



Office of Local Government

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Mr David Blunt
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Dear Mr Blunt

I am writing about the Office of Local Government's (OLG's) processes for the approval of grants from the Stronger Communities Fund – tied grants round.

A central part of the role of Government is allocating public funds to projects. Ministers are able to determine funding priorities in a manner to enable achievement of Government policy priorities, and as determined by Cabinet.

Ministers and public servants are able to expend funds under delegation, and the process of decision making, documenting decision making, and payment differs between grants programs. In relation to the Stronger Communities Fund – tied grants round, the Guidelines for the program provided that funds would be expended on projects identified by the NSW Government.

For each grant a briefing note authorising the particular expenditure was prepared for and signed by either the Minister for Local Government, or me under delegated authority from the Minister for Local Government under section 12 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*. Confirmation of projects having been identified by the NSW Government, as set out in the Guidelines, was attached to the respective briefing note in the form of emails from Minister's staff.

I confirm that all documents held by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) pertaining to the approval of grants made under the Stronger Communities Fund – tied grants round were provided to the Legislative Council in the return of DPIE on 29 June 2020.

Yours sincerely

Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

19/10/20

