

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TITLE: Local Community Facilities Fund

Updated: 22 February 2023

Topics/issues addressed

- Local Community Facilities Fund

Talking Points:

- \$14.9 million was committed to community organisations across Tasmania during the 2021 State Election via the Local Community Facilities Fund (LCFF).
- The LCFF comprised of 255 community projects across Tasmania within the various portfolios of Sport and Recreation, Community Development, Veterans, Multicultural, Women and Aboriginal Affairs.
- The Department of Communities Tasmania initially administered the Local Community Facilities Fund (LCFF).
- Communities Tasmania prepared appropriate and compliant processes to facilitate funding to each recipient via a grant deed.
- LCFF commitments are now administered by the Department of State Growth and the Department of Premier and Cabinet following the abolition of Communities Tasmania.
- Grant deeds with all LCFF recipients include terms that require recipients to fully acquit their grant funds.

RTI NOTE: the dot point highlighted below is incorrect and should read as follows:

"A further four projects were funded separately to the LCFF, but were administered in the same manner for efficiency and consistency of administration"

Political Lines:

Minister's Office will insert

Background and Facts

- Following the 2021 election, the Premiers Office sent letters to all LCFF recipients confirming the commitment made to them and advised Communities Tasmania of the recipients and allocations.
- Communities Tasmania collaborated with recipients on project details to ensure as many funding agreements as possible were developed in the 2020-21 financial year.
- Some projects were more complex than others meaning some funding was not disbursed within that year due to the recipient needs and/or compliance requirements prior to disbursement.
- A further four projects were administered through the LCFF during the 2021-22 financial year. While these were funded separately to the LCFF, they were administered in the same manner for efficiency and consistency of administration.
- The four (4) additional projects, valued at \$1.4 million, were:
 - St Helens Pump Track (\$500,000)
 - Replacement of the Old Bracknell Hall (\$400,000)
 - Australian Rules and Heritage Museum (\$250,000)
 - Kingborough Sports Centre basketball stadium upgrade (\$250,000)
- Communities Tasmania used existing grant administrative practices and policies to facilitate funding of LCFF recipients via Crown Law grant deed.
- On receipt of the LCFF list, Communities Tasmania reviewed and batched the commitments and prioritised them into appropriate stages, broadly described as follows:

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- Not all commitments were simple, straight forward and ready to fund, with a small number yet to progress due to the project's complexity and/or maturity.

- Sport and Recreation projects have transitioned to the Department of State Growth over a nine-month period as the Communities Tasmania (now DPAC) grants team continued to administer sport and recreation grants until the end of 2022.

Released under RTI

Question Time Briefing for Minister for Sport and Recreation Culture, Arts and Sport

Sitting 22-24 November 2022

Subject:	Sport and Recreation 2021 Election Commitments		
Budget/Election/Reform:	Helping all Tasmanians Participate in Sport and Physical Activity		
Updated:	28 July 2022		
Reviewed:	23 August 2022	Status:	No Change

Funding Envelope: NIL

Funded through: NA

Current Situation

- Sport is the lifeblood of communities across Tasmania. To get more Tasmanians active, regardless of where they live, their age or their circumstances, we are investing more to help more Tasmanians participate in sport and physical activity.
- The Tasmanian Government aims to provide high quality and well-planned sport and recreation facilities to enable Tasmanians to be physically active.
- During the 2021 State Election, the Tasmanian Government made over 150 funding commitments to benefit the sport and recreation sector, including assistance to build new or upgrade existing sports facilities, purchase much-needed equipment, or to continue vital community sport and recreation programs.

TALKING POINTS

- Negotiations are continuing with the Northern Tasmanian Netball Association for a partnership to develop a future dedicated netball hub in Northern Tasmania out of scope
- My Department is continuing discussions with the NTNA and Netball Tasmania to progress this commitment, including its alignment with current work through ITas to establish Stadiums Tasmania.
- In 2021-22, we:
 - Provided \$40 000 per annum to Bowls Tasmania to ensure Tasmania has its own team in the Bowls Premier league, additionally \$40 000 will be provided to fund the team for the following two years.

- Began working with Football Tasmania and its clubs on the \$10 million upgrade to football facilities at four key locations, in preparation for hosting international base camps in 2023. **out of scope**
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Doubled the Ticket to Play vouchers to \$200 and advised sporting clubs and associations of the extended program. **out of scope**
[REDACTED]
- Launched the guidelines for the Solar Power Sports Club no-interest loan scheme. **out of scope**
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Delivered the 2021-22 Improving the Playing Field Grants Program, with a doubling of the funding for that year. **out of scope**
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Core Background Information

BACKGROUND

Grants administration

- From 1 July 2022, the Department of State Growth will administer the Tasmanian Government funding allocations to the sport and recreation sector.
- Prior to 1 July 2022, the Communities, Sport and Recreation (CSR) Division within the Department of Communities Tasmania administered election commitment funding arrangements. These were all in line with Treasurer's Instruction and best practice grants managements, including formal funding agreements and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Facilitating grant funding commitments

- After the 2021 State Election, a list of grant recipients to be funded under the Local Communities Facilities Fund (LCFF) was provided to CSR from the Premier's office with the intention to provide funding to as many recipients as possible prior to the end of the 2020-21 financial year. In addition to the list provide by the Premier's Office, commitments were made to other grant recipients, such as those noted in the 'First 100 Days' made public 4 May 2021.
- CSR worked diligently through all commitments made to the community . As at 28 July 2022, 117 grants have been executed, with the remaining commitments still being negotiated and progressed.

Budget Information

- Over \$49 million will be distributed to more than 150 organisations within Tasmania's sport and active recreation sector through the 2021 Election commitments, including the Local Community Facilities Fund.

Released under RTI

Clearances

This information has been approved for transmission and accuracy.

Released under RTI

Department of Communities Tasmania

Question Time Briefing

Current as at 30 May 2022

Subject: **Sport and Recreation 2021 Election Commitments**

Election commitment Helping all Tasmanians Participate in Sport and Physical Activity

KEY MESSAGES

- Sport is the lifeblood of communities across Tasmania. To get more Tasmanians active, regardless of where they live, their age or their circumstances, we are investing more to help more Tasmanians participate in sport and physical activity.
- The Tasmanian Government aims to provide high quality and well-planned sport and recreation facilities to enable Tasmanians to be physically active.
- During the 2021 State Election, the Tasmanian Government made over 150 funding commitments to benefit the sport and recreation sector, including assistance to build new or upgrade existing sports facilities, purchase much-needed equipment, or to continue vital community sport and recreation programs.

TALKING POINTS

- In our first 30 days in office, we commenced negotiations with the Northern Tasmanian Netball Association for a partnership to develop a future dedicated netball hub in Northern Tasmania **out of scope**
[REDACTED]
- My Department and Infrastructure Tasmania (ITas) are continuing discussions with the NTNA and Netball Tasmania to progress this commitment, including its alignment with current work through ITas to establish Stadiums Tasmania.
- In our first 100 days in office, we:
 - Provided \$40 000 per annum to Bowls Tasmania to ensure Tasmania has its own team in the Bowls Premier league, additionally \$40 000 will be provided to fund the team for the following two years.

- Began working with Football Tasmania and its clubs on the \$10 million upgrade to football facilities at four key locations, in preparation for hosting international base camps in 2023 out of scope
- We doubled the Ticket to Play vouchers to \$200 and advised sporting clubs and associations of the extended program out of scope
- Launched the guidelines for the Solar Power Sports Club no-interest loan scheme, that commenced as an Expressions of Interest which closed on 31 January 2022 out of scope
- Announced the opening date for applications for the 2021-22 Improving the Playing Field Grants Program, with a doubling of the funding for that year. out of scope

BACKGROUND

Grants administration

- The Communities, Sport and Recreation (CSR) Division within the Department of Communities Tasmania administers election commitment funding arrangements in line with Treasurer's Instruction and best practice grants managements, including formal funding agreements and monitoring and reporting arrangements.

Facilitating grant funding commitments

- After the 2021 State Election, a list of grant recipients to be funded under the Local Communities Facilities Fund (LCFF) was provided to CSR from the Premier's office with the intention to provide funding to as many recipients as possible prior to the end of the 2020-21 financial year. In addition to the list provide by the Premier's Office, commitments were made to other grant recipients, such as those noted in the 'First 100 Days' made public 4 May 2021.
- CSR will continue to diligently work through all commitments made to the community . As at 30 May 2022, the majority of these commitments are progressing through the grant process, with 113 grants complete and funding payments made as required in accordance with individual grant deed terms and conditions.

Budget Information

- Over \$49 million will be distributed to more than 150 organisations within Tasmania's Sport and Active Recreation sector through the 2021 Election commitments, including the Local Community Facilities Fund.

Released under RTI

From:
Sent: Monday, 26 September 2022 11:03 AM
To:
Subject: Bracknell Hall funding

may find some of this useful in drafting her QTB -

BRACKNELL HALL FUNDING

All grants must meet the minimum requirements of completing a final acquittal to ensure funds provided were used according to the approved purpose of the grant.

All grants have a risk assessment completed by the department. Applicants under a grant program have an additional assessment completed against the program objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria.

There were several projects that were not funded under the Local Communities Facilities Fund. They were community, sport and recreation sector grants to further support the Tasmanian community in addition to grants provided through the 2021 State Election and they were accounted for in the 2022-23 Budget process.

We make no apologies for working with our communities to deliver projects that assist in economic and social recovery, and provide benefits for local communities.

It is what our local constituents would absolutely expect of their local Members.

The Tasmanian Government continues to provide significant investment in the development of high quality and well-planned sport and recreation facilities across the State.

Significant investment in community sporting and recreational facilities also supports community and economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

Correspondence between Meander Valley Council and Mark Shelton

As far as I am aware, in July 2021, the Meander Valley Council wrote to the Mr Shelton as Local Member, asking for State Government support for the project.

The letter stated that the existing hall had been condemned and needed to be demolished, and that the proposed works included a new community hall space, new stage area between the hall and existing boys and girls club gymnasium, new gym area, kitchenette, storage and toilet amenities.

Why was it referred to as an election commitment?

This was an administrative error, and the relevant Departmental official has clarified this.

Why was it in the Budget fact sheet?

While funding was not approved in time for the published 2021 Budget papers, funding was approved in the 2021-22 financial year and provided as a Request for Additional Funds.

This was transparently shown in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill debated in Parliament (and approved) in early 2022, and the funding for the project was shown in the 2022 Budget papers (approved by the Parliament).

The funding for this project formed part of the Budget and Forward Estimates and that's why it was included in the 2021 Budget Fact Sheet.

Office of the Hon Nic Street MP

Minister for Community Services and Development
Minister for Hospitality and Events
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Liberal Member for Franklin

Level 5, Parliament Square
4 Salamanca Place, Hobart, TAS, 7000

Department of Premier & Cabinet
www.premier.tas.gov.au



From: Street, Nic
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 2:11 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: FOR APPROVAL: ABC - request for information re: LCFF

Changes made below

Nic Street MP

Minister for Community Services and Development
Minister for Hospitality and Events
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House

Phone: (03) 6165 7830 or out of scope
Shop 96, Channel Court Shopping Centre,
Kingston TAS 7050



From:
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 1:40 PM
To: Street, Nic <Nic.Street@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc:
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: ABC - request for information re: LCFF

Hi Minister – below for your approval please to go from department.

‘All grants must meet the minimum requirements of completing a final acquittal to ensure funds provided were used according to the approved purpose of the grant.

All grants have a risk assessment completed by the department. Applicants under a grant program have an additional assessment completed against the program objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria.

The projects being referred to were not funded under the Local Communities Facilities Fund. They were community, sport and recreation sector grants ~~to be provided~~ to further support the Tasmanian community in addition to grants provided through the 2021 State Election and they were accounted for in the 2022-23 Budget process.’

From:

Date: 15 September 2022 at 9:28:45 am AEST

To:

Subject: FW: ABC - request for information re: LCFF

Dear

Please see the enquiry below from _____ at the ABC. It originally went to the RTI officer and then made it's way to us for a response.

I've liaised with _____ who has provided the following for clearance:

All grants, whether provided as a result of an election commitments or as a successful applicant from a grant program, have a risk assessment completed by the department. Applicants under a grant program have an additional assessment completed against the program objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria. Depending on the value and program risk this may also include a viability assessment of the organisation and an assessment of the organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the grant outcomes. Further to this a conditions precedent or reporting requirements may be included in the grant deed to ensure expectations are managed prior to all or some funding being released.

Irrespective of how a funding decision is determined, all grants must meet the minimum requirements of completing a final acquittal to ensure funds provided were used according to the approved purpose of the grant. Grants with higher risk, a longer term and/or higher value will usually complete a number of progress reports to track the progress of the grant recipient towards achieving the outcomes. This information is collected, including financial reports where applicable, and considered by the department for any future funding arrangements to help determine appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

We have Risk Assessment plans for Bracknell Hall, Kingborough Stadium (Jackjumpers) and St Helens but _____ has suggested not including them with the response, unless you prefer them to be included.

I'll send the response to _____ on your clearance.

Cheers,

From:

Sent: Friday, 9 September 2022 5:48 AM

To: RTIs Communities Tasmania <rti.ct@communities.tas.gov.au>

Subject: clarification request - ABC

Hi,

After the goings on in parliament yesterday I'm seeking some clarification – did communities assess the four projects that were LCFF funded but funded after the election –

1. The Bracknell Hall
2. Jackjumpers grant
3. St Helens pump tracks
4. Australian rules heritage museum

When I lodged my RTI earlier asking for "Internal correspondence within the Department of Communities regarding the viability of projects funded under the LCFF"

I was told "the Dept was not required to assess the viability of projects funded under the LCFF as they are all 2021 election commitments."

But these four appear to have not been election commitments.

Can you please advise what assessments are required for grants projects that are not election promises?

Thanks very much,

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Department of Premier and Cabinet

Question Time Briefing

Current as at 14 February 2023

Subject: 2021 State Government Election –
Local Community Facility Fund

Government policy,
election or budget
commitment

Local Community Facilities Fund (LCFF)

The Local Community Facilities Fund has been raised in various parliamentary sessions and within the media since the 2021 State Election.

KEY MESSAGES

- \$14.9 million was committed to community organisations across Tasmania during the 2021 State Election via the Local Community Facilities Fund (LCFF).
- The LCFF comprised of 255 community projects across Tasmania within the various portfolios of Sport and Recreation, Community Development, Veterans, Multicultural, Women and Aboriginal Affairs.
- Given the large volume and broad disbursement of funding the Department of Communities Tasmania (Communities Tasmania) batched the LCFF commitments for effectiveness and ease of administration.

TALKING POINTS

- The Local Communities Facilities Fund (LCFF) was administered by the Department of Communities Tasmania.
- The Department prioritised the commitments into batches for a staged administration approach.
- There are 255 projects funded through the \$14.9 million LCFF to various community organisations across the state.
- Communities Tasmania prepared appropriate and compliant processes to facilitate funding to each recipient via a grant deed.

BACKGROUND

- On 26 March 2021, the then Premier, the Hon Peter Gutwein, called the 2021 state election, which was held 1 May 2021.
- The election counts were complete, and declarations held on 14 May 2021.
- The Premier's Office sent letters to all LCFF recipients which confirming the commitment made to them, and advised Communities Tasmania of the recipients and allocations.
- Communities Tasmania's Finance branch lodged a Request for Additional Funds (RAF) with Treasury for \$2.5 million for stage 1 of the LCFF, covering 111 funded projects within the 2020-21 financial year.
- The remaining LCFF commitments are funded via the 2021-22 budget, noting that some funding was not disbursed within that year due to the recipient needs and/or compliance requirements prior to disbursement.
- In addition to the 255 projects funded through the \$14.9 million allocation, in September 2021 the Premier's Office informed Communities Tasmania that a further four projects were to be administered through the LCFF during the 2021-22 financial year.
- While these were funded separately to the LCFF they were managed by Communities Tasmania in the same manor for efficiency and consistency of administration.
- The four (4) additional projects, valued at \$1.4 million, were:
 1. St Helens Pump Track (\$500,000)
 2. Replacement of the Old Bracknell Hall (\$400,000)
 3. Australian Rules and Heritage Museum (\$250,000)
 4. Kingborough Sports Centre basketball stadium upgrade (\$250,000)
- These projects had not been included in the 2021-22 State Budget, therefore Communities Tasmania prepared a Request for Additional Funds.
- Communities Tasmania used existing grant administrative practices and policies to facilitate funding of LCFF recipients via Crown Law grant deed.
- Not all commitments were simple, straight forward and ready to fund, with a small number yet to progress due to the project's complexity and/or maturity.
- On receipt of the LCFF list, Communities Tasmania reviewed and batched the commitments and prioritised them into appropriate stages, broadly described as follows:

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- LCFF commitments continue to be managed by the Department of State Growth and the Department of Premier and Cabinet following the dissolution of Communities Tasmania.
- Grant deeds with all LCFF recipients include terms that require recipients to fully acquit their grant funds.

Released under RTI

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

TITLE: Update on four projects – Bracknell Hall, Kingborough Sport Centre (JackJumpers), Australian Rules Football Heritage Museum and St Helens pump track

New

Topics/issues addressed:

There have been numerous questions in Parliament in relation to these commitments, including in 2022 Budget Estimates and RTI requests.

- Bracknell Hall
- Kingborough Sports Centre (Jackjumpers)
- Australian Rules Football Heritage Museum
- St Helens Pump Track

Talking Points

- Due to an administrative error, these projects and funding agreements were referred to as 2021 election commitments in the past.
- The decision to make the four commitments was made subsequently to the election campaign and funding was included in the 2021-22 budget.
- The project to upgrade the Kingborough Sports Centre and purchase equipment for the Tasmanian JackJumpers was completed in October 2022.
- The other three funded projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Bracknell Hall

- The project is to demolish the existing hall and construct a new hall incorporating a community hall, stage, gym, storeroom, kitchen, and amenities.
- The Grant Deed was provided to Meander Valley Council 1 February 2022, with a Deed of Variation provided to Council 15 May 2022 extending the completion date to 31 December 2023.
- The Council satisfied the conditions precedent for the release of funding on 22 July 2022 with the provision of appropriate project documentation.
- The funding of \$400,000 was provided to Council in one instalment from the Department of State Growth in September 2022.
- Construction of the new hall is expected to be completed in 2023.

Kingborough Sports Centre (JackJumpers)

- The Department of Communities Tasmania (Communities Tasmania) was assigned responsibility to administer a \$250,000 commitment to the Tasmanian Jack Jumpers towards an upgrade of facilities at the Kingborough Sports Centre and equipment purchases.
- A Grant Deed for this purpose and funding amount was entered into with the Tasmanian JackJumpers and was executed by Communities Tasmania on 9 December 2021.
- The grant agreement included conditions precedent and progress and final reporting requirements.
- Communities Tasmania provided an initial payment of \$125,000 to the Recipient in accord with Grant Deed requirements on the 11

February 2022. The second instalment of \$125,000 was paid on 12 May 2022.

- The project was completed by 31 October 2022 with final reporting against the use and expenditure of grant funds provided in November 2022.

Australian Rules Football Heritage Museum

- This project was delayed pending clarification of the recipient organisation and its status as a legal entity.
- Chair/Treasurer of the Tasmanian Australian Rules History and Heritage Museum met with Sport and Recreation staff and AFL Tasmania's and on 31 May 2022.
- provided a copy of the organisation's Constitution and committee membership.
- A Grant Deed was finalised late in 2022, with \$50,000 released on execution and the remaining \$200,000 to be paid on receipt of a progress report/project update due in coming weeks.

St Helens Pump Track

- The Grant Deed was provided to the Break O'Day Council 23 March 2022, with the first instalment of \$100,000 paid shortly afterwards.
- Two further instalments will be paid upon provision of progress reports and advice re permits, approvals and leases being obtained.
- The project is expected to be completed by 31 October 2023.

Political Lines:

Minister's Office will insert

Background and Facts

Released under RTI

PREMIER'S QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: INTEGRITY COMMISSION PAPER #2 – COMMITMENTS IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS (Liberals' Local Communities Facilities Fund)

13 June 2022

Election promise to Sandy Bay Rowing Club

- The election promise made to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club during the 2021 election was part of a range of small, one-off election promises made local communities around the State.
- This is not unlike the raft of small promises made by Labor during the 2021 election – totalling \$31 million to be precise.
- There was no cash grant provided – as has been claimed (Mercury 10/6/22).
- It was like any other election promised in a democratic election – and as such, was dependent on two things happening –
 - One, the party being elected and forming government; and
 - Two, the election promise being funded, included in the Budget, and the Budget being agreed to by the Parliament.
- Only then was the funding provided to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club – and we stand by that promise.
- The pontoon will be of benefit to the wider community.

- I also want to point out the process used by the Liberal Party to determine election promises.
- This might be different for other political parties.
- But this is how we did it.
- During the election, candidates were asked to put forward their ideas and requests for promises for small, one-off community projects.
- Those requests were then assessed by a Liberal Party policy team against a clear set of criteria, including how projects could demonstrate improving community amenity.
- I want to also make it very clear that as a candidate Ms Ogilvie was not on the liberal party policy team, nor took part in deliberative discussions.
- Ms Ogilvie, as a candidate at that election, disclosed at the time of putting forward the Sandy Bay Rowing Club that her daughter was a member of the club.
- So were many other school children.
- However, given this project does benefit not just this club, but other community groups, including Scouts and the Hutchins Rowing Club, it was determined the promise should proceed.
- And the promise was subsequent part of the Liberal's suite of election promises.
- And it was made public.

Claims of pork barrelling

- I fail to understand the Greens' logic in claiming this is pork barrelling.
- Local election promises were made right across the State by the Liberals.
- And again, I point out, that election promises aren't real until a party is elected and the promise is funded and delivered.
- Voters understand this; it's surprising the Greens don't.
- I do, however, think it is disappointing you have chosen to target Ms Ogilvie's daughter, simply because she was a member of a club alongside many other school children.

How many projects were provided with financial support during the 2021 election?

- No funding was provided during the 2021 election to anyone.
- Promises were made – just the same as they have been at every election, by every political party, for decades.
- Each Party has the right to choose its policies and platform.
- And election promises can be as large as building a new hospital, or as small as fixing a school crossing or upgrading a sports ground.
- No matter what it is, there's nothing criminal, improper or unethical about that.
- And unless you win the votes you need to form government, you are not in a position to deliver on that promise.

- Democracy is about voters making a choice, based on the promises put before them – or making judgments of the candidates before them – or making judgements about a government's record.
- How they decide their vote is entirely up to them.

Election commitments are contingent on winning an election

- When any political party makes an election commitment, it is done so on the basis of being elected or re-elected.
- Why else would you have election promises or policies?
- However, election promises can only be realised if –
 - (a) The party is elected and forms government; and
 - (b) The party then decides to honour that promise when in government, and to fund it.
- So there is no actual funding attached to a promise until those two things happen.
- I have stood for campaigns in 2002, 2006 and 2010 where I wasn't elected, so my promises could not be delivered.
- That is democracy.
- The fact is all of the Liberals' 2021 election commitments were funded after our election, and were submitted to Parliament as part of the 2021 Budget.
- That Budget was subsequently passed by both Houses.
- The Integrity Commission also makes that point, stating: *“commitments made during an election period are only promises, are subject to election of the relevant party, and are usually*

formally approved by Parliament through an Appropriation Act before they are realised”.

Democracy in action

- Voters understand this election process very well.
- They understand that election promises are contingent and will be implemented only if the party putting them forward is elected.
- And they understand that is how the democratic system works.
- And that’s how it works all around the democratic world.
- And the Integrity Commission also agrees, stating: *“election commitments are an established and important part of the democratic election cycle”.*
- And they go on to say – rightly so – *“campaign commitments are not enforceable”.*

Election promises are not grants

- The other important point I make is that election promises are not grants.
- There seems to be some confusion between governing and grant programs, and campaigning and election promises.
- These are completely separate processes, and the two should not be compared.
- First, a grant program – as rightly explained in the Integrity Commission’s Paper is when there is a government program to allocate funding, upon application, to a pool of funding.

- Grant programs are not run by political parties but by Government Agencies.
- They have established guidelines, independent assessment processes and there a range of rules around their management as defined in the Treasurer's Instruction on Grant Management, and they are a competitive process.
- Second, grant programs are not run by Agencies when an election is called and the Government goes into "caretaker".
- Caretaker is designed to create a level playing field for all candidates.
- Members of Parliament become candidates during caretaker – and are the same as any other person who wants to put up their hand.
- In a nutshell, caretaker stops the process of governing and starts the process of campaigning.

Quantum of Liberal election policies – 2018 and 2021

- The Integrity Commission Paper details some of the Liberals' regional election promises made in the 2018 election.
- As the Integrity Commission points out in the Paper, election promises are not "enforceable" and "*subject to the election of the relevant party*".
- When the Liberals were elected in 2018, the Government provided funding after the election to fund its promises, and

all are reported in the 2018-19 Budget Papers, approved by Parliament. This is the proper process.

- In 2021, the Liberal Party also determined to make a range of regional or community election promises and asked candidates to get out on the ground and speak to their local communities.
- This resulted in a range of election promises being made, and all were publicised through media release or with Facebook posts with the candidate.
- They too formed part of the 2021-22 Budget which was approved in the Parliament.
- Labor also made a range of similar promises in the 2018 and 2021 elections – in fact, I believe the quantum of those smaller regional community promises in 2021 was some \$31 million. Much more than the Liberals.
- Labor promises were also publicised on Facebook –with the candidate or Member alongside the group they were promising funds to.
- As I say, a political party can promise anything from a new hospital or an upgrade of a regional sports ground.
- And there's nothing improper about that.

How the election promises are selected

- The Integrity Commission Paper appears to take exception as to how election promises are made, rather than the fact that political parties make them.

- As elections draw close, and during the campaign, sitting Members and political candidates receive hundreds of individual requests from local councils, service organisations, sports clubs and other community groups requesting funds to help them build or upgrade their facilities or improve the services they provide.
- Tasmania's newspapers carry such stories almost every day – and even publish “wish lists” of councils or key stakeholder groups.
- In other cases, candidates themselves identify a need in their local community from working on the ground in their electorate.
- This is what good local members of Parliament do. It is one of the important ways they keep in touch with the communities they serve.
- Using that input, candidates will then take that idea to the political party during the campaign and make a case for an election commitment.

Integrity Commission Paper and recommendations

- The Integrity Commission's Paper 2 is wide-ranging and appears to discuss grant programs and election promises side by side – which is unfortunate and confusing.
- The recommendations – which seem to suggest applying Government grant regulations to election promises in a campaign, when a government is in caretaker – would appear to undermine the democratic process entirely.

- And it's important that does not happen.
- And I would argue – and I would hope others would also in this House – that the democratic process of each political party being able to determine its election promises must remain.
- Election promises are not the same as grant programs and should not be treated as such.

If asked – Operation Hyperion

- Let me make it clear – the Integrity Commission has not in any way accused the Liberal Party of electoral bribery.
- The Board of the Integrity Commission determined to undertake an investigation in February 2019.
- It subsequently revoked its original determination to conduct the investigation – meaning the matter would not proceed to the Board for a determination under Section 58 of the Integrity Commission Act.
- The Board decided that it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to re-investigate the matter noting that **no misconduct had been identified.**
- The Board also had requested confidentiality be maintained on the matter *“as it had the potential to affect the rights and interests of many”*.
- The fact is the Integrity Commission investigation Operation Hyperion **found no evidence of misconduct.**

- Whilst the Commission's Chair has requested the maintenance of confidentiality in this matter, given the Commission's decision to discontinue its inquiry, it has been reported the Integrity Commission has said – as quoted in the ABC article:
- **“The Board obtained independent legal advice on particular points of law and the extent of the investigation in relation to its terms of reference, and concluded that the investigation could not be finalised under the existing terms of reference”.**
- And **“Ultimately the Board decided that it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to reinvestigate the matter, noting that, to that stage, no misconduct had been identified”.**
- Any determination made by the Integrity Commission – to pursue an investigation, to complete an investigation, to report on a finalised investigation – is a matter for them.

R White comments – misleading statements about Labor referral to Integrity Commission (re Operation Hyperion)

- Subsequent to the Board's decision, the Labor Leader issued deliberately misleading statements in Parliament (2021) and has since failed to explain or apologise for them.
- Ms White blatantly misled the Integrity Commission – and this House - in respect of Operation Hyperion.

- Her statements were called out as incorrect by the Integrity Commission, and still she failed to correct the record in this House.
- Ms White said – and I quote the ABC article ***“Integrity Commission chief executive Michael Easton had told her it had become too costly to continue the investigation because of a legal back and forth between the agency and the Liberals”***
- Mr Easton said in his letter to the Premier’s Chief of Staff: ***“I can confirm that I did not make the statement used in the article or provide that information to Ms White. It is not correct that the investigation “had become too costly to continue” so I would not have made that statement.***
- Two quite opposing statements.
- Then Ms White doubled down in Parliament (23/6).
- She got up on a personal explanation. She told Parliament she wasn’t quoted in the article – denying all responsibility for saying that.
- After that, the journalist tweeted:
“Rebecca White said to me she had spoken with the IC’s Michael Easton and “it became evident they had made a decision not to proceed (with Operation Hyperion) because of a cost-benefit analysis” after

lawyers were engaged by both sides over the terms of reference.

- So it's quite clear Ms White misled the House.
- She denied making that statement – but it's clear she did.
- Ms White also told Parliament in her personal explanation: the **“Chair of the Integrity Commission had said *“ultimately the board decided it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to reinvestigate the matter noting that at that stage no misconduct had been identified”*”**.
- But that's not what Ms White was quoted as saying.
- She was quoted as saying Mr Easton told her it was too costly to proceed.
- **And that was an outright lie.**
- Mr Easton went on to say (in his letter to my Chief of Staff) that the Board had considered a range of factors in making its final determination.
- He said the Board had determined that the investigation had “exceeded its original terms of reference”.

Further information - Liberal Party internal processes

- 2021 election

- I don't know how Labor ran its internal processes, but the 2021 election commitments were informed by community feedback and consultation, with an assessment process in place during the election campaign.

- On 3rd April, the Liberal Party Director wrote to all candidates announcing the Local Communities Facilities Fund Policy.
- Let me be clear, the Local Communities Facilities Fund is an internal Liberal Party title of a fund that (a) did not exist prior to the campaign and (b) had no money in it at the time of the campaign and (c) was merely a vehicle for a process for managing requests from local candidates on behalf of local community groups and organisations.
- Examples of local projects included:
 - Upgrades to community halls and other facilities
 - Community parks, lands and gardens
 - Recreational and sport facilities
 - Township and street beautification projects
 - Playgrounds
 - Indoor and outdoor sports programs; and
 - Creative arts and cultural projects
- Candidates were asked to consider how each project would help rebuild Tasmania post-Covid, improve local communities, improve economic activity, create jobs and support small businesses.
- On 4th April, the Liberal Party Director wrote to all candidates outlining the composition of the Liberal Policy Team, which would assess the proposed projects against the established criteria.

- Candidates were required to submit written requests to the Policy Team including:
 - The amount of funding being sought;
 - A detailed description of the project; and
 - Contact details for the Organisation.
- All projects were then assessed by the Liberal Policy Team based on the criteria.
- The former Premier wrote to Candidates advising of successful projects – noting that **should a Liberal Government be re-elected, funding will be allocated as part of this year's State Budget process.**
- As I said, all commitments were subject to the election of a Liberal Government.
- Candidates were asked to provide a copy of the Premier's letter directly to the organisation, put out a media release or issue a Facebook post.

Why did the Budget papers say the LCFF was established in June 2020

- This was an error in the Budget papers and should have read June 2021.
- My office has been in contact with the relevant Agency who agreed this is an error.
- What is clear is that the Local Communities Facility Fund was an internal Liberal Party campaign process.

- The Fund did not exist prior to the election.
- It was an internal vehicle for a campaign process for election promises only.

Mercury

Friday, 10 June 2022

Ogilvie cash grant query; Daughter member of recipient club

Richards, Blair

LIBERAL MP Madeleine Ogilvie disclosed that her daughter was a member of a **rowing club** to which she promised funding before the state election, the government says.

Ms Ogilvie, a former Labor and independent MP, joined the Liberal Party ahead of the 2021 state election.

In a Facebook post on April 26 last year, the then-Liberal candidate for Clark announced \$150,000 for "securing the future of the **Sandy Bay rowing club**".

The funds were to deliver a floating pontoon at the Short Beach Peninsula.

"This funding will benefit not just the **Sandy Bay Rowing Club** but the wider **rowing** community including the Scouts and the Hutchins **Rowing Club** and be used by sailing clubs, kayakers and other water users," Ms Ogilvie posted.

The grant was one of a range of Liberal promises announced by Ms Ogilvie, who is now a minister, during the campaign. Other groups promised funds included the Bucaan Community House in Chigwell, the **Sandy Bay** and North Hobart bowls clubs and the Derwent Cricket **Club**.

The promises, which later became grants when the Liberals won government, were part of the party's Local Communities Facilities Fund.

The fund provided a mechanism for Liberal state election candidates to make pledges to local organisations.

The Greens have criticised the fund as pork-barrelling.

In response to a question from Greens MP Rosalie Woodruff during state budget estimates, Sports Minister Nic Street said he didn't know whether Ms Ogilvie's daughter was a member of the **Sandy Bay Rowing Club**.

"I can't possibly know the answer to that question," Mr Street said.

A government spokeswoman confirmed Ms Ogilvie had disclosed to the Liberal Party before the election that someone in her family was a member of the **rowing club**.

"In 2021, the Liberal Party pledged \$15m for the establishment of a Local Communities Facilities Fund to help communities recover from the impacts of Covid," the spokeswoman said.

"Funding was available for one-off projects. Requests were assessed by a policy team against a set of criteria, including how projects would improve economic activity, create jobs, support local businesses and help rebuild Tasmania post-Covid, as well as demonstrating they would improve community amenity.

"All of our commitments were clearly documented in the 2021-22 budget papers and approved by parliament."

Released under RTI

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 14 June 2022 1:20 PM
To:
Subject: FW: LCFF
Attachments: LCFF breakdown.xlsx

These were the two lists provided to media outlets.

Released under RTI

Organisation	Project Title	Amount (\$)
1st Spreyton Scouts	Funding to support scouts attend the Cuboree in Hobart	\$1,880
Aust Italian Culture and community Centre	Funding for replacement of furniture and equipment	\$10,000
Beaconsfield Men's Shed	Installation of a new exhaust fan in the Men's Shed	\$10,000
Beltana Bowls Club	Installation of LED Lighting and Air Conditioner	\$8,496
Bracknell Football Club	Purchase of nets for behind the goal posts	\$45,000
Bridport Golf Club	Recarpeting of the Club House	\$8,000
Buckingham Bowls Club	Installation of retractable awnings over the Green	\$50,000
Burnie RSL Club	Installation of a new commercial oven	\$17,940
Campbell Town Golf Club	Funding for a new mower, refurbishment of sand bunders and equipment shed	\$32,000
Central Coast Cricket Club	Purchase of new seating for upgraded clubrooms	\$8,340
Channel Men's Shed	Sealing of the extension part of the car park	\$21,225
Circular head Agricultural Show Society	Raise and construct new roof on Beef Cattle Shed	\$25,000
City of Burnie Cycling Club Inc	Towards new scooters for training in motor pacing events	\$10,798
Claremont Men's Shed	Funding for a new computer for laser engraving	\$5,000
Clarence District Cricket Club	Renovation for a new History Museum	\$47,725
Clarence Zebras Football Club	Purchase of portable goals and team shelters	\$20,400
Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club	Upgrades to the Mountain Bike Park	\$20,000
Cradle Coast Outrigger Canoe Club	Purchase of three new Outrigger Canoes	\$78,000
Cremorne Bowls Club	Installation of new electronic scoreboard	\$16,760
Cressy Cricket Club	Replacement of outdoor training net surfaces	\$5,400
CWA Lindisfarne Branch	Upgrades to the CWA shop in Lindisfarne	\$50,000
Deloraine Bowls Club	Refurbishment of club kitchen	\$25,000
Deloraine Community Band	Funding for new band equipment and PA system	\$20,000
Derwent Scottish Pipe Band	Purchase of new musical instruments	\$7,260
Devonport City Soccer Club	Installation of solar panels	\$27,500
Duck Reach Historical Group	Upgrading and restoring heritage machinery	\$60,000
Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens	Completion of an automated irrigation system for the Gardens	\$61,273
Evandale Football Club	Funding to provide IT equipment	\$6,000

Exeter Golf Club	Upgrading of the kitchen in the Golf Club	\$19,325
Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House	Construction of four bay garage and storage facilities	\$30,000
From the Shadows Inc	Funding for new interpretation panels	\$6,000
Furneaux Island community Shed	Upgrading the Community Shed	\$39,400
Geeveston Town Hall Company	Funding for waste minimisation projects	\$14,520
Glenorchy Rodman Bowls & Community Club	Refurbishment of the Club's windows blinds	\$4,277
Glenorchy Rodman Bowls & Community Club	Upgrading the front entrance to the Clubrooms	\$21,860
Goodwood Community Centre	Replacement of the Community Garden Beds	\$5,200
Gunns Plains Community Centre Association Inc	Replacement of the roof on the Gunns Plains community hall	\$20,000
Helping Hand	Support for supplies for vulnerable members in the community	\$10,000
Huon FM Community Radio Station	Funding for soundproofing the on-air studio	\$6,776
Huon FM Community Radio Station	Painting and refurbishment of the Radio Station	\$17,036
Huon Hoofbeats	Repairs to the riding club's sand arena	\$15,000
Huon Pony Club	Provision of shipping container for administration and first aid	\$30,000
Huon Valley Council	Funding for development of the new recreation space and public toilet at Southport	\$20,000
Huon Valley Council	Renewal of Playground equipment and Fencing at Glen Huon	\$30,000
Huonville PCYC	Funding for new gym equipment	\$33,823
King Island Community Car	Replacement of the community car	\$33,000
King Island Pony Club Inc	Purchase of a new trailer to carry Club equipment	\$4,500
Kingborough Council	Upgrading of electrical work at the Bruny Island Hall	\$10,000
Kingborough Council	Upgrade to toilets at the Middleton Community Hall	\$20,000
Kingborough Family Church	Upgrading community space and facilities	\$29,000
Latrobe Croquet Club	Funding for the purchase of a new Ride On Lawn Mower	\$45,000
Latrobe Tennis Club	Funding to develop new tennis courts	\$25,000
Lauderdale Yacht Club	Construction of a new shed and purchase of four training skiffs	\$40,000
Launceston Community FM Group	Upgrading of the broadcast studio	\$19,018
Launceston School for Seniors	New projector for local Seniors school	\$1,700

Lindisfarne Cricket Club	Installation of new Sightcreens	\$20,000
Lindisfarne Rowing Club	Purchase of two Scull boats	\$35,980
Living Boat Shed	Installation of solar panels	\$6,500
Lobster Haven	Sealing of pathways providing disability access	\$35,640
Longford Art Group	Upgrade to the Town Hall	\$18,000
Longford Bowls Club	Refurbishment of the kitchen and facilities areas	\$25,000
Longford Local Legends	Installation of a Lyche Gate	\$15,000
Longford RSL	Refurbishment of the RSL hall	\$10,000
Longford Show Society	Upgrading facilities and installation of security cameras	\$18,000
Maydena Community Association	Installation of a new all abilities barbecue	\$10,000
Meander Resource Management Group	Installation of new picnic and BBQ shelters	\$12,000
Mersey Rowing Club	Funding for new rowing shell boat	\$45,000
Mole Creek Community Shed	Installation of solar panels and tree removal	\$30,000
Mole Creek Progress Association	Replacing the roof of the Mole Creek Op Shop	\$7,000
Moorina Golf Club	Funding for a new irrigation system	\$35,000
Mt Pleasant Cricket Club	Cricket Bowling Machine	\$4,695
New Mornings Inc	Upgrading the Grief and Loss Garden	\$5,940
New Norfolk Aquatic Club	Upgrading of Club facilities, BBQ and boat ramp	\$2,000
New Norfolk District Football Club	Upgrading of fitness equipment	\$13,500
North East Community Centre	Development of a Youth Needs analysis	\$20,000
Northern Midlands council	Funding for a new behind goal post net system at the Perth Recreation Grounds	\$15,000
Northern Midlands council	Funding for the dog park exercise and training equipment	\$20,000
Northern Midlands council	Funding for Morven Park oval preparation equipment	\$24,200
Northern Tasmanian Light Horse Troop	New uniforms and sporting equipment	\$25,000
Nunamara Hall Committee	Upgrading of the local hall and new fencing	\$45,000
Poatina Golf Club	Sowing of new faircourse course and replacement of Course Mower	\$18,000
Port Sorell Golf Club	Installation of new wallaby proof fence	\$56,188
Port Sorell Surf Lifesaving club	Upgrade and installation of new lighting and heating	\$27,500
Riana Community Centre	Installation of new security system	\$15,000
Ridgeley Cricket Club	Upgrade and modernisation of the club rooms	\$38,500

Ringarooma Golf Club	Funding to reroof the Clubhouse	\$20,000
Rosebery Neighbourhood House	Refurbishment and repairs to the Neighbourhood House	\$8,800
Sandy Bay Scout Group	Electrical and plumbing upgrades to the Scout Hall	\$9,000
Sassafras Cricket Club	Upgrade of the Cricket Pitch and new matting	\$6,000
Scottsdale Golf Club	Construction of a new machinery and buggy shed	\$8,000
SelfHelp Workplace	Upgrading of lighting	\$3,047
Sheffield Golf Club	Upgrades to the Club's watering system, resealing of car park and new mower	\$42,000
South East Basketball Association	Establishment of new Basketball team	\$30,000
Spring Bay Clay Target Club	Replacement of Target Traps	\$20,000
SSAA Militaria Collectors Association of Tasmania	Restoration of historic memorabilia	\$30,000
St Barnabas Community Church	Funding for fire risk management	\$4,600
St Helen's Bowls Club	Installation of a new sun-safe awning	\$25,000
St Helens RSL	Installation of Solar system	\$25,000
Stanley Chamber of Commerce	Design of underground power conversion	\$15,000
Star-FM	Funding for new carpet and radio equipment	\$15,000
Swansea Golf Club	Installation of new fencing	\$47,300
Tam O'Shanter Golf Club	Car park sealing for the golf club	\$50,000
Tamar Valley semapore Association	Funding for repairs at the Mt Direction semaphore	\$25,000
Tasmanian Working Sheepdog Association Inc	Provision of funding to secure the Australian Sheepdog Championship & Trans-Tasman Test	\$30,000
Tasmanian Youth Orchestra	Funding for travel kits	\$19,675
Tassie Mums	Purchase of additional baby equipment including car seats and cots	\$50,000
Toosey Aged Care	Installation of new shade sail in gardens	\$13,000
Way FM	Funding for new studio equipment	\$22,400
West Tamar Gymnastics Club	Purchase of new floor matting	\$3,500
Westbury Shooting Club	Funding for solar panels and gas water heating	\$10,000
Wynyard RSL	Upgrading facilities to provide more functional multi-purpose spaces	\$30,000

\$2,465,397

Organisation	Project Title	Amount (\$)
Ashgrove Cheese	Funding to provide disability access to car parking	\$50,000
Aust Deer Association (Tas)	Funding for an economic and social value study	\$50,000
Beaconsfield School Pool	Upgrading of disability change rooms and baby change facilities and pool heating	\$31,609
Beauty Point Bowls and community Club	Construction of disability toilet facilities	\$56,000
Bicheno Golf Club	Renovations to bar facilities and new disability toilets	\$60,000
Bothwell Football Club	Towards a new electronic scoreboard	\$30,000
Bucaan Community House	Funding for the development of a community garden	\$85,000
Channel Museum	Extension to the Museum	\$150,000
Circular Head Agricultural Society	Upgrading public amenities at the Stanley Recreation Ground	\$132,330
City Mission	Renovation of a new site for the operation of Mission Health	\$110,000
City of Hobart Community Shed	Development of a Hobart Men's Shed	\$260,000
Clarence City Council	Towards funding of new Rokeby Cricket Club rooms	\$50,000
Clarence City Council	Upgrading kitchen and facilities at the Sandford community hall	\$50,000
Clarence City Council	Upgrade to the community space at the Rosny Park Golf Club	\$75,000
Clarence City Council	Funding for Bedlams Aboriginal Heritage interpretation walk project and track realignment	\$75,000
Clarence City Council	Design and construction of a new seniors outdoor exercise park	\$200,000
Clifton Beach Surf Life Saving Club	Expansion of the Club rooms	\$150,000
Cradle Coast Authority	Funding for office space for Enterprise	\$500,000
Cressy Recreation Ground Committee	Replacement of the club room roofs	\$45,000
Deloraine District Anglers Club	Construction of new toilet facilities at Lake Parangana and Lake Rowallan	\$100,000
Deloraine Flames Dragon Boat Club	Installation of new Dragon Boat pontoon	\$20,000
Deloraine Football Club	Upgrades to toilet and medical room facilities and new behind goal nets	\$50,000
Deloraine Golf Club	Funding for new mower and green keeper's shed	\$76,300
Deloraine Junior Basketball Association	Construction of new outdoor basketball court	\$150,000

Deloraine Lions Club and Meander Valley Youth Club	Construction of a new Pump Truck	\$250,000
Derwent Cricket Club	Development of a new home ground	\$50,000
Derwent Mercantile Collegiate Rowing Club	Provision of disability access	\$80,000
Devonport City Strikers Football Club	Installation of new commercial kitchen	\$75,000
Devonport Gymnastics Club	Completion of the gymnastic pit area	\$100,000
Devonport Men's Shed	Extensions to the Men's Shed	\$64,500
Don River Railway	Funding to progress the Don River Railway expansion	\$46,000
Don River Railway	Renovations and upgrades to the Don River Railway buildings	\$49,890
East Coast Tourism Tasmania	Funding for new tourism marketing projects	\$35,000
Elphin Sports Centre Management	Funding for a new communications system	\$80,000
Evandale Panthers Cricket Club	Installation of three new cricket nets	\$88,388
Fairy Godmothers Inc	Funding for a new all-abilities playground	\$550,000
Forth Football Club	Upgrade lighting for the football recreation grounds	\$20,000
Geilston Bay Boat Club	Replacement of the Boat Club jetty	\$150,000
George Town Community Bowls Club Inc	Replacement of the Club House roof	\$78,000
George Town Council	Funding to establish an Artisans Guild to local crafts people including a new shop front	\$380,000
George Town RSL	Installation of disability lift	\$40,000
Glenorchy Community Care Inc	Upgrading of toilet and car park facilities	\$114,000
Glenorchy Cricket Club	Refurbishment of the Cricket Club	\$20,000
Glenorchy District Football Club	Upgrading interchange facilities at KGV	\$145,000
Glenorchy Knights Football Club	Undertake drainage works on the playing field	\$155,000
Glenorchy Rodman Bowls & Community Club	Conversion of bowling green to artificial lawn	\$212,000
Good Community Centre and Bucaan Community Centre	Funding to replace the community bus	\$61,077
Greek Community of Tasmania	Upgrade the Club's toilet facilities	\$70,000

Highfield Historic Site Advisory Committee	Final stage of interpretative signage project	\$ 100,000
Hobart Football Club and DOSA Football Club	Design and costings for the TCA ground redevelopment	\$50,000
Howrah Bowls Club	Installation of disability ramp	\$29,620
Huon Valley Council	Development of a new Bike Track in the Burton reserve	\$50,000
Huonville Lions Football Club	Upgrade and installation of new lighting to the Huonville Oval	\$ 150,000
Invermay Primary	Reinstating the school's bell tower	\$20,000
Kentish Council and Rowing Tasmania	Upgrades to the rowing course to secure international events	\$ 130,000
King Island Golf & Bowling Club	Upgrading facilities and extension to the dining area	\$200,000
Kingborough Council	Feasibility study for the expansion of the Kingborough netball facilities	\$50,000
Kingborough Council	Construction of new Woodbridge foreshore walk	\$ 100,000
Lauderdale Football Club	Completion of works on the clubrooms	\$ 102,700
Launceston City Football Club	Upgrades to the Launceston City Football Club	\$ 1,000,000
Launceston Pony And Riding Club	Funding for rehabilitation of the pony and riding club grounds	\$80,000
Lilydale Lions Club	Construction of a new Men's Shed	\$70,000
Longford Golf Club	Upgrading of clubroom change rooms and purchase of mower	\$ 100,000
Longford Rail Committee	Restoration of the Longford Rail Bridge pillars and new footbridge	\$50,000
Lower Barrington Hall Committee	Removal of asbestos in the Hall	\$25,000
Lower Barrington Hall Committee	Refurbishment of the Lower Barrington Hall	\$75,000
Men's Shed Riverside	Construction of a new Men's Shed	\$27,000
Nexus Inc	Launch of Social Enterprise Employment & Diversity (SEED) program	\$51,200
North Hobart Bowls Club	Installation of a new synthetic surface at the Club	\$ 150,000
North Hobart Football Club	Installation of lift and accessible seating	\$370,000
Northern Midlands Council	Construction of a Children's Road Safety Park	\$ 100,000
Northern Tasmania Athletics	Funding for the installation of additional toilet facilities	\$25,000
Old Beach Cricket club	Upgrade of Club facilities	\$50,000

Olympia Football Club	Extension to the Club House and female change rooms	\$117,500
Penguin Football Club	Installation of solar panels of the club	\$50,000
Playgroup Tasmania	Providing accessible access for the Holbrook St Centre	\$350,000
Port Cygnet Sailing Club	Upgrade Sailing Club amenities	\$80,000
Port Dalrymple Yacht Club	Upgrade of the yacht club slipway	\$112,500
Railton Bowls Club	Upgrading facilities and replacing a range of equipment	\$45,000
Railton Neighbourhood House	Installation of solar panels and building extension	\$35,000
Riana Cricket Club	Upgrading the community changerooms and a new electronic scoreboard	\$40,000
Risdon Vale Bike Collective	Continuation of funding for the program	\$85,000
Rotary Club of South Launceston	Funding for the Northern Tasmanian propagation project to harvest food produce	\$75,000
Sandy Bay Bowls Club and Community Club	Installation of a new synthetic surface at the Club	\$165,000
Sandy Bay Rowing Club	Installation of new West Side pontoon	\$150,000
Sandy Bay Sailing Club	Refurbishment of change rooms	\$12,000
Sandy Bay Sailing Club	Installation of lift to upstairs club rooms	\$69,181
Sandy Bay Sailing Club	Development of a new RIB Shed	\$248,206
Sidmouth War Memorial Committee	Upgrades to the local community memorial hall	\$70,000
Snug Cricket Club	Refurbishment of the changerooms	\$150,000
South Arm Men's Shed	Towards the construction of the Men's Shed	\$53,000
South Arm Peninsula Residents Association Inc	Purchase of a new community bus	\$67,000
South Arm RSL Sub-Branch	Preservation of Military equipment and new Military Museum	\$39,806
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	Construction of a new Fanny Smith Museum	\$150,000
Southern Midlands council	Construction of accessible toilet facilities for the Tunbridge Community Club	\$40,000
Spring Bay Recreation Ground Advisory Committee	Funding for facility upgrades, netball shelters and storage facilities	\$150,000
St Helens Marine Rescue	New Kitchen and Gantry for Club facilities	\$40,000
St Vincent de Paul	Funding for new vehicles to support the work of the soup vans	\$165,516

Swansea RSL	Disabled Platform Lift	\$25,000
Tasmanian Echnidnas Volleyball Club	Funding for participation in Aust Volleyball League, including a new flooring upgrade to League standard	\$100,000
Tasmanian Football Umpires Association	Construction of a permanent change room and club room for football umpires	\$150,000
Tassie Flying Paws Dog Club	Funding to upgrade the Pontville Park pavilion and develop a dog-arena	\$200,000
Tea Tree Community Association	Structural repairs to the Community Hall	\$135,000
Tomahawk Community	Tomahawk Jetty	\$50,000
Trevallyn Bowls	Installation of shade and allweather verandah	\$110,000
Ulverstone Soccer Club	Construction of new clubrooms at the Club	\$185,000
West Winds Community Centre	Development of creative arts program	\$149,916
Wynyard Yacht Club	Repairs to the Southern Breakwater at Inglis River	\$30,000
Wynyard Yacht Club	Construction of a new launch ramp and pontoon	\$94,500

\$12,414,739

Approved under RTI

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 15 June 2022 7:14 AM
To:
Subject: Fwd: LCFF breakdown.pdf
Attachments: LCFF breakdown.pdf

It's the two lists sent me combined into one
has this document as well

Office of the Hon Nic Street MP
Minister for Community Services and Development
Minister for Hospitality and Events
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Liberal Member for Franklin

Level 5, Parliament Square
4 Salamanca Place, Hobart, TAS, 7000

Begin forwarded message:

Released under RTI

Liberal Party list of election commitments under Local Community Facilities Fund, State Election 2021

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1st Spreyton Scouts	Funding to support scouts attend the Cuboree in Hobart	\$1,880
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Evandale Football Club	Funding to provide IT equipment	\$6,000
Exeter Golf Club	Upgrading of the kitchen in the Golf Club	\$19,325
Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House	Construction of four bay garage and storage facilities	\$30,000
From the Shadows Inc	Funding for new interpretation panels	\$6,000
Furneaux Island community Shed	Upgrading the Community Shed	\$39,400
Geeveston Town Hall Company	Funding for waste minimisation projects	\$14,520
Glenorchy Rodman Bowls & Community	Refurbishment of the Club's windows blinds	\$4,277
Glenorchy Rodman Bowls & Community	Upgrading the front entrance to the Clubrooms	\$21,860
Goodwood Community Centre	Replacement of the Community Garden Beds	\$5,200
Gunns Plains Community Centre Association Inc	Replacement of the roof on the Gunns Plains community hall	\$20,000
Helping Hand	Support for supplies for vulnerable members in the community	\$10,000
Huon FM Community Radio Station	Funding for soundproofing the on-air studio	\$6,776
Huon FM Community Radio Station	Painting and refurbishment of the Radio Station	\$17,036
Huon Hoofbeats	Repairs to the riding club's sand arena	\$15,000

Liberal Party list of election commitments under Local Community Facilities Fund, State Election 2021

Huon Pony Club	Provision of shipping container for administration and first aid	\$30,000
Huon Valley Council	Funding for development of the new recreation space and public toilet at Southport	\$20,000
Huon Valley Council	Renewal of Playground equipment and Fencing at Glen Huon	\$30,000
Huonville PCYC	Funding for new gym equipment	\$33,823
King Island Community Car	Replacement of the community car	\$33,000
King Island Pony Club Inc	Purchase of a new trailer to carry Club equipment	\$4,500
Kingborough Council	Upgrading of electrical work at the Bruny Island Hall	\$10,000
Kingborough Council	Upgrade to toilets at the Middleton Community Hall	\$20,000
Kingborough Family Church	Upgrading community space and facilities	\$29,000
Latrobe Croquet Club	Funding for the purchase of a new Ride On Lawn Mower	\$45,000
Latrobe Tennis Club	Funding to develop new tennis courts	\$25,000
Lauderdale Yacht Club	Construction of a new shed and purchase of four training skiffs	\$40,000
Launceston Community FM Group	Upgrading of the broadcast studio	\$19,018
Launceston School for Seniors	New projector for local Seniors school	\$1,700
Lindisfarne Cricket Club	Installation of new Sightscreens	\$20,000
Lindisfarne Rowing Club	Purchase of two Scull boats	\$35,980
Living Boat Shed	Installation of solar panels	\$6,500
Lobster Haven	Sealing of pathways providing disability access	\$35,640
Longford Art Group	Upgrade to the Town Hall	\$18,000
Longford Bowls Club	Refurbishment of the kitchen and facilities areas	\$25,000
Longford Local Legends	Installation of a Lyche Gate	\$15,000
Longford RSL	Refurbishment of the RSL hall	\$10,000
Longford Show Society	Upgrading facilities and installation of security cameras	\$18,000
Maydena Community Association	Installation of a new all abilities barbecue	\$10,000
Meander Resource Management Group	Installation of new picnic and BBQ shelters	\$12,000
Mersey Rowing Club	Funding for new rowing shell boat	\$45,000
Mole Creek Community Shed	Installation of solar panels and tree removal	\$30,000
Mole Creek Progress Association	Replacing the roof of the Mole Creek Op Shop	\$7,000
Moorina Golf Club	Funding for a new irrigation system	\$35,000
Mt Pleasant Cricket Club	Cricket Bowling Machine	\$4,695
New Mornings Inc	Upgrading the Grief and Loss Garden	\$5,940
New Norfolk Aquatic Club	Upgrading of Club facilities, BBQ and boat ramp	\$2,000
New Norfolk District Football Club	Upgrading of fitness equipment	\$13,500
North East Community Centre	Development of a Youth Needs analysis	\$20,000
Northern Midlands council	Funding for a new behind goal post net system at the Perth Recreation Grounds	\$15,000
Northern Midlands council	Funding for the dog park exercise and training equipment	\$20,000
Northern Midlands council	Funding for Morven Park oval preparation equipment	\$24,200
Northern Tasmanian Light Horse Troop	New uniforms and sporting equipment	\$25,000
Nunamara Hall Committee	Upgrading of the local hall and new fencing	\$45,000
Poatina Golf Club	Sowing of new faircourse course and replacement of Course Mower	\$18,000
Port Sorell Golf Club	Installation of new wallaby proof fence	\$56,188
Port Sorell Surf Lifesaving club	Upgrade and installation of new lighting and heating	\$27,500
Riana Community Centre	Installation of new security system	\$15,000

Liberal Party list of election commitments under Local Community Facilities Fund, State Election 2021

Ridgeley Cricket Club	Upgrade and modernisation of the club rooms	\$38,500
Ringarooma Golf Club	Funding to reroof the Clubhouse	\$20,000
Rosebery Neighbourhood House	Refurbishment and repairs to the Neighbourhood House	\$8,800
Sandy Bay Scout Group	Electrical and plumbing upgrades to the Scout Hall	\$9,000
Sassafras Cricket Club	Upgrade of the Cricket Pitch and new matting	\$6,000
Scottsdale Golf Club	Construction of a new machinery and buggy shed	\$8,000
SelfHelp Workplace	Upgrading of lighting	\$3,047
Sheffield Golf Club	Upgrades to the Club's watering system, resealing of car park and new mower	\$42,000
South East Basketball Association	Establishment of new Basketball team	\$30,000
Spring Bay Clay Target Club	Replacement of Target Traps	\$20,000
SSAA Militaria Collectors Association of	Restoration of historic memorabilia	\$30,000
St Barnabas Community Church	Funding for fire risk management	\$4,600
St Helen's Bowls Club	Installation of a new sun-safe awning	\$25,000
St Helens RSL	Installation of Solar system	\$25,000
Stanley Chamber of Commerce	Design of underground power conversion	\$15,000
Star-FM	Funding for new carpet and radio equipment	\$15,000
Swansea Golf Club	Installation of new fencing	\$47,300
Tam O'Shanter Golf Club	Car park sealing for the golf club	\$50,000
Tamar Valley semaphore Association	Funding for repairs at the Mt Direction semaphore	\$25,000
Tasmanian Working Sheepdog Association Inc	Provision of funding to secure the Australian Sheepdog Championship & Trans-Tasman Test	\$30,000
Tasmanian Youth Orchestra	Funding for travel kits	\$19,675
Tassie Mums	Purchase of additional baby equipment including car seats and cots	\$50,000
Toosey Aged Care	Installation of new shade sail in gardens	\$13,000
Way FM	Funding for new studio equipment	\$22,400
West Tamar Gymnastics Club	Purchase of new floor matting	\$3,500
Westbury Shooting Club	Funding for solar panels and gas water heating	\$10,000
Wynyard RSL	Upgrading facilities to provide more functional multi-purpose spaces	\$30,000

\$2,465,397

Organisation	Project Title	Amount (\$)
Ashgrove Cheese	Funding to provide disability access to car parking	\$50,000
Aust Deer Association (Tas)	Funding for an economic and social value study	\$50,000
Beaconsfield School Pool	Upgrading of disability change rooms and baby change facilities and pool heating	\$31,609
Beauty Point Bowls and community Club	Construction of disability toilet facilities	\$56,000
Bicheno Golf Club	Renovations to bar facilities and new disability toilets	\$60,000
Bothwell Football Club	Towards a new electronic scoreboard	\$30,000
Bucaan Community House	Funding for the development of a community garden	\$85,000
Channel Museum	Extension to the Museum	\$150,000
Circular Head Agricultural Society	Upgrading public amenities at the Stanley Recreation Ground	\$132,330
City Mission	Renovation of a new site for the operation of Mission Health	\$110,000
City of Hobart Community Shed	Development of a Hobart Men's Shed	\$260,000

Liberal Party list of election commitments under Local Community Facilities Fund, State Election 2021

Clarence City Council	Towards funding of new Rokeby Cricket Club rooms	\$50,000
Clarence City Council	Upgrading kitchen and facilities at the Sandford community hall	\$50,000
Clarence City Council	Upgrade to the community space at the Rosny Park Golf Club	\$75,000
Clarence City Council	Funding for Bedlams Aboriginal Heritage interpretation walk project and track realignment	\$75,000
Clarence City Council	Design and construction of a new seniors outdoor exercise park	\$200,000
Clifton Beach Surf Life Saving Club	Expansion of the Club rooms	\$150,000
Cradle Coast Authority	Funding for office space for Enterprise	\$500,000
Cressy Recreation Ground Committee	Replacement of the club room roofs	\$45,000
Deloraine District Anglers Club	Construction of new toilet facilities at Lake Parangana and Lake Rowallan	\$100,000
Deloraine Flames Dragon Boat Club	Installation of new Dragon Boat pontoon	\$20,000
Deloraine Football Club	Upgrades to toilet and medical room facilities and new behind goal nets	\$50,000
Deloraine Golf Club	Funding for new mower and green keeper's shed	\$76,300
Deloraine Junior Basketball Association	Construction of new outdoor basketball court	\$150,000
Deloraine Lions Club and Meander Valley Youth Club	Construction of a new Pump Truck	\$250,000
Derwent Cricket Club	Development of a new home ground	\$50,000
Derwent Mercantile Collegiate Rowing Club	Provision of disability access	\$80,000
Devonport City Strikers Football Club	Installation of new commercial kitchen	\$75,000
Devonport Gymnastics Club	Completion of the gymnastic pit area	\$100,000
Devonport Men's Shed	Extensions to the Men's Shed	\$64,500
Don River Railway	Funding to progress the Don River Railway expansion	\$46,000
Don River Railway	Renovations and upgrades to the Don River Railway buildings	\$49,890
East Coast Tourism Tasmania	Funding for new tourism marketing projects	\$35,000
Elphin Sports Centre Management	Funding for a new communications system	\$80,000
Evandale Panthers Cricket Club	Installation of three new cricket nets	\$88,388
Fairy Godmothers Inc	Funding for a new all-abilities playground	\$550,000
Forth Football Club	Upgrade lighting for the football recreation grounds	\$20,000
Geilston Bay Boat Club	Replacement of the Boat Club jetty	\$150,000
George Town Community Bowls Club Inc	Replacement of the Club House roof	\$78,000
George Town Council	Funding to establish an Artisans Guild to local crafts people including a new shop front	\$380,000
George Town RSL	Installation of disability lift	\$40,000
Glenorchy Community Care Inc	Upgrading of toilet and car park facilities	\$114,000
Glenorchy Cricket Club	Refurbishment of of the Cricket Club	\$20,000
Glenorchy District Football Club	Upgrading interchange facilities at KGV	\$145,000
Glenorchy Knights Football Club	Undertake drainage works on the playing field	\$155,000
Glenorchy Rodman Bowls & Community	Conversion of bowling green to artificial lawn	\$212,000
Good Community Centre and Bucaan Community Centre	Funding to replace the community bus	\$61,077
Greek Community of Tasmania	Upgrade the Club's toilet facilities	\$70,000
Highfield Historic Site Advisory Committee	Final stage of interpretative signage project	\$100,000
Hobart Football Club and DOSA Football	Design and costings for the TCA ground redevelopment	\$50,000

Liberal Party list of election commitments under Local Community Facilities Fund, State Election 2021

Howrah Bowls Club	Installation of disability ramp	\$29,620
Huon Valley Council	Development of a new Bike Track in the Burton reserve	\$50,000
Huonville Lions Football Club	Upgrade and installation of new lighting to the Huonville Oval	\$150,000
Invermay Primary	Reinstating the school's bell tower	\$20,000
Kentish Council and Rowing Tasmania	Upgrades to the rowing course to secure international events	\$130,000
King Island Golf & Bowling Club	Upgrading facilities and extension to the dining area	\$200,000
Kingborough Council	Feasibility study for the expansion of the Kingborough netball facilities	\$50,000
Kingborough Council	Construction of new Woodbridge foreshore walk	\$100,000
Lauderdale Football Club	Completion of works on the clubrooms	\$102,700
Launceston City Football Club	Upgrades to the Launceston City Football Club	\$1,000,000
Launceston Pony And Riding Club	Funding for rehabilitation of the pony and riding club grounds	\$80,000
Lilydale Lions Club	Construction of a new Men's Shed	\$70,000
Longford Golf Club	Upgrading of clubroom change rooms and purchase of mower	\$100,000
Longford Rail Committee	Restoration of the Longford Rail Bridge pillars and new footbridge	\$50,000
Lower Barrington Hall Committee	Removal of asbestos in the Hall	\$25,000
Lower Barrington Hall Committee	Refurbishment of the Lower Barrington Hall	\$75,000
Men's Shed Riverside	Construction of a new Men's Shed	\$27,000
Nexus Inc	Launch of Social Enterprise Employment & Diversity (SEED) program	\$51,200
North Hobart Bowls Club	Installation of a new synthetic surface at the Club	\$150,000
North Hobart Football Club	Installation of lift and accessible seating	\$370,000
Northern Midlands Council	Construction of a Children's Road Safety Park	\$100,000
Northern Tasmania Athletics	Funding for the installation of additional toilet facilities	\$25,000
Old Beach Cricket club	Upgrade of Club facilities	\$50,000
Olympia Football Club	Extension to the Club House and female change rooms	\$117,500
Penguin Football Club	Installation of solar panels of the club	\$50,000
Playgroup Tasmania	Providing accessible access for the Holbrook St Centre	\$350,000
Port Cygnet Sailing Club	Upgrade Sailing Club amenities	\$80,000
Port Dalrymple Yacht Club	Upgrade of the yacht club slipway	\$112,500
Railton Bowls Club	Upgrading facilities and replacing a range of equipment	\$45,000
Railton Neighbourhood House	Installation of solar panels and building extension	\$35,000
Riana Cricket Club	Upgrading the community changerooms and a new electronic scoreboard	\$40,000
Risdon Vale Bike Collective	Continuation of funding for the program	\$85,000
Rotary Club of South Launceston	Funding for the Northern Tasmanian propagation project to harvest food produce	\$75,000
Sandy Bay Bowls Club and Community Club	Installation of a new synthetic surface at the Club	\$165,000
Sandy Bay Rowing Club	Installation of new West Side pontoon	\$150,000
Sandy Bay Sailing Club	Refurbishment of change rooms	\$12,000
Sandy Bay Sailing Club	Installation of lift to upstairs club rooms	\$69,181
Sandy Bay Sailing Club	Development of a new RIB Shed	\$248,206
Sidmouth War Memorial Committee	Upgrades to the local community memorial hall	\$70,000

Liberal Party list of election commitments under Local Community Facilities Fund, State Election 2021

Snug Cricket Club	Refurbishment of the changerooms	\$150,000
South Arm Men's Shed	Towards the construction of the Men's Shed	\$53,000
South Arm Peninsula Residents Association Inc	Purchase of a new community bus	\$67,000
South Arm RSL Sub-Branch	Preservation of Military equipment and new Military Museum	\$39,806
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	Construction of a new Fanny Smith Museum	\$150,000
Southern Midlands council	Construction of accessible toilet facilities for the Tunbridge Community Club	\$40,000
Spring Bay Recreation Ground Advisory Committee	Funding for facility upgrades, netball shelters and storage facilities	\$150,000
St Helens Marine Rescue	New Kitchen and Gantry for Club facilities	\$40,000
St Vincent de Paul	Funding for new vehicles to support the work of the soup vans	\$165,516
Swansea RSL	Disabled Platform Lift	\$25,000
Tasmanian Echnidnas Volleyball Club	Funding for participation in Aust Volleyball League, including a new flooring upgrade to League standard	\$100,000
Tasmanian Football Umpires Association	Construction of a permanent change room and club room for football umpires	\$150,000
Tassie Flying Paws Dog Club	Funding to upgrade the Pontville Park pavilion and develop a dog-arena	\$200,000
Tea Tree Community Association	Structural repairs to the Community Hall	\$135,000
Tomahawk Community	Tomahawk Jetty	\$50,000
Trevallyn Bowls	Installation of shade and allweather verandah	\$110,000
Ulverstone Soccer Club	Construction of new clubrooms at the Club	\$185,000
West Winds Community Centre	Development of creative arts program	\$149,916
Wynyard Yacht Club	Repairs to the Southern Breakwater at Inglis River	\$30,000
Wynyard Yacht Club	Construction of a new launch ramp and pontoon	\$94,500

\$12,414,739

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 10:42 AM
To:
Subject: FW: LCFF query - ABC

See below

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 10:11 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: LCFF query - ABC

Hi,

I am working on a story about the Local Community Facilities Fund, during the 2021 state election campaign. I was hoping to get a response to each of the following questions, ideally by Thursday afternoon. Please note I have included advisers for Mr Street and Ms Alexander in this email in case they want to respond.

- Nic Street announced a \$50k grants for the Lindisfarne branch of the CWA alongside a relative - . Did he declare a conflict of interest? Is this an appropriate way to distribute taxpayer funds?
- A \$165k grant went to the former workplace of Lara Alexander- St Vincent de Paul - where she returned to work after failing to get elected. What checks and balances were in place to decide to provide this grant?
- Why did Ashgrove Cheese and Lobster Haven, two businesses, get grants? Were all small businesses made aware they could apply for these grants?
- Nic Street told parliament all these grants were publicly announced; however I have been unable to find many of them, including the examples below. Was Mr Street incorrect to say this?
 Examples: Trevallyn Bowls club \$110k, Duck Reach Historical Group: \$60,000, Highfield Historic Site: \$100,000, Don River Railway grants, Tasmania Echidnas Volleyball: \$100,000, City of Hobart Community Shed: \$260,000, Huonville Lions: \$150,000, Huon Pony Club: \$30,000, Port Cygnet Sailing Club: \$80,000, cressy recreation ground: \$45,000, Longford rail: \$50,000
 - Please provide the election campaign announcements of the: JackJumpers/Kingborough Grant \$250k, Bracknell Hall \$400k, Australian Rules history and heritage museum \$250k, and St Helens Pump Track \$500k.
 - Can you please provide me with the details of the announcement, including link, that the fund itself was an election promise?
- What action is the government taking in terms of allowing the Integrity Commission to investigate MPs during an election campaign?
- Why did the government not get the LCFF promise costed by Treasury?
- Why were all the grant promises not costed by Treasury? (I understand 60 promises were costed in total, but there are more than 220 grants on the list, and Treasury has confirmed the LCFF itself was not costed).
- What is your response to suggestions the scheme is close to the misappropriation of public funds for the purpose of vote buying, as suggested by academics?

Thanks very much,



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

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Released under RTI

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2022 11:43 AM
To:
Subject: OK with this?
Attachments: QTB - LCFF - 16.8.2022.docx

Office of the Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier of Tasmania
Minister for Health
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Tourism
Minister for Trade
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000



www.premier.tas.gov.au



Released under RTI

PREMIER'S QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: 2021 ELECTION COMMITMENTS

- LOCAL COMMUNITIES FACILITIES FUND
 - PATRONS AND MEMBERSHIPS OF ORGANISATIONS
 - INTEGRITY COMMISSION PAPER #2
-

16 August 2022

If asked – about any LCFF promises on the list:

- Making promises during an election campaign and giving Tasmanians the right to vote on those promises, is a transparent and fundamental part of our democracy.
- We make no apologies for working with our communities to deliver projects that assist those communities in a variety of different ways.
- It is what our local communities absolutely expect of their local Members.
- During the 2021 election, all Liberal candidates were expected to get out on the ground and talk to their local communities about their needs. And that's what they did.
- Candidates were asked to put forward their ideas and requests for small, one-off community projects.
- Those requests were then assessed by an internal Liberal Party policy team against a clear set of criteria, including how projects could demonstrate improving community amenity.
- These are internal Liberal Party processes.
- However, I want to also make it very clear that as no candidates or sitting Members were on the Liberal Party policy team.
- Nor they did take part in deliberative discussions.
- If any candidate believed there was a conflict – for example, they or a family member were a member of the club, a patron, the project was evaluated on the basis of its broader community benefit.

- I challenge anybody in this House to say what projects they support and which they don't.
- We stand by all the commitments we made in the 2021 Tasmanian election – because they benefit local communities and reflect engagement our members had with local organisations.

Integrity Commission Paper No. 2 and recommendations

- The Integrity Commission's Paper No. 2 is wide-ranging and discusses grant programs (which are of course delivered by government agencies at arm's length from Ministers) as well as election promises (which are made when an election is called, and the government of the day goes into a caretaker period).
- These are two different matters entirely.
- They should not be confused.
- I would argue – and I would hope others would also argue in this House – that it is important that each political party or each political candidate should be able to determine its own election priorities and promises.
- That is democracy.
- I would also argue that the bureaucracy should not be involved in election campaigns and determining the election promises of any political party.
- Election promises are, of course, put to voters during a campaign, and that is a fundamental part of our democratic process and should remain.

If needed – 2019 IC investigation (Operation Hyperion)

- I am advised Board of the Integrity Commission determined to undertake an investigation in February 2019.

- It subsequently revoked its original determination to conduct the investigation.
- That meant the matter would not proceed to the Board for a determination under Section 58 of the Integrity Commission Act.
- The Board decided that it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to re-investigate the matter noting that **no misconduct had been identified**.
- It has been reported in the media the Board stated:
- **“The Board obtained independent legal advice on particular points of law and the extent of the investigation in relation to its terms of reference, and concluded that the investigation could not be finalised under the existing terms of reference”**.
- And **“Ultimately the Board decided that it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to reinvestigate the matter, noting that, to that stage, no misconduct had been identified”**.
- Any determination made by the Integrity Commission – to pursue an investigation, to complete an investigation, to report on a finalised investigation – is a matter for them.

How were the promises announced?

- Some promises were announced with a policy document and a full press conference.
- Some were announced with a media release – sent to mainstream papers or regional papers.
- Some were announced via a facebook by the candidate themselves.
- But *all* were subject to Tasmanians democratically choosing to vote at that election.

- I am advised the promises were also provided in writing to the relevant organisation in a letter by the former Premier as well as the candidate.
- And it was made very clear to the organisation that the promise was made on the basis of the Liberals being elected.
- And *all* promises were subject to (a) the Liberals being elected and (b) the promise then being funded and delivered through the Budget process, which was agreed by Parliament.
- **In 2021-22, the Greens scrutinised the Budget like others in this place, and announced an Alternative Budget.**
- **That Budget did not reverse the funding to the Local Communities Facilities Fund in their Alternative Budget.**
- **And they supported our Budget.**
- In so doing, they supported the funding provided for the Liberals' election promises, including the LCFF.

If asked – patrons and memberships of organisations

- Members of all political parties – or local community members who may decide to stand for Parliament - are often patrons, or vice-patrons or have memberships of community organisations at the request of that organisation.
- We welcome the involvement of our candidates in their local community – and there's nothing wrong with that.
- When elected, Members of Parliament have those details listed on their pecuniary interest register.
- However, being patron of an organisation or a member of an organisation does not confer privileges on that organisation – nor should it.
- But nor should it preclude any organisation from seeking a commitment during an election period, or seeking funding – for

example, in a Budget submission, or from applying for grant funding in a governing period.

- To be clear, grant funding during a governing period is assessed by the bureaucracy, not Members of Parliament.

If asked - why was the full LCFF list of projects not made public?

- The Minister for Community Services and Development, Mr Street, has tabled the full list of projects funded under the Local Communities Facility Fund.
- We have nothing to hide.
- Just like every promise made by the Greens, or Labor, or independents.

If asked, why is an election promise not a grant

- There seems to be some ongoing confusion between election promises and election campaigning, with grant programs and governing.
- Voters seem to be able to understand the election process very well.
- They understand that election promises are contingent and will be implemented only if the party putting them forward is elected.
- And they understand that is how the democratic system works.
- And that's how it works all around the democratic world.
- And the Integrity Commission also agrees, stating: "*election commitments are an established and important part of the democratic election cycle*".
- And they go on to say – rightly so – "*campaign commitments are not enforceable*".

- So it is important to understand these are completely separate processes, and the two should not be compared.
- First, a grant program – as rightly explained in the Integrity Commission’s Paper is when there is a government program to allocate funding, upon application, to a pool of funding.
- Grant programs are not run by political parties but by Government Agencies.
- They have established guidelines, independent assessment processes and there a range of rules around their management as defined in the Treasurer’s Instruction on Grant Management, and they are a competitive process.
- Second, grant programs are not run by Agencies when an election is called and the Government goes into “caretaker”.
- Caretaker is designed to create a level playing field for all candidates.
- Members of Parliament become candidates during caretaker – and are the same as any other person who wants to put up their hand.
- In a nutshell, caretaker stops the process of governing and starts the process of campaigning.
- While a small one-off election promise that is subsequently funded by the elected party is provided by way of a Grant Deed – that is just a means of payment.

If asked - election promise to Sandy Bay Rowing Club

- The election promise made to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club during the 2021 election was part of a range of small, one-off election promises made local communities around the State.
- Ms Ogilvie disclosed at the time of putting forward the Sandy Bay Rowing Club that her daughter was a member of the club.
- So were many other school children.

- The commitment was not provided to Ms Ogilvie or her daughter.
- It was provided to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club for a pontoon that benefits not the school that Ms Ogilvie's daughter attended, but the wider community, many community groups and locals.
- So it agreed, given the wider benefits to the community, that the promise should proceed.

If asked – Nic Street

- I know some want to draw a long bow but this is just ridiculous.
- The funding to the CWA at Lindisfarne benefits that organisation, as well as the local community.
- It's an absolute nonsense to suggest that somebody who is Mr Street's father's cousin's wife – who is incidentally an office bearer at the CWA at Lindisfarne – that this is somehow a conflict of interest.
- Do you support the funding to the CWA or not?
- And if not, why not?

If asked – Mark Shelton (Bracknell)

- Have the Greens ever been to Bracknell?
- Do they know what that community wants to see locally?
- The support for Bracknell Football Club and the general community benefits that whole community – not just Mr Shelton and his family who happen to live there.

If pork barrelling claimed

- Local election promises were made right across the State by the Liberals, so I fail to see the logic of claims of pork barrelling.
- And again, I point out, that election promises aren't real until a party is elected and the promise is funded and delivered.
- Voters understand this; it's surprising the Greens don't.

If asked - how many projects were provided with financial support during the 2021 election?

- No funding was provided during the 2021 election to anyone.
- Promises were made – just the same as they have been at every election, by every political party, for decades.
- Each Party has the right to choose its policies and platform.
- Unless win enough votes to form government, no Party is in a position to deliver on that promise.
- Democracy is all about voters making a choice.
- They make that choice based on the promises put before them.
- Or they make judgments of the candidates before them.
- Or about a government's record.
- How they decide their vote, it is entirely up to them.
- **(JR ONLY): I have stood for campaigns in 2002, 2006 and 2010 where I wasn't elected, so my promises could not be delivered.**
- That is democracy.
- The fact is all of the Liberals' 2021 election commitments were funded after our election, and were submitted to Parliament as part of the Budget.
- That Budget was subsequently passed by both Houses.
- The Integrity Commission also makes that point, stating: *“commitments made during an election period are only promises, are subject to election of the relevant party, and are usually formally approved by Parliament through an Appropriation Act before they are realised”*.

If needed - Quantum of Liberal election policies – 2018 and 2021

- The Integrity Commission Paper details some of the Liberals' regional election promises made in the 2018 election.

- As the Integrity Commission points out in the Paper, election promises are not “enforceable” and “subject to the election of the relevant party”.
- When the Liberals were elected in 2018, the Government provided funding after the election to fund its promises, and all are reported in the 2018-19 Budget Papers, approved by Parliament. This is the proper process.
- In 2021, the Liberal Party also determined to make a range of regional or community election promises and asked candidates to get out on the ground and speak to their local communities.
- This resulted in a range of election promises being made, and all were publicised through media release or with Facebook posts with the candidate.
- They too formed part of the 2021-22 Budget which was approved in the Parliament.
- Labor also made a range of similar promises in the 2018 and 2021 elections – in fact, I believe the quantum of those smaller regional community promises in 2021 was some \$30 million. Much more than the Liberals.
- Labor promises were also publicised on Facebook –with the candidate or Member alongside the group they were promising funds to.

If needed - Rebecca White comments – misleading statements about Labor referral to Integrity Commission (re Operation Hyperion)

- Subsequent to the Board’s decision, the Labor Leader issued deliberately misleading statements in Parliament (2021) and has since failed to explain or apologise for them.

- Ms White blatantly misled the Integrity Commission – and this House - in respect of Operation Hyperion.
- Her statements were called out as incorrect by the Integrity Commission, and still she failed to correct the record in this House.
- Ms White said – and I quote the ABC article **“Integrity Commission chief executive Michael Easton had told her it had become too costly to continue the investigation because of a legal back and forth between the agency and the Liberals”**
- Mr Easton said in his letter to the Premier’s Chief of Staff: **“I can confirm that I did not make the statement used in the article or provide that information to Ms White. It is not correct that the investigation “had become too costly to continue” so I would not have made that statement.**
- Two quite opposing statements.
- Then Ms White doubled down in Parliament (23/6).
- She got up on a personal explanation. She told Parliament she wasn’t quoted in the article – denying all responsibility for saying that.
- After that, the journalist tweeted:
“Rebecca White said to me she had spoken with the IC’s Michael Easton and “it became evident they had made a decision not to proceed (with Operation Hyperion) because of a cost-benefit analysis” after lawyers were engaged by both sides over the terms of reference.
- So it’s quite clear Ms White misled the House.
- She denied making that statement – but it’s clear she did.
- Ms White also told Parliament in her personal explanation: the **“Chair of the Integrity Commission had said “ultimately the board decided it would not be in the public interest to commit**

further resources to reinvestigate the matter noting that at that stage no misconduct had been identified”.

- But that’s not what Ms White was quoted as saying.
- She was quoted as saying Mr Easton told her it was too costly to proceed.
- **And that was an outright lie.**
- Mr Easton went on to say (in his letter to my Chief of Staff) that the Board had considered a range of factors in making its final determination.
- He said the Board had determined that the investigation had “exceeded its original terms of reference”.

Further information if needed - Liberal Party internal processes – 2021 election

- I don’t know how Labor ran its internal processes, but the 2021 election commitments were informed by community feedback and consultation, with an assessment process in place during the election campaign.
- On 3rd April, the Liberal Party Director wrote to all candidates announcing the Local Communities Facilities Fund Policy.
- Let me be clear, the Local Communities Facilities Fund is an internal Liberal Party title of a fund that (a) did not exist prior to the campaign and (b) had no money in it at the time of the campaign and (c) was merely a vehicle for a process for managing requests from local candidates on behalf of local community groups and organisations.
- Examples of local projects included:
 - Upgrades to community halls and other facilities
 - Community parks, lands and gardens

- Recreational and sport facilities
- Township and street beautification projects
- Playgrounds
- Indoor and outdoor sports programs; and
- Creative arts and cultural projects
- Candidates were asked to consider how each project would help rebuild Tasmania post-Covid, improve local communities, improve economic activity, create jobs and support small businesses.
- On 4th April, the Liberal Party Director wrote to all candidates outlining the composition of the Liberal Policy Team, which would assess the proposed projects against the established criteria.
- Candidates were required to submit written requests to the Policy Team including:
 - The amount of funding being sought;
 - A detailed description of the project; and
 - Contact details for the Organisation.
- All projects were then assessed by the Liberal Policy Team based on the criteria.
- The former Premier wrote to Candidates advising of successful projects – noting that **should a Liberal Government be re-elected, funding will be allocated as part of this year's State Budget process.**
- As I said, all commitments were subject to the election of a Liberal Government.
- Candidates were asked to provide a copy of the Premier's letter directly to the organisation, put out a media release or issue a Facebook post.

Why did the Budget papers say the LCFF was established in June 2020

- This was an error in the Budget papers and should have read June 2021.
- My office has been in contact with the relevant Agency who agreed this is an error.
- What is clear is that the Local Communities Facility Fund was an internal Liberal Party campaign process.
- The Fund did not exist prior to the election.
- It was an internal vehicle for a campaign process for election promises only.

Mercury

Friday, 10 June 2022

Ogilvie cash grant query; Daughter member of recipient club

Richards, Blair

LIBERAL MP Madeleine Ogilvie disclosed that her daughter was a member of a **rowing club** to which she promised funding before the state election, the government says.

Ms Ogilvie, a former Labor and independent MP, joined the Liberal Party ahead of the 2021 state election.

In a Facebook post on April 26 last year, the then-Liberal candidate for Clark announced \$150,000 for "securing the future of the **Sandy Bay rowing club**".

The funds were to deliver a floating pontoon at the Short Beach Peninsula.

"This funding will benefit not just the **Sandy Bay Rowing Club** but the wider **rowing** community including the Scouts and the Hutchins **Rowing Club** and be used by sailing clubs, kayakers and other water users," Ms Ogilvie posted.

The grant was one of a range of Liberal promises announced by Ms Ogilvie, who is now a minister, during the campaign. Other groups promised funds included the Bucaan Community House in Chigwell, the **Sandy Bay** and North Hobart bowls clubs and the Derwent Cricket **Club**.

The promises, which later became grants when the Liberals won government, were part of the party's Local Communities Facilities Fund.

The fund provided a mechanism for Liberal state election candidates to make pledges to local organisations.

The Greens have criticised the fund as pork-barrelling.

In response to a question from Greens MP Rosalie Woodruff during state budget estimates, Sports Minister Nic Street said he didn't know whether Ms Ogilvie's daughter was a member of the **Sandy Bay Rowing Club**.

"I can't possibly know the answer to that question," Mr Street said.

A government spokeswoman confirmed Ms Ogilvie had disclosed to the Liberal Party before the election that someone in her family was a member of the **rowing club**.

"In 2021, the Liberal Party pledged \$15m for the establishment of a Local Communities Facilities Fund to help

communities recover from the impacts of Covid," the spokeswoman said.

"Funding was available for one-off projects. Requests were assessed by a policy team against a set of criteria, including how projects would improve economic activity, create jobs, support local businesses and help rebuild Tasmania post-Covid, as well as demonstrating they would improve community amenity.

"All of our commitments were clearly documented in the 2021-22 budget papers and approved by parliament."

Released under RTI

From:
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 3:45 PM
To:
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: ABC - request for information re: LCFF

Thanks

I'll send to her now.

Cheers,

From:
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 2:14 PM
To:

Cc: Media <media@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: ABC - request for information re: LCFF

Thanks

Approved response below. No need to provide the docs

Thanks

'All grants must meet the minimum requirements of completing a final acquittal to ensure funds provided were used according to the approved purpose of the grant.

All grants have a risk assessment completed by the department. Applicants under a grant program have an additional assessment completed against the program objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria.

The projects being referred to were not funded under the Local Communities Facilities Fund. They were community, sport and recreation sector grants to further support the Tasmanian community in addition to grants provided through the 2021 State Election and they were accounted for in the 2022-23 Budget process.'

Office of the Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier of Tasmania
Level 11, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000



From:
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 9:28 AM
To:
Subject: FW: ABC - request for information re: LCFF

Dear

Please see the enquiry below from [redacted] at the ABC. It originally went to the RTI officer and then made it's way to us for a response.

I've liaised with [redacted] who has provided the following for clearance:

All grants, whether provided as a result of an election commitments or as a successful applicant from a grant program, have a risk assessment completed by the department. Applicants under a grant program have an additional assessment completed against the program objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria. Depending on the value and program risk this may also include a viability assessment of the organisation and an assessment of the organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the grant outcomes. Further to this a conditions precedent or reporting requirements may be included in the grant deed to ensure expectations are managed prior to all or some funding being released.

Irrespective of how a funding decision is determined, all grants must meet the minimum requirements of completing a final acquittal to ensure funds provided were used according to the approved purpose of the grant. Grants with higher risk, a longer term and/or higher value will usually complete a number of progress reports to track the progress of the grant recipient towards achieving the outcomes. This information is collected, including financial reports where applicable, and considered by the department for any future funding arrangements to help determine appropriate risk mitigation strategies.

We have Risk Assessment plans for Bracknell Hall, Kingborough Stadium (Jackjumpers) and St Helens but [redacted] has suggested not including them with the response, unless you prefer them to be included.

I'll send the response to [redacted] on your clearance.

Cheers,

From:
Sent: Friday, 9 September 2022 5:48 AM
To: RTIs Communities Tasmania <rti.ct@communities.tas.gov.au>
Subject: clarification request - ABC

Hi,

After the goings on in parliament yesterday I'm seeking some clarification – **did communities assess the four projects that were LCFF funded but funded after the election** –

- The Bracknell Hall
- Jackjumpers grant
- St Helens pump tracks
- Australian rules heritage museum

When I lodged my RTI earlier asking for "Internal correspondence within the Department of Communities regarding the viability of projects funded under the LCFF"

I was told "the Dept was not required to assess the viability of projects funded under the LCFF as they are all 2021 election commitments."

But these four appear to have not been election commitments.

Can you please advise what assessments are required for grants projects that are not election promises?

Thanks very much,

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Released under RIA

From: Street, Nic
Sent: Friday, 23 September 2022 5:26 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: proposed media response for clearance please

Yes

Sent from my iPhone

On 23 Sep 2022, at 5:20 pm,

Happy thanks . Once Nic has signed off, I'll shoot off to

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From:
Sent: Friday, 23 September 2022, 17:17
To:

Cc: Street, Nic <Nic.Street@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Re: proposed media response for clearance please

Thanks

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From:
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 5:10:24 PM
To:

Cc: Street, Nic <Nic.Street@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: proposed media response for clearance please

See below question from , ABC.
Proposed response for clearance (has been checked by department)

From a departmental spokesperson:

"The Department of Communities was first engaged to administer the grant funding for the Bracknell Hall project on 20 August 2021."

Office of the Hon Nic Street MP
Minister for Community Services and Development
Minister for Hospitality and Events
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Liberal Member for Franklin

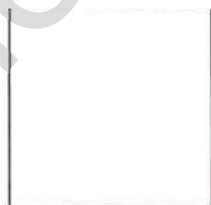
Level 5, Parliament Square
4 Salamanca Place, Hobart, TAS, 7000

Department of Premier & Cabinet
www.premier.tas.gov.au



From:
Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2022 10:16 AM
To: Communications, CT <ctcommunications@communities.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: LCFF clarification query

Thanks Can I please confirm the date the funds for the Bracknell Hall were first requested?



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

From: Communications, CT <ctcommunications@communities.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 3:47 PM
To:
Subject: RE: LCFF clarification query

Hello

From a departmental spokesperson:

All grants must meet the minimum requirements of completing a final acquittal to ensure funds provided were used according to the approved purpose of the grant.

All grants have a risk assessment completed by the department. Applicants under a grant program have an additional assessment completed against the program objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria.

The projects being referred to were not funded under the Local Communities Facilities Fund. They were community, sport and recreation sector grants to further support the Tasmanian community in addition to grants provided through the 2021 State Election and they were accounted for in the 2022-23 Budget process.

Regards,



**Tasmanian
Government**

Office of the Secretary
Communities Tasmania
Level 1, Kirksway Place, Hobart TAS 7000

www.communities.tas.gov.au

I acknowledge and pay my respects to all Aboriginal people in Tasmania, their identity and culture.



From:

Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2022 10:49 AM

To: Communications, CT <ctcommunications@communities.tas.gov.au>

Subject: LCFF clarification query

Hi,

After the goings on in parliament I'm seeking some clarification – did communities assess the four projects that were LCFF funded but promised after the election –

- The Bracknell Hall
- Jackjumpers grant
- St Helens pump tracks
- Australian rules heritage museum

When I lodged my RTI earlier asking for "Internal correspondence within the Department of Communities regarding the viability of projects funded under the LCFF"

I was told "the Dept was not required to assess the viability of projects funded under the LCFF as they are all 2021 election commitments."

But these four appear to have not been election commitments.

Can you please advise what assessments are required for grants projects that are not election promises?

A response by 5pm would be appreciated.

Thanks very much,



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From:
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 9:23 AM
To:
Subject: Fwd: LCFF funding query - ABC

Fyi

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: 16 November 2022 at 9:19:52 am AEDT
To:
Subject: Fwd: LCFF funding query - ABC

Hey

Please see below request in relation to the LCFF funding.

Thanks,

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From:
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:13:36 AM
To:
Subject: LCFF funding query - ABC

Hi,

I'm after a response to the following, in relation to new RTI documents released by Treasury.

The documents show more than half of the LCFF grants (111) did not go through parliament in an appropriation bill and were instead funded under section 21 of the financial management act.

Why did these projects need to be funded in this way? How did this satisfy the requirement that the expenditure was needed to ensure "efficient financial administration"?

Why couldn't funding wait until the august state budget?

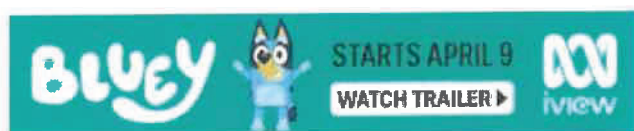
What justification was given to the Governor in requesting she approve this expenditure?

Communities Minister Nic Street told estimates in terms of the LCFF that "the commitments ... were all in last year's Budget, listed, funded, and approved by Parliament.", will he correct the record?

This process has been criticised for its lack of transparency, what is your response to that?

I'll need a response by 5pm.

Thanks very much,



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From:
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 5:11 PM
To: Street. Nic
Cc:
Subject: FW: LCFF funding query - ABC

Hi Minister – just FYI I've sent this response to the ABC.
Thanks

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 5:10 PM
To:
Cc: Media <media@dpac.tas.gov.au>;
Subject: RE: LCFF funding query - ABC

Hi – response below for you.

Response from a government spokesperson:

“The Tasmanian Government made a commitment to the Tasmanian people and worked to deliver on election commitments as soon as possible following re-election. For those projects that were ready to be funded and commence in the 2020-21 financial year, they were funded through the Treasurer’s Reserve. The remaining projects were funded in the 2021-22 budget in August later that year.

“The Tasmanian election result meant these commitments were able to be delivered on and they were documented in the 2021-22 Budget Papers and Supplementary Appropriation Bill, approved by Parliament.

“Taking commitments to the election and giving people the right to vote on them is transparent and fair, and a fundamental part of democracy.

Background: *Section 21 of the Financial Management Act 2016 (FMA) provides authority for the Treasurer to approve expenditure from the Public Account for a new purpose, with the approval of the Governor.*

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 9:20 AM
To:
Subject: Fwd: LCFF funding query - ABC

Hey

Please see below request in relation to the LCFF funding.

Thanks,

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From:
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 9:13:36 AM

To:
Subject: LCFF funding query - ABC

Hi,

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The documents show more than half of the LCFF grants (111) did not go through parliament in an appropriation bill and were instead funded under section 21 of the financial management act.

Why did these projects need to be funded in this way? How did this satisfy the requirement that the expenditure was needed to ensure "efficient financial administration"?

Why couldn't funding wait until the august state budget?

What justification was given to the Governor in requesting she approve this expenditure?

Communities Minister Nic Street told estimates in terms of the LCFF that "the commitments ... were all in last year's Budget, listed, funded, and approved by Parliament.", will he correct the record?

This process has been criticised for its lack of transparency, what is your response to that?

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Hon Nic Street MP Statement to House of Assembly

Tuesday 22 November 2022

Mr Speaker,

Before Question Time I seek leave to update the House on some previous answers I have provided.

Mr Speaker, I would never knowingly mislead Parliament.

However, I acknowledge that I provided incorrect answers to questions from the Member for Franklin Dr Woodruff during Budget Estimates Committee A on 8 June this year, based on the advice I had at the time, concerning the Local Community Facilities Fund.

I incorrectly answered questions, and made related statements, asserting that all Local Community Facilities Fund projects were funded, and listed, in the 2021-22 Budget - when they were not.

To correct the record:

111 LCFF projects were funded prior to the 2021-22 Budget, as outlined by the-then Finance Minister to the Parliament, during the Supply Bills debate on 24 June 2021. This is a matter of public record.

The remaining 109 LCFF projects were funded in the 2021-22 Budget, in August later that year.

On 14 June this year I tabled the full list of the commitments made under the Local Community Facilities Fund and it is available on the Parliamentary website.

Mr Speaker, as I have stated, I would never knowingly mislead Parliament. I apologise to the House for inadvertently providing any misinformation and for the consequences of doing so.

END

PREMIER'S QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: 2021 ELECTION COMMITMENTS

Date: 24 November 2022

- As I said yesterday, all Labor have got is stunts, and Tasmanians have seen right through them.
- And here we go again.
- Tasmanians expect us to be talking about the things that matter to them – housing, health, education, public safety, child safety, jobs and the economy, cost of living.
- They deserve everyone in this place to focus on those areas.
- Instead, this year, we've seen deplorable behaviour from Labor, they've been ejected 14 times from the House, they come in here day in and day out with their myths dressed up as fact.
- Deliberately deceitful or at worst, incompetent.
- It's no wonder David O'Byrne gets more air-time with his one question a day than they do with their seven politically-motivated questions.
- There's only one reason why Labor is going nowhere and has hit rock bottom – and it comes down leadership.
- But therein lies their real dilemma, Mr Speaker.
- Because their leader-in-waiting sits not with them, but on the cross bench.

The facts of LCFF

- The facts are clear here.

- Step one – the Liberal Party made election commitments in the 2021 campaign – like other parties.
- Step two – Tasmanians voted on those and chose the Liberals to govern this State.
- Step three – We said we would deliver on those election promises as soon as possible – see our 100 Day Plan media release.
- Step four – given the delay to the Budget until August, the Government introduced a Supply Bill on 24 June 2021.
 - In debate on the Bill, the Minister for Finance told the Parliament that funding had already been provided to 111 organisations through the Local Community Facilities Fund.
 - The Minister made it clear to the House that the Financial Management Act provides the flexibility to enable the government to fund election commitments prior to the Appropriation Act (the Budget) being passed.
 - There were no questions asked about the 111 small community projects by Labor and the Greens at that time, and they supported the Bill.
- Step five – the 2021-22 Budget Papers made it clear that some Local Community Facilities Fund projects received funding prior to 30 June 2021 – with the remaining funded in 2021-22.
- In June 2022, when asked, Minister Street tabled a list of all projects funded, with the dollar amounts.
- All of this has been entirely proper and compliant with the Financial Management Act.

Raiding the Treasurer's Reserve

- The Treasurer has been very clear.

- Commitments were funded through the Treasurer's Reserve, under section 21 of the Financial Management Act where it is an entirely appropriate and lawful thing to do to use funds that were appropriated by this House in the 2020-21 Budget.
- A provision was made for the Treasurer's Reserve by this Parliament and it was carried.
- It provides for other purposes and it provides for that fund to be used. The facts are entirely clear.

\$1.3 million, \$2.4 million and \$4.7 million reference (RAF funding)

- The \$4.7 million reference included all new purpose RAF funding for election, of which \$2.4 million, I am advised, was for 111 local community projects paid in 2021.
- The \$1.3 million referred to by the former Sports minister, was the sports component only of the \$2.4 million.
- The remainder of the \$4.7 million was for other election commitments being The Hobart Clinic redevelopment and the no interest loan scheme for Energy Saver loans and subsidies.

Page 42 references

- As I said yesterday, for clarity and avoidance of doubt, my reference was to page 42 of the 2021-22 State Budget – which of course was the first budget after the 2021 election.
- That the Opposition was looking at the 2020 Budget – before the election – says more about their misunderstanding of all things financial.
- Page 42 states clearly that a number of projects received funding prior to 30 June 2021, with the remaining in the 2021-22 budget.

Conflict of Interest

- I have been very clear.

- If any candidate believed they have a conflict, for example, they or a family member or a member of a club, a patron, the project was evaluated on the basis of its broader community benefits.
- Before putting up projects, candidates were asked to consider how each project would help rebuild Tasmania post-COVID, improve local communities, improve economic activity, create jobs, and support small businesses.
- I know the decisions on which projects would be granted funding was made by the Liberal policy team, which assessed proposed projects against established criteria, which we took to the election in an open and transparent way.

Community Car and Coach Program

- Yesterday they alleged a conflict in relation to the community car and coach program.
- Election commitments were made to a variety of organisations for cars and buses, including –
 - King Island, replacement of their community car
 - Bucaan Community Centre – replacement of community bus
 - South Arm Peninsula Residents Association – community bus
 - St Vincent de Paul – new vehicles to support the work of their soup vans.
- In addition, after the 2021 election, we initiated a Community Car and Coach Program, to deliver even more cars and coaches right across the State with a total of \$500,000 announced for application on 3 July 2021, with applications closing on 30 August 2021.
 - Bicheno Community Health Group car
 - Dunalley-Tasman Neighbourhood House mini-bus
 - Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House car
 - Launceston City Mission for a people mover

- Hospice Care Association of North-West for a car.
- Which of those community organisations do Labor or the Greens believe are not deserving of that support?

Misleading Parliament

- Minister Street has corrected the record, to be absolutely accurate.
- I have not misled the House, so there is no need to correct the record.

Premier – accusations of misleading

- As I say, if I believed I had misled Parliament, I would absolutely correct the record.
- In response to a very clear question related to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club, I rightly said the funding was included in the 2021-22 State Budget. That is a fact.
- My other comments were broad about the practice of election commitments being made and then delivered on.
- The comments in this House yesterday were deliberately misleading and deceptive. My comments were deliberately taken out of context.
- The fact is every one of our election commitments benefit Tasmanians right across the State - from \$1,880 to support local scouts at Spreyton, to the \$25,000 refurbishment of the kitchen at the Deloraine bowls club kitchen, to nearly \$7000 to sound-proof the on-air studio at Huon community radio.
- What projects do Labor and the Greens think ought *not* have been funded? Let them list them up, tell those communities they are not deserving of that funding.

- All of projects funded in 2020-21 were lawfully funded through the Financial Management Act, as outlined by the Finance Minister during the Supply Bills in June last year.
- The Treasurer's Reserve is based on an appropriation approved. by Parliament.

Hansard

*Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I am advised that the election promise made to **the Sandy Bay Rowing Club during the 2021 election** was part of a range of small one-off election promises made by local communities around the state. This is not unlike a raft of other promises others make. Just like any other election promise, the promises come to fruition dependent on two things: one, the party being elected to form government and enabled to enact the commitment; and two, the election promise being funded, included in the budget and the budget being agreed to by the parliament.

If asked, who provided that advice to Mr Street?

I'm not going to play the blame game and name people in parliament. Suffice to say the advice received was wrong and the record has been corrected.

The RTI shows RAF went to ExCo so you must have known

- The RTI shows the correct process for funding projects out of the Treasurer's Reserve, including ExCo.
- That process is valid and lawful process under the Financial Management Act.
- As the Minister for Finance said when debating the Supply Bill in 2021, the Financial Management Act provides flexibility to enable the government fund election commitments prior to the Appropriation Act being passed.
- Under Section 21(3) of the Act, the Treasurer is able to issue and apply funding from the Treasurer's Reserve in the absence of an appropriation where the Governor has, in writing, approved that expenditure.

- For commentary to somehow try to portray Her Excellency the Governor as signing off on something she should not have, is quite inappropriate and incorrect.
- There was a proper process followed, and that included Executive Council (ExCo).
- I can't comment on ExCo meetings, they are confidential.
- Further, I was not Premier when this RAF occurred, nor was the current Treasurer, the Treasurer.

The facts on election commitments

- The Liberal Party (not the Government) made commitments during an election campaign like every other political party.
- Liberal Party commitments were determined by a Liberal party policy team – not candidates or members.
 - **What was the internal process for Labor's \$31 million in small community commitments?**
- Tasmanians voted for a Liberal Government for the third consecutive time.
- Because we were elected, we could deliver on election commitments made by the Liberal Party.
- We said we would deliver on these projects as soon as we could, we did exactly that, and we did so validly through an established process.
- We have been very clear about the value of the fund and the projects funded – a full list with all the dollar values was tabled in parliament in June.

ATTACK

- **You complain when we don't deliver projects quickly enough – now you are complaining that we have delivered too quickly!**

- And at a time when we were trying to boost economic activity in communities during our Covid recovery.
- You complain we aren't doing enough to support Tasmanians, then you rubbish community-based projects that deliver for local communities.
- Honestly, it's hard to keep up with your logic and conspiracy theories.
- We will always look to improve process where we can but we will not apologise for making election commitments to support local communities, and for delivering on them.

PREVIOUS BRIEF IF NEEDED

Sports Rorts comparison

- I take great offence at what is a deliberately misleading comparison.
- You are trying to compare election commitments made by a political party during an election campaign, with a grants program set up by a government during their term.
- They are entirely different, and you know that.
- You also know that regardless of which party wins Government the bureaucracy is charged with implementing the commitments that were made – they keep track of each party's commitments during caretaker and action those relating to the incoming Government – that has always been the case. In 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2021, and I expect 2025.
- It is not the same process as a grants program of an existing Government.

If asked – about any specific LCFF promises on the list:

- We make no apologies for working with our communities to deliver projects that assist those communities in a variety of different ways.
- It is what our local communities absolutely expect of their local Members.
- During the 2021 election, all Liberal candidates were expected to get out on the ground and talk to their local communities about their needs. And that's what they did.

- Candidates were asked to put forward their ideas and requests for small, one-off community projects.
- As I say, those requests were then assessed by an internal Liberal Party policy team against a clear set of criteria, including how projects could demonstrate improving community amenity.
- Let's not forget during election campaigns, the Government is in Caretaker. That means, it is inappropriate to involve the State Service in any analysis of election promises.
- So our internal Liberal Party process had no candidates or sitting Members as part of the Liberal Party policy team, or taking part in deliberative discussions.
- If any candidate believed there may have been a conflict – for example, they or a family member were a member of the club, a patron, the project was evaluated on the basis of its broader community benefit.

How were the promises announced?

- Some promises were announced with a policy document and a full press conference.
- Some were announced with a media release – sent to mainstream papers or small local regional papers.
- Some were announced via a facebook by the candidate themselves.
- I am advised the promises were also provided in writing to the relevant organisation in a letter by the former Premier as well as the candidate.
- And it was made very clear to the organisation that the promise was made on the basis of the Liberals being elected.

If asked – patrons and memberships of organisations

- Members of all political parties – or local community members who may decide to stand for Parliament - are often patrons, or vice-patrons or have memberships of community organisations at the request of that organisation.
- We welcome the involvement of our candidates in their local community – and there's nothing wrong with that.
 1. Taking commitments to the election and giving people the right to vote on them is transparent and fair, and a fundamental part of democracy.

2. We said during our election campaign that we would deliver on these projects as soon as possible post election, and we did precisely that. (100 Day Plan media release).
3. Keeping in mind that this was a COVID year, our intent was to get money flowing into the community as soon as possible, I think we did a good job of meeting our commitments.
4. For those projects that were ready to be funded and commence in the 2020-21 financial year, they were funded through a request for additional funding (RAF).
5. This was entirely legal and complied with the Financial Management Act.
6. The remaining projects were funded in the 2021-22 budget in August later that year.

If asked, why is an election promise not a grant

- There seems to be some confusion between election promises and election campaigning, with grant funding and governing.
- The Integrity Commission states: “*election commitments are an established and important part of the democratic election cycle*”.
- And they go on to say: “*campaign commitments are not enforceable*”.
- It is important to understand these are completely separate processes, and the two should not be compared.
- First, a grant program – as rightly explained in the Integrity Commission’s Paper is when there is a government program to allocate funding, upon application, to a pool of funding.
- Grant programs are not run by political parties but by Government Agencies.
- They have established guidelines, independent assessment processes and there a range of rules around their management as defined in the Treasurer’s Instruction on Grant Management, and they are a competitive process.
- When an election is called, the Government goes into Caretaker.
- Caretaker is designed to create a level playing field for all candidates.
- Members of Parliament become candidates during caretaker – and are the same as any other person who wants to put up their hand.
- In a nutshell, Caretaker stops the process of governing and starts the process of campaigning.

- While a small one-off election promise that is subsequently funded by the elected party is honoured – that is paid by way of a Grant Deed, which is simply a means of payment.

Grattan Institute Report into “Pork Barrelling” / Wilkie’s call for National Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate pork barrelling (5/10)

- I am aware of the recent report by the Grattan Institute who have proposed an overhaul of the way grants are allocated.
- The Paper ‘Preventing Pork-Barrelling’ is very wide-ranging, not Tasmanian-specific and covers grants made by both Federal and State Governments – *not* election commitments.
- Tasmania barely gets a mention in the 43-page report.
- I am also aware of media reporting that Andrew Wilkie had called for an investigation into pork barrelling.
- I note he was also referring to Federal grant programs, not election commitments.
- We stand by the right for any political party to make election promises.

Integrity Commission Paper No. 2 and recommendations

- The Integrity Commission’s Paper No. 2 is wide-ranging and discusses grant programs (which are of course delivered by government agencies at arm’s length from Ministers) as well as election promises (which are made when an election is called, and the government of the day goes into a caretaker period).
- These are two different matters entirely.
- They should not be confused.
- I would argue – and I would hope others would also argue in this House – that it is important that each political party or each political candidate should be able to determine its own election priorities and promises.
- That is democracy.
- I would also argue that the bureaucracy should not be involved in election campaigns and in determining the election promises of any political party.
- Election promises are, of course, put to voters during a campaign, and that is a fundamental part of our democratic process and should remain.

If needed – 2019 Integrity Commission investigation (Operation Hyperion)

- I am advised Board of the Integrity Commission determined to undertake an investigation in February 2019.
- It subsequently revoked its original determination to conduct the investigation.
- That meant the matter would not proceed to the Board for a determination under Section 58 of the Integrity Commission Act.
- The Board decided that it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to re-investigate the matter noting that **no misconduct had been identified**.
- It has been reported in the media the Board stated:
- **“The Board obtained independent legal advice on particular points of law and the extent of the investigation in relation to its terms of reference, and concluded that the investigation could not be finalised under the existing terms of reference”.**
- And **“Ultimately the Board decided that it would not be in the public interest to commit further resources to reinvestigate the matter, noting that, to that stage, no misconduct had been identified”.**
- Any determination made by the Integrity Commission – to pursue an investigation, to complete an investigation, to report on a finalised investigation – is a matter for them.

If asked - election promise to Sandy Bay Rowing Club

- The election promise made to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club during the 2021 election was part of a range of small, one-off election promises made local communities around the State.
- Ms Ogilvie disclosed at the time of putting forward the Sandy Bay Rowing Club that her daughter was a member of the club.
- But so were many other school children and community members who use those facilities.
- The commitment was not provided to Ms Ogilvie or her daughter.

- It was provided to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club for a pontoon that benefits not the school that Ms Ogilvie's daughter attended, but the wider community, many community groups and locals.
- So it agreed, given the wider benefits to the community, that the promise should proceed.

If asked – promise to CWA

- I know some want to draw a long bow but this is just ridiculous.
- The funding to the CWA at Lindisfarne benefits that organisation, as well as the local community.
- **It's an absolute nonsense to suggest that somebody who is Mr Street's father's cousin's wife, who is also incidentally an office bearer at the CWA at Lindisfarne, is somehow a conflict of interest.**
- Do you support the funding to the CWA or not?

If asked - how many projects were provided with financial support during the 2021 election?

- No funding was provided during the 2021 election to anyone.
- Promises were made – just the same as they have been at every election, by every political party, for decades.
- Each Party has the right to choose its policies and platform.
- Unless win enough votes to form government, no Party is in a position to deliver on that promise.
- Democracy is all about voters making a choice.
- They make that choice based on the promises put before them.
- Or they make judgments of the candidates before them.
- Or about a government's record.
- How they decide their vote, it is entirely up to them.
- **(JR ONLY): I have stood for campaigns in 2002, 2006 and 2010 where I wasn't elected, so my promises could not be delivered.**
- That is democracy.
- The fact is all of the Liberals' 2021 election commitments were funded after our election.

If needed - Quantum of Liberal election policies – 2018 and 2021

- The Integrity Commission Paper details some of the Liberals' regional election promises made in the 2018 election.
- As the Integrity Commission points out in the Paper, election promises are not “enforceable” and “subject to the election of the relevant party”.
- Labor also made a range of similar promises in the 2018 and 2021 elections – in fact, I believe the quantum of those smaller regional community promises in 2021 was some \$30 million. Much more than the Liberals.
- Labor promises were also publicised on Facebook –with the candidate or Member alongside the group they were promising funds to.

Only if needed - Liberal Party internal processes – 2021 election

- I don't know how other parties developed policy, but Liberal election commitments are informed by community feedback and consultation, with an assessment process in place during the election campaign.
- On 3rd April, the Liberal Party Director wrote to all candidates announcing the Local Communities Facilities Fund Policy.
- Let me be clear, the Local Communities Facilities Fund is an internal Liberal Party title of a fund that (a) did not exist prior to the campaign and (b) had no money in it at the time of the campaign and (c) was merely a vehicle for a process for managing requests from local candidates on behalf of local community groups and organisations.
- Candidates were asked to consider how each project would help rebuild Tasmania post-Covid, improve local communities, improve economic activity, create jobs and support small businesses.
- On 4th April, the Liberal Party Director wrote to all candidates outlining the composition of the Liberal Policy Team, which would assess the proposed projects against the established criteria.
- Candidates were required to submit written requests to the Policy Team including:
 - The amount of funding being sought;
 - A detailed description of the project; and
 - Contact details for the Organisation.

- All projects were then assessed by the Liberal Policy Team based on the criteria.
- The former Premier wrote to Candidates advising of successful projects with all commitments subject to the election of a Liberal Government.
- Candidates were asked to provide a copy of the Premier's letter directly to the organisation, put out a media release or issue a Facebook post.

Why did the Budget papers say the LCFF was established in June 2020

- This was an error in the Budget papers and should have read June 2021.
- My office has been in contact with the relevant Agency who agreed this is an error.
- What is clear is that the Local Communities Facility Fund was an internal Liberal Party campaign process.
- The Fund did not exist prior to the election.
- It was an internal vehicle for a campaign process for election commitments only.

Background (from Treasury):

- Section 21(1) of the FMA provides for the Treasurer to issue and apply from the Public Account for expenditure that, in the Treasurer's opinion, could not reasonably have been foreseen and which is necessary for efficient financial administration.
- The Treasurer's authority to issue and apply funding from the Treasurer's Reserve under the FMA is limited by section 21(3) to expenditure that is for a purpose mentioned in an Appropriation Act then in force, unless the Governor has, in writing, approved that expenditure.
- Following the outcome of the 2021 State election, the list of Liberal Party 2021 Election Commitments was provided to Treasury for consideration and analysis as part of the Budget development process for the 2021-22 State Budget.
- Within this listing was a notional allocation for the Local Community Facilities Fund, for grants with the common objective to improve facilities and capacity to service community needs. This comprised a number of smaller scale grants to community, local government and sporting organisations across the State.
- Through the Budget development process the list of LCFF inclusions was analysed and reconciled by Treasury officers to remove duplications for grants to be specifically appropriated and/or grants to be paid in 2020-21.

- Through this process, it was identified that the total list of projects from the LCFF was \$14.9 million, of which \$2.466 million was flagged to be paid in 2020-21.
- RAFs for this purpose were approved by the Governor on 21 June 2021, resulting in \$2.466 of LCFF commitments being funded within the 2020-21 financial year.
- On 24 June 2021, during debate in relation to the Supply Bill 2021, the then Minister for Finance (Hon Michael Ferguson MP) noted that funding had already been provided to 111 organisations through the LCFF from the Treasurer's Reserve.
- A summary of expenditure authorised under section 21 of the FMA is disclosed in the Preliminary Outcomes Report each year, in the Supplementary Estimates Statement Summary.
- The 2020-21 Preliminary Outcomes Report was released on 30 July 2021, and the Statement included LCFF funding of \$2.466 million through Department of Communities Tasmania.
- Expenditure authorised under section 21 of the FMA is also disclosed in a Supplementary Estimates Statement Summary in the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report. This Statement is audited by the Tasmanian Audit Office.
- The 2020-21 Treasurer's Annual Financial Report was tabled on 28 October 2021, and the Statement included LCFF funding of \$2.466 million through Department of Communities Tasmania.

QUESTIONS

Thursday 23 November 2022

Premier - Refusal to Correct Misleading Statement to Parliament

Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.02 a.m.]

Yesterday, you were caught out misleading the parliament about your Government's dodgy grants scheme. Instead of correcting the record you doubled down and, in the process, it appears you misled the parliament again. You said, and I quote:

The fact is that the funding of some commitments prior to 30 June 2021 was transparent in the budget papers for the 2020-21 financial year on page 42.

There is no line item for the fund in the 2020-21 Budget and nothing on page 42 of either budget paper. In fact, the fund did not even exist at the time of the 2020-21 Budget. Given the mounting number of blatantly false statements you are making, can you not see why Tasmanians think you are involved in a cover-up of dodgy Liberal Party grants?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. For the Opposition, on this last week of parliament, to come in with this muckraking is outrageous. Tasmanians expect us as a parliament to be talking about the things that matter to Tasmanians - housing, health and education. I will tell you that right now that I will put my integrity above yours any day of the week. You come into this parliament with mistruths time and time again - especially you, Mr Winter - and quite frankly it is disgraceful.

Mr Winter interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, member for Franklin, please.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It is disgusting that you use this place to deliberately discredit members and it needs to stop. Tasmanians quite rightly deserve an opposition that is focused on the areas that people are concerned about: teachers in our schools, child safety officers, and the cost of living when it comes to energy prices. I will put my integrity above those opposite any day of the week.

The fact is, we took election commitments to the 2021 election. We won that election and we have delivered on our commitments. That is what Tasmanians care about.

Ms White - But you misled the House - twice.

Mr SPEAKER - Leader of the Opposition, order.

Mr ROCKLIFF - They care about a government that is responsive to their needs and understands the cost-of-living pressures particularly when it comes to rising energy costs, which we are responding to. They care about waiting lists, and they want governments and oppositions to work together to try to solve these challenges, as we are doing.

Ms WHITE - Point of order, Mr Speaker, going to standing order 45, relevance. It was a very serious accusation that I made that the Premier misled the parliament yesterday. He has gone nowhere near addressing it.

Mr SPEAKER - You may take your seat. I will take the point of relevance. The Standing Orders say that we have to be relevant. There was a judgment in there about the Premier's credibility. I will allow the Premier to answer the question. Remain relevant to the question, please, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Dr Broad - What about page 42? What were you referring to?

Mr SPEAKER - Member for Braddon and the Opposition, I am not going to put up with constant interjecting. Yesterday there was a comment about sticking to the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders say that the member should be heard in silence.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Mr Speaker. Tasmanians deserve more than the Opposition coming in day in and day out, throwing around mud and trying to discredit me. I am very proud of every single minister of my Government. They work day in and day out to deliver for Tasmanians. We do not always get it right but we work hard day in and day out across a range of areas to ensure that we are continuing to govern for Tasmanians, maintaining the growth in our economy, creating jobs and delivering on the essential services that Tasmanians thoroughly and rightly deserve.

Local Communities Facilities Fund

Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.07 a.m.]

You misled the parliament again yesterday and again you failed to correct the record at the earliest opportunity. The number of false statements you have made about these dodgy Liberal Party grants is growing by the day. You admitted that \$2.5 million of public money was shovelled out through the Treasurer's Reserve for your dodgy grants scheme, then you yesterday you referred to the Treasurer's comments from last year where he claimed it was \$4.7 million. However, a search of the *Hansard* revealed that Jane Howlett, the former minister for sport at the time this dodgy scheme was operating, claimed just \$1.3 million was spent by 30 June 2021. Premier, which is it? How much public money has the Liberal Party secretly handed out?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is no secret. We went to an election promising commitments and delivering on our commitments. The commitments were tabled in this parliament, so there is no secrecy. We are open and transparent with what we committed to in the 2021 election and Tasmanians quite rightly would expect a government to deliver on those commitments and that is exactly we are doing.

Local Communities Facilities Fund - Perceived Conflict of Interest

Ms WHITE question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.24 a.m.]

At least five members of your Government have been found to have direct connections, including immediate family connections, to organisations receiving these dodgy Liberal Party grants. They have dragged reputable community organisations down into the mud. Perhaps the most shocking example is the member for Bass, Lara Alexander, who pushed for and secured grants totalling nearly a quarter of a million dollars to organisations that she personally headed. Incredibly, the ABC reports that she personally signed a grant deed as the recipient of at least one of those grants. Effectively, your MPs have been caught out writing themselves cheques.

Do you accept the member for Bass has a clear conflict of interest? Do you think it is acceptable for her to be the one literally signing off as the recipient of a grant that she herself had obtained?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I might inform the member on a previous question around the \$4.7 million reference, if that is alright?

The \$4.7 million reference included all new purpose RAF funding for election, of which \$2.4 million, I am advised, was for 111 local community projects paid in 2021. The \$1.3 million referred to by the former Sports minister, was the sports component only of the \$2.4 million. The remainder of the \$4.7 million was for other election commitments being The Hobart Clinic redevelopment and the no interest loan scheme for Energy Saver loans and subsidies.

While candidates were able to put up projects based on their engagement with their electorates and understanding of need, no candidates were part of the Liberal Party's policy team which made decisions to which projects to support.

Mr Winter - Who was on the policy team?

Mr ROCKLIFF - What about your commitments? What was your process. I mean, seriously?

I will back the integrity of each and every one of our members. I have great respect for them all. All our team are elected to make a difference -

Ms White - Do you think it is right to sign off on their own grants?

Mr SPEAKER - Order, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr ROCKLIFF - and engage with their communities, have an understanding of organisations and communities, and put forward ideas and suggestions of how those community organisations, whether it is infrastructure or additional support, could be enhanced so they can improve the level of service delivery to the community. It is always coming from a good place with the best of intentions. I hope I will also speak of every member of this parliament, when it comes to that matter.

When political parties, whether it be the Greens, Labor, or ourselves, go to an election we make commitments and we are either elected or not elected. If we are not elected, then those commitments do not come to fruition. We won the 2021 election and Tasmanians, quite rightly, expect our Government to deliver on its promises.

Ms White - You raided the Treasurer's funds.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am advised that it has been \$31 million of Labor 2021 state election commitments. George Town Soccer Club towards stage 1 of the lighting plan, \$80 000.

Ms WHITE - Point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order 45, relevance. The question was about the acceptability of candidates signing off on their own grants. I ask you to draw the Premier's attention to that question, because it is unacceptable?

Mr SPEAKER - I will draw the Premier to the relevance issue. I will also draw everybody's attention to statements that have been made in the past. There is a certain amount of preamble. I do not know what the Premier is going to say but he is allowed in his contribution to make an argument. Premier, over to you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - These were election commitments made by you. I am not saying there is anything wrong with supporting the George Town Soccer Club; it is very good as is the Circular Head bike trails working group construction of trails, some \$230 000 put forward by Anita Dow.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, order.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It seems pretty reasonable to me. A helping hand at Longford: new equipment supplies, \$10 000, Ms Butler. What is your process?

Ms DOW - Point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order, number 45, again - relevance. It is all very well for the Premier to stand up and outline commitments that we make, but this is an issue of integrity -

Mr SPEAKER - Order. Could you please resume your seat? I take the standing order, but it is as I have said before. It is not an opportunity for an Opposition member to make a continuing argument. If you wish to raise points of order, that is fine, but it is not there to sustain the argument.

Mr ROCKLIFF - What I am demonstrating, Mr Speaker, is that those opposite well and truly come into this place to try to discredit members with personal attacks on individuals.

If any candidate believed they have a conflict, for example, they or a family member or a member of a club, a patron, the project was evaluated on the basis of its broader community benefits. Before putting up projects, candidates were asked to consider how each project would help rebuild Tasmania post-COVID, improve local communities, improve economic activity, create jobs, and support small businesses. I know the decisions on which projects would be granted funding was made by the Liberal policy team, which assessed proposed projects against established criteria, which we took to the election in an open and transparent way.

The Labor Party is trying to discredit people and attack people personally. They tarnish reputations and I will have none of that. I will take my integrity and every single of one of my team's integrity above yours, every single day of the week.

Election Commitments - Funding

Ms O'CONNOR question to TREASURER, Mr FERGUSON

[10.38 a.m.]

Yesterday you attempted to defend the Government you are a part of's misuse of the Treasurer's Reserve to fund more than 100 election commitments. You suggested this was standard operating procedure and, laughably, defended the process as transparent. The evidence suggests the Treasurer's Reserve was not even the newly formed Government's first preference for funding election promises. If you are genuinely committed to transparency will you have the courage to give a straight 'yes' or 'no' answer to this question, perhaps with a bit of detail.

Did the Liberal Government attempt to use the COVID-19 provision to fund election commitments in 2021?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I do not know the answer to the particular question about whether the former Treasurer and the Government attempted to 'to use the COVID-19 provision'.

Ms O'Connor - You are the Finance minister.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - I am aware that it is referenced in the RTI that was released last week. I will need to consult that further and, in the event, I might come back to the House and provide that further detail.

The short answer though is that we funded those commitments, as I said yesterday, through the Treasurer's Reserve, under section 21 of the Financial Management Act where it is an entirely appropriate and lawful thing to do to use funds that were appropriated by this House in the 2020-21 Budget. A provision was made for the Treasurer's Reserve by this parliament and it was carried. It provides for other purposes and it provides for that fund to be used. The facts are entirely clear.

We have already spent a lot of time on this matter yesterday and again today making very clear that everything proper has been followed and we stand by it. As for the false claims that continue to be made by those opposite, it demonstrates that they are desperate to try to create a scandal which does not exist.

Ms O'Connor - Will you come back with an answer to the question?

Mr SPEAKER - Order, member for Clark.

Mr FERGUSON - Finally, in respect of the COVID-19 provision, I am quite comfortable indicating to the House I will take further advice on that, but if -

Dr Woodruff - Would you come back in?

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - I am quite comfortable coming back in here, Mr Speaker.

Dr Woodruff - This year?

Mr FERGUSON - The COVID-19 provision was there for a purpose and purposes can change. They can change.

Opposition members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Speaker, they are very touchy on the other side. I am not making any commitment on the use of those funds, but if the fund was not required it returns to the Public Account. It is not there to be spent in all circumstances. It was a provision that was included in the Budget. It is located in the same place as the Treasurer's Reserve in Finance-General, and if the fund is not required, it returns to the Public Account. That is the nature of the way Finance-General works.

In conclusion, the election commitments were funded out of the Treasurer's Reserve and we have been very clear about that. If I have more to say about that to provide detail, I am happy to come back to the House, either after question time or during the day.

Ms O'Connor - Well, you have not given an answer.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Local Communities Facilities Fund - Perceived Conflict of Interest

Ms DOW question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.46 a.m.]

You say that you want to lead a government with integrity, but the ABC has found that nine Liberal MPs have some form of conflict of interest in this dodgy grants scheme, and they are just the ones we know about. Worse, through the scheme your MPs gave nearly \$1 million of public money to organisations they either ran themselves or which were run by members of their immediate family. Far from being a government with integrity, under your leadership doesn't the Liberal Party have a massive problem with dishonesty and self-dealing, and who was on the Liberal policy team who made decisions on these grants?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that question is much like the other questions. We go to an election, we make commitments, people vote, we win the election and we deliver. For Labor to come in here all holier-than-thou is, quite frankly, shameful. They come in here all holier-than-thou and, at the same time, try to damage people's reputations, as they have done all along.

Ms BUTLER - Mr Speaker, point of order on relevance. The Premier has not answered many of the questions at all today -

Mr SPEAKER - You can take your seat. I will take a point of order on relevance every day, however there is always a preamble. Until the Premier gets into the substantive part of the answer I cannot rule on relevance anyway. I can remind the Premier but he needs to be able to get to the substantive part of his answer before people start asking about relevance.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Mr Speaker, that was really a rehashed question which I have already answered when it comes to the process. We will always work in and around our electorates, our communities and our organisations. I have been a member of parliament for 20 years. I have been to many annual general meetings, annual dinners and functions, and I have a close connection to many organisations throughout the Braddon electorate. Of course we have conversations with organisations and get an understanding of what the needs are. For example, it might be infrastructure improvement, equipment for a municipal band, or upgrades to a tennis court. They let us know. We are MPs.

Ms O'BYRNE - Point of order, Mr Speaker. It goes to your previous response that once the Premier was well into the answer he might be relevant. Could we ask him to be relevant to the question which was the composition of the decision-making team?

Mr SPEAKER - I remind you of relevance, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am being very relevant. What I am demonstrating is that we are local members first and foremost. We make decisions based on the discussions and meetings that we have, and functions we go to where we get a good understanding of the needs of every community organisation. They like talking to their local MPs of all colours. I have read out a couple of examples of the Labor Party making commitments at the last election. You were not elected and so those commitments could not be delivered. That does not stop those organisations contacting us as local members and seeing if we can support them in some way in the future. We won the election and we are delivering our commitments.