

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORKS COMMITTEE
Integrity, efficacy, and value for money of the Local Small Commitments Allocation process

Hon John Graham MLC
Special Minister of State
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Context:

Maitland: The Premier's Office altered the election commitment that "NSW Labor deliver up to \$89,000 to local councils across the electorate towards upgrades to playgrounds and parks" (nominated Alex Costello 19/03/2023) to two specific projects, namely:

- i. \$84,000 to upgrade Maitland Showground, and
- ii. \$5,000 to Maitland Neighbourhood Watch.

These two projects are dated 10/04/2023 but only appear on spreadsheets dated from July 2023.

Alex Costello's name is removed from ALL projects for Maitland.

(1) Minister, the original spreadsheet for Maitland sent to Alison Morgan by the Premier's Office prior to 14 June 2023 shows an election commitment that "NSW Labor deliver up to \$89,000 to local councils across the electorate towards upgrades to playgrounds and parks" with approval having been notified to Alex Costello on 19/03/2023. The 28 July 2023 spreadsheet for the Electorate of Maitland has removed this original election commitment and reallocated the \$89,000 to two specific projects – namely \$84,000 to upgrade Maitland Showground and \$5,000 to Maitland Neighbourhood Watch, each with a date notified listed as 10/04/2023 – after the election. Given that these two projects were not commitments made prior to the election why did you approve them for funding?

ANSWER:

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORKS COMMITTEE
Integrity, efficacy, and value for money of the Local Small Commitments Allocation
process

Hon John Graham MLC
Special Minister of State
Minister for Transport
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

I refer to my answer given in the House on 6 June 2024. I made my decisions based on the briefs given to me, those briefs are publicly available.