



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Minister for Local Government
Hon Richard Wynne MP
21 May 2008



2007-08 Achievements

Public Libraries

- Record recurrent funding of \$30.12 million
- 10 Living Libraries Program projects completed
- Funding for an additional 17 Living Libraries projects provided.
- \$2 million provided to public libraries under the Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund.

Neighbourhood Houses

- Increase of 3.7% in recurrent funding
 - 134 projects funded in 2007 through the *Modernising Neighbourhood Houses Program*
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2007-08 Achievements (cont.)

Local Government Partnerships

- *Victorian State-Local Government Agreement* signed.
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Better Local Governance

- Extensive consultation with councils and community on proposals to support councillor conduct and other matters.
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Recognition and support of Councillors

- New allowances available to Councillors.
 - “Toolkit” of other resources and support.
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2007-08 Achievements (cont.)

Building effective Local Government

- Best Value Commission review completed.
- Councils reforming business (\$4.7m over 2 years) – Year 1
 - Procurement strategy – study underway
 - Regulatory reform – best practice local laws discussion papers circulated
 - Shared Services – funding to MAV for specific projects
 - Affordable housing – exemplar project with 6 participating councils

Empowered local residents & communities

- Community Planning
 - Review of 9 local government community planning experiences completed and published.
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2008-09 Priorities

Public Libraries

- Libraries
 - Record recurrent funding (\$31m)
 - Continuation Living Libraries Program (\$15m over 4 years)
 - Continuation of Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund (\$6m over 4 years)
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Neighbourhood Houses

- Neighbourhood Houses
 - Record recurrent funding (\$19.3m)
 - Modernising Neighbourhood Houses (\$3m)
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Joined up Government

- *Victorian State-Local Government Agreement* - Implementation
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Better Local Governance

- Councillor conduct legislation
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2008-09 Priorities (cont.)

Local Democracy

- All Councillors to be elected on 29 November 2008 for 4 year terms.
 - Councillor induction and training.
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More Effective Local Government

- Councils reforming business – Year 2
 - Procurement strategy for local government finalised
 - Regulatory reform – local laws review completed
 - Shared services – strategic projects funded
 - Affordable housing – exemplar project with 6 participating councils continuing
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Empowered Local Residents & Communities

- Community planning
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