

Question from DAVID SHOEBRIDGE, page 65 of the transcript

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Let me be clear. I want to know whether there was a list at the time of the councils that were considered to be eligible. Was there a list at the time of the councils that were considered to be eligible?

Mr HURST: No. The guidelines instead talked of the councils who were eligible in terms of that more broad description about councils who were merged or subject to a merger proposal during that period.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Having established that, can you provide us with a list of those councils that you consider would have been eligible?

Mr HURST: Yes. I am happy to do that.

Answer

The Stronger Communities Fund – Tied Grants Round guidelines state that the funding was to be provided for specific projects, identified by the NSW Government, to the new councils and to councils subject to a merger proposal. The guidelines did not identify by name the eligible councils.

The following councils were either created in 2016 or subject to a merger proposal. This information is derived from data published by the NSW Boundaries Commission:

- **Armidale Regional**
- **Bathurst**
- **Bayside**
- **Berrigan**
- **Blayney**
- **Burwood**
- **Cabonne**
- **Canada Bay**
- **Canterbury-Bankstown**
- **Central Coast**
- **City of Parramatta**
- **Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional**
- **Cumberland**
- **Dubbo Regional**
- **Dungog**
- **Edward River**
- **Federation**
- **Georges River**
- **Goulburn Mulwaree**
- **Hawkesbury**
- **Hilltops**

- **Hornsby**
- **Hunters Hill**
- **Inner West**
- **Kiama**
- **Ku-ring-gai**
- **Lane Cove**
- **Lockhart**
- **Maitland**
- **Mid-Coast**
- **Mosman**
- **Murray River**
- **Murrumbidgee**
- **Newcastle**
- **North Sydney**
- **Northern Beaches**
- **Oberon**
- **Orange**
- **Port Stephens**
- **Queanbeyan-Palerang**
- **Randwick**
- **Ryde**
- **Shellharbour**
- **Shoalhaven**
- **Snowy Monaro**
- **Snowy Valleys**
- **Strathfield**
- **Tamworth**
- **The Hills**
- **Uralla**
- **Walcha**
- **Waverley**
- **Willoughby**
- **Wollongong**
- **Woollahra**

Further question from DAVID SHOEBRIDGE

Confirm that there were no additional funding agreements to the 33 that were sent to the committee as attachments to the questions on notice.

Answer

The Office of Local Government confirms that there were no additional funding agreements for the Stronger Communities Fund – Tied Grants Round beyond those requested in the hearing and provided to the Committee.

Question from DAVID SHOEBRIDGE, page 66 of the transcript

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: On what basis were eligible councils not provided with funding?

Mr HURST: I cannot answer why some councils did not get funding. I cannot answer that question.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Who made the decision, if not you—you were just administering a decision that came from another place—as to which councils were and which councils were not eligible councils to receive funding?

Mr HURST: I cannot answer that question. I can only advise that we were told the councils to pay and the projects, and the Office of Local Government prepared the agreements, sent them to the councils, executed them and paid the funds.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Who told you?

Mr HURST: I am sorry, I agreed to take that on notice and find out where that advice came from.

Answer

As previously advised, the Stronger Communities Fund – Tied Grants Round guidelines provide that new councils and councils subject to a merger proposal were eligible. The guidelines did not identify by name the eligible councils.

Cabinet made the decision on which councils were and which councils were not eligible councils to receive funding in approving the guidelines for the Stronger Communities Fund – Tied Grant Round.