

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 5/07/2015

Partially Confidential

Re Term of Reference " Any other related matter": Fit for the Future ought to be focussed on Fixing the Finances in the following manner. The advice from the then State Government to the Local Government Sector to invest reserves in higher interest bearing deposits which subsequently failed in the Global Financial Crisis was poor. Costs shifting from State and Federal Governments onto the Local Government Sector has also eroded Local Government capital reserves. Neither of these factors has been properly taken into account in looking at Local Government's current financial situation. The State Government should take some responsibility for both factors and offer a fairer financial package to local governments to give hope for the future and major infrastructure support. Third, the failure to pay elected members (Councillors) a living wage and proper work conditions (office, staff, car allowance etc) means that Local Government sector's governance is being run without any true accountability and by means of deep exploitation of representatives. This deplorable erosion of human rights to fair remuneration means that governance is critically flawed as there is no proper system of accountability.