

Answer to question on notice – Coolamon Shire Council

Coolamon Shire Council has an agreement with the other members of our zone to undertake the financial accounting for the entire zone.

This is in accordance with the 'Riverina Zone – RFS Zoning Agreement'

This document spells out how councils will split the zone costs and was last agreed (signed) in 2011.

This financial year this amounted to \$32,000 (gst incl)

When it was last put up for review with the 2014 Service Agreement, the RFS Zone begrudgingly agreed.

Particularly after it was pointed out that this council carry the cost of all outgoings until the allocation is provided, generally somewhere between 4 to 8 months into the financial year. Effectively bank rolling the RFS operations and preparation for a fire season.

This is separate from our 'Rural Fire District Service Agreement – Riverina Zone'.

The 'Service Agreement' that is a focus point of discussions around responsibilities under the Act, when it comes to the term 'vesting' of equipment.

This council and our zone members would not sign the last agreement we were provided, as we did not believe it reflected the operations of the Zone and our responsibilities.

We asked for changes but were informed that they are standard and cannot be changed

Coolamon shire would not sign the 2014 document, so the RFS indicated that they would rely on the 2011 document.