



11 August 2023

jf:mg

Kelvin Granger & Dean Hurlston

Council Watch Inc.

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Kelvin Granger & Dean Hurlston

**PUBLIC QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

I am writing in response to the public question taken on notice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 26 July 2023. As you were not in attendance at the Council meeting, the question was taken on notice to be responded to in writing.

**The public question reads as follows:**

*Can council please advise the dollar (\$) amount of "cost shifting from State Government" they estimate they incurred in 2022/23 Financial Year?*

**I now provide the following advice:**

It is not possible to quantify the dollar amount of 'cost-shifting' in the 2022-2023 year.

I share the view of Strathbogie Shire Council's CEO who stated at their 18 July 2023 Ordinary Meeting:

*'Cost-shifting' is a nebulous concept as most if not all local government expenditure is as a cumulative result of the allocation or transfer of functions from state governments at various stages since establishment of the first Local Government Act in 1874 in the then relatively new Colony of Victoria.*

*To provide some more specific recent data to Council Watch, I refer you to the agenda and minutes of the Strathbogie Shire Council Meeting of October 2022 where the Council previously considered the impact of 'cost-shifting' on the Shire.*

Yours sincerely

**Martin Gill**  
Chief Executive Officer