

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO.6

**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Answers to Questions on Notice – 24 August 2015
Office of Local Government**

Question1:

How much is the Stronger Councils, Stronger Communities public information campaign costing? What is the allocation?

Answer:

The advertising spend was \$664,000 + GST (\$730,307 including GST).

The estimated cost for creative development is \$238,613.00 + GST (\$262,474.30 including GST).

Question 2:

When will the Government make a decision about the option of Joint Organisations in metropolitan Sydney?

Answer:

The Government deferred the consideration of Joint Organisations in metropolitan Sydney, consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

Question 3:

Where was the overall rate take of a merged entity less as a result of the amalgamation than was the overall rate take of the pre-merged entities?

Answer:

The OLG has completed research on the overall residential rate take of merged entities in NSW in 2004 when compared to the rate take of the merged councils in the year prior to the merger.

The research shows that of the 22 entities with available data, 11 mergers produced a lower residential rate-take in the year after the merger, as expressed by the average rate received across rateable properties. The following table shows the average residential rate for the 11 councils in 2003-04 compared to 2004-05, taking account of the rate peg:

Average residential rates \$ against No of Rateable Properties			
Council	2003-04	2004-05	Difference
Sydney	464.76	424.37	40.39
Cooma-Monaro	543.74	498.90	44.84
Palerang	481.70	480.79	0.91
Goulburn Mulwaree	704.62	670.15	34.47
Tumut	488.77	406.35	82.42
Upper Lachlan	385.12	297.37	87.75
Yass Valley	598.60	423.26	175.34
Liverpool Plains	382.56	335.74	46.82
Corowa	348.53	317.51	31.02
Greater Hume	293.87	251.97	41.90
Upper Hunter	540.47	430.22	110.25