

**Submission
No 45**

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

Organisation: Ballina Shire Council

Date Received: 21 August 2020

enquiries refer
David Wright
in reply please quote
259-09



21 August 2020

Mr David Shoebridge MLC
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
Public.accountability@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Shoebridge

Re: Inquiry into NSW Government grant programs

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission for the inquiry into the *integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grant programs*.

Ballina Shire Council has been the recipient of NSW Government grant programs including the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund, Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund and the Regional Cultural Fund.

Due to this funding Council has been able to deliver the following capital projects:

- Construction of the Ballina Indoor Sports Centre
- Construction of the Coastal Shared Path
- Construction of the Coastal Recreational Walk
- Expansion and upgrade of the Skennars Head sports fields
- New lighting at a range of sports fields
- Upgrade of the Ballina Tennis Club
- Upgrade of the Lennox Head Cultural Centre

The capital projects listed are community based facilities, which are for the benefit and wellbeing of our entire community.

It is our experience that, at times, treasury or finance oriented State Government officials, will try and have grants determined on cost / benefit ratios, which from our experience does not work, as that type of methodology does not fully recognise the social benefits from community infrastructure projects.

Improving liveability, and feeling connected to the community are key outcomes in Council's Community Strategic Plan and the construction or enhancement of these facilities has helped Council achieve these outcomes. If you have any further questions please contact me on

Yours faithfully

David Wright
Mayor