was dismissed for a Facebook post where he wrote one word, "beautiful", in a description, and he has sought a meeting with your office to talk about broader concerns with the City of Canada Bay. Are you aware of his requests to meet with you, to discuss the broader concerns he has for the City of Canada Bay?</p> <p><b>Mr RON HOENIG:</b> I don't specifically recall that right now. I can take it on notice.</p> <p><b>The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:</b> If you could, Minister.</p> | <p>I receive a wide range of meeting requests from constituents and stakeholders. All meetings pertaining to my portfolio are appropriately disclosed on the Minister Diary Disclosures page of The Cabinet Office website.</p> |