

**Submission  
No 5**

## **INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

**Organisation:** Halls Accounting Pty Ltd

**Date Received:** 15 August 2020

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. As a long established Accountancy Practice based in Narrandera NSW, we make the following four observations regards the receipt of NSW Government funding into our Local Government Area in addition to Leeton LGA and Griffith LGA:

1. There appears to be insufficient rigour and scrutiny regards Grant Applications received from Rural LGA's. One example is the Narrandera Stock and Bitumen Truck Wash which has been recently completed in Narrandera. As per the August 2021 Business Paper of Narrandera Shire Council, the final project cost was \$841092. This is an additional \$154092 of expenditure over the original Grant Application. The Restart NSW Fund provided \$276000 towards this Project. How can the original project costs be so inaccurate? This is symptomatic of NSW Grant Funds being allocated to rural LGA's who provide inaccurate budget costs which seem to easily pass examination by the NSW Government. An independent Auditor-General investigation is required.
2. There is no accountability as to a public document that sets out all NSW Grant Funding allocations into each LGA.
3. As NSW Grants are allocated to our LGA, it seems to be a Public Relations exercise undertaken by the Coalition. The perception in the community is that it is the National Party handing out the funds.
4. The Member for Murray appears to be excluded from all Grant announcements in the Leeton LGA and the Griffith LGA. Why is this so and what is the protocol?

Your Faithfully

Wesley Hall  
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