

**GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE No 3  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10  
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Questions relating to the portfolio of Rural Affairs:**

The Hon David Clark MLC

**Question:**

1. Has the Office of Rural Affairs (ORA) and/or NSW Government taken administrative or managerial fees from the \$85 million "Building the Country" Package (hereinafter referred to as the Package)?

**Answer:**

1. No.

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

2. If administrative/managerial fees have been deducted from the Package, please indicate these fees as a percentage of the Package and as a total monetary figure.

**Answer:**

2. Not applicable – no administrative/managerial fees have been deducted.

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

3. For each of the 7 programs under the Package:

- Local Infrastructure Fund \$52 million
  - Community Broadband Development Program \$11.6 million
  - Community Libraries Fund \$9 million
  - Country Halls Renewal Package \$2.5 million
  - Water Adjustment Innovation Fund \$9 million
  - Small Communities Awareness Fund \$450,000
  - Small Chamber of Commerce Fund \$450,000
- a. What is the full list of projects that were announced as successful under the program? This list should include a brief description of the project, the location and the total amount of funding awarded by the Government to the individual/organisation.
- b. What electorate was the project located in?

**Answer:**

3.(a):

- **Local Infrastructure Fund \$52 million**

The question should be referred to the Minister for Regional Development.

- **Community Broadband Development Program \$11.6 million**

The townships of Quambone, Hill End, Pilliga, South West Rocks, Delegate, Wilcannia, Jubulum, Coleambally, Goodooga, Balranald and Dalgety benefitted under this Program. The aim of the in each town was the development of local community based wireless networks.

There is no direct funding, each community received support in the form of:

- a business case
- a technical plan – extension of fibre and/or high speed wireless network
- negotiation to leverage State Government assets (where practical)
- contract to build the network

- support to negotiate with telecommunications companies to operate the network on behalf of each community.

- **Community Libraries Fund \$9 million**

The question should be referred to the Minister for Regional Development.

- **Country Halls Renewal Package \$2.5 million**

See Attachment A

- **Water Adjustment Innovation Fund \$9 million**

The question should be referred to the Minister for Regional Development.

- **Small Communities Awareness Fund \$450,000**

See Attachment B

- **Small Chamber of Commerce Fund \$450,000**

The question should be referred to the Minister for Regional Development.

3.(b): The Office of Rural Affairs does not identify electorates in the application or assessment process. However, the previous Minister for Rural Affairs who approved the following funding for the 2008-2009 financial advises:

- in relation to the Country Halls Renewal Package that out of 43 successful applicants 5 were in Government held seats;
- in relation to the Small Communities Awareness Fund that out of 18 successful applicants 1 was in a Government held seat; and
- in relation to the Community Broadband Development Program that out of 11 successful applicants 3 were in Government held seats

**STEVE WHAN MP**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Country Halls Renewal Fund  
Projects approved for 08/09 Financial Year**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Total Funding Awarded (\$)</b>
Millthorpe School of Arts Hall	Replace fences	2,267
Euabalong Community Hall	Re-build the hall, the original was destroyed by fire	50,000
Blighty Public Hall	Tables and Chairs to cater for functions	2,175
Pretty Pine Community Hall	Tables and chairs for hall and a dishwasher	5,500
Ellenborough Hall	Kitchen up-grade and accessible toilet	18,840
Hollisdale Hall	Up-grade to kitchen	7,462
Kendall Community Hall	Kitchen up-grade and floor coverings, paint and equipment	2,000
Pambula Town Hall	Exterior painting and repairs	11,636
Hay War Memorial Community Hall	Veranda, toilets painting etc	50,000
Collie CWA Community Hall	Painting and a water tank	13,467
Curban Community Hall	Up-grade kitchen, new toilet amenities and a new ramp access	42,818
Wilcannia Hall	Reverse cycle air-conditioning	50,000
Darnick Community Hall	Restumping, timber floors and new tanks	25,000
Tilpa Community Hall	Reverse Cycle air-conditioning	25,000
White Cliffs Community Hall	Reverse cycle air-conditioning	50,000
Menindee Community Hall	Reverse cycle air-conditioning	50,000
Ivanhoe Community Hall	Reverse cycle air-conditioning	50,000
Neville Public Hall	Replace water tank	5,000
Baryulgil Hall	Replace roof	6,000

Wandella Public Hall	Internal and external re-paint	10,400
Emmaville War Memorial Hall	Replace kitchen	9,350
Bobin School of Arts Hall	Repair exterior side of hall and new door	2,522
Majors Creek Recreation Hall	Replace weatherboard, windows and guttering	20,000
Pilliga CWA Hall	New curtains	5,000
Ebor War Memorial Hall	Floor coverings, curtains, gas heater	50,000
Barham School of Arts Hall	Strip off paint and repair brickwork	24,000
Louth Community Hall	Replace window glass, toilet doors and water tank and stand	6,963
Bedgerabong Community Hall	Provide heating and cooling	50,000
Breeza Community Hall	Replace internal flooring	45,000
Binya Public Hall	Install air -conditioning and electrical work	50,000
Gresford School of Arts Hall	Paint interior of hall	6,071
Nangus Public Hall	Re-roof the pitched section	20,700
Kentucky Memorial Hall and Literary Institute	Replace kitchen, replace steps, notice board and minor repairs	28,582
Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall	New front steps, re-point brickwork and repair structural work	24,386
Greenridge Soldiers Memorial Hall	Replace kitchen	5,587
Candelo Town Hall	Replace cement render and skirting boards	16,074
Weemelah Memorial Hall	Replace kitchen etc	26,860
Peak Hill A.I.F Memorial School of Arts Hall	Remove old tiles, replace batons on roof and re-roof with colour bond sheeting	16,000
Byrock Hall	Exterior painting of hall	15,817

Enngonia War Memorial Hall	Replace ceiling sheeting, paint doors	6,353
Wanaaring Community Hall	Painting and replace disabled ramp	14,124
Hillston Community Hall	Replace interior walls	41,901
Smiths Road Community Hall and Fire Shed	Addition to interior training facility	27,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

**ATTACHMENT B****Small Communities Awareness Fund  
Projects Approved for 08/09 Financial Year**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Total Funding Awarded (\$)</b>
Barraba	Funding for community website to be developed by Barraba Community Development Committee.	5,000
Wilcannia	Funding for community website to be developed by Central Darling Shire.	5,000
Batlow	Funding for community website to be developed by Batlow Development League.	5,000
Ebor	Funding for community website to be developed by Ebor Progressive Association.	5,000
Millthorpe	Funding for community website to be developed by Millthorpe, Carcoar & Districts Tourism Development Inc	5,000
Carcoar	Funding for community website to be developed by Millthorpe, Carcoar & Districts Tourism Development Inc.	5,000
Greenethorpe	Funding for community website to be developed by Greenethorpe Soldiers Memorial Hall.	5,000
Bonalbo	Funding for community website to be developed by the Bonalbo & District Community Hall Association Inc.	5,000
West Wyalong	Funding for community website to be developed by Business West Wyalong.	5,000
Culburra Beach	Funding for community website to be developed by Culburra Beach Progress Association Inc.	5,000
Deniliquin	Funding for community website to be developed by Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre.	5,000
Coolah	Funding for community website to be developed by Coolah District Development Group Inc.	5,000
Lake Cargelligo	Funding for community website to be developed by Lower Lachlan Community Services Inc.	5,000
Bulahdelah	Funding for community website to be developed by Bulahdelah Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.	5,000
Gloucester	Funding for community website to be developed by Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group Inc.	5,000

Mungindi	Funding for community website to be developed by Mungindi Progress Association.	5,000
Henty	Funding for community website to be developed by Greater Hume Shire Council.	5,000
towns and villages dependent on freshwater angling as their tourism backbone	Funding for community website to be developed by NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers.	5,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>90,000</b>

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**Question:**

4. Ultimately, who in the ORA makes the final decision about successful applicants under each of the 7 programs in the Package? Is it the Minister, the Director-General of the Department of Lands or the Manager of ORA Fran Schonberg?

**Answer:**

4. The Minister on Departmental advice.

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

5. Does the Minister for Rural Affairs have any say over the final list of applicants?

**Answer:**

5. No. All incorporated and/or local community organisations sponsored by Government and Local Government are eligible to apply by submitting a standard application form to the Office of Rural Affairs.

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

6. Has the Minister, the Director General of the Department of Lands and/or the Manager of the Office of Rural Affairs ever removed an organisation/intervened/added and organisation to the final list of applicants for each of the 7 programs?

**Answer:**

6. The Office of Rural Affairs removes only those applicants that were not eligible under the funding guidelines.

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

7. Of the \$9 million that was set aside in the Mini-Budget for the 2008-2009 financial year:
- a. What projects were announced as successful under the Package?
  - b. How much funding were they provided with?
  - c. What electorate was the project located in?

**Answer:**

- 7.
- (a) & (b) Three projects administered under the Rural Affairs Portfolio were approved under the Package:
- The Country Halls Renewal Fund (details of location/funding is provided at Attachment A);
  - The Small Communities Awareness Fund (details of location/funding is provided at Attachment B); and
  - The Community Broadband Development Program.

The townships of Quambone, Hill End, Pilliga, South West Rocks, Delegate, Wilcannia, Jubulum, Coleambally, Goodooga, Balranald and Dalgety benefitted under the Community Broadband Development Program. The aim of the in each town was the development of local community based wireless networks.

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(c) The Office of Rural Affairs does not identify electorates in the application or assessment process. However, the previous Minister for Rural Affairs who approved the following funding for the 2008-2009 financial advises:

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**ATTACHMENT A**

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**Question:**

8. What has ORA done in order to reduce red tape?

**Answer:**

8. The Country Hall Renewal Fund and the Small Communities Awareness Fund have an 'always open' application process reducing the need for applicants to reapply for funding each financial year. Applicants may modify or withdraw their application at any time.

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

9. What are the salaries for the Manager of ORA and the two full-time support staff?

**Answer:**

9.     Grade 9-10   \$94,384  
          Grade 5-6   \$72,952  
          Grade 4-5   \$61,328

**STEVE WHAN MP**

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**Question:**

10. What are the titles of the 2 full-time support staff?

**Answer:**

10. Project Officers.

**STEVE WHAN MP**