



Department for Victorian Communities

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

**Minister for Local Government
Hon Richard Wynne MP
17 May 2007**



Department for Victorian Communities

Achievements for 2006-07

Public Libraries

- Record recurrent funding of \$28.94 million
 - 10 *Living Libraries Program* projects completed
(total of 70 funded to date)
 - *LibraryLink Victoria* commenced operating
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Neighbourhood Houses

- Increase of 62% in recurrent funding
 - 34% increase in funded co-ordination hours
 - 127 projects funded in 2006 through the *Modernising Neighbourhood Houses Program*
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Local Government Partnerships

- *Draft Victorian State-Local Government Agreement endorsed for consultation.*
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Achievements for 2006-07

Joint State and Local Government Planning

- Information sessions for departments held.
 - Reviews due to be completed by June 2007.
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Resource Guide to Local Government

- A comprehensive web based guide to local government including information about
 - Governance & elections
 - Legislation
 - Rates & Valuation
 - Council Services
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Building effective Local Government

- Infrastructure management
 - Best Value Principles
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Priorities for 2007-08

Better councils

- Councils reforming business \$4.7M (2yrs)
 - Future of Local Government Projects \$4.1M
 - regulatory reform, shared services & affordable housing
 - Procurement strategy \$0.6M
 - Councillor development and conduct
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More democratic & accountable councils

- Mayor & Councillor allowances
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Priorities for 2007-08

Joined up government

- Victorian State-Local Government Agreement
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Empowered local residents & communities

- Community planning
 - Neighbourhood Houses
 - Record recurrent funding (\$18.5 m)
 - Modernising Neighbourhood Houses (\$5 m)
 - Libraries
 - Record recurrent funding (\$30 m)
 - Living Libraries Program (\$15 m)
 - Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund (\$6 m)
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