



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

19 January 2017

Mr Mike Archer
Chief Executive Officer
City of Busselton
Locked Bag 1
BUSSELTON, WA 6280

CJB

Dear Mr Archer,

I'm writing to introduce myself as the new President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), having been elected to the role at ALGA's Annual General Meeting in November last year.

I've been involved in Local Government for the past 13 years and I am currently the elected Mayor of the City of Prospect in Adelaide. I've served on the ALGA Board for three and a half years and am committed to advancing the cause of Local Government in this country, and to fighting for the funding we need to provide the services and infrastructure our communities deserve. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the priorities for the Local Government sector and opportunities for greater collaboration between Local and Federal Government.

The year ahead looks to be filled with a range of opportunities for Local Government and Australia. I'll be working closely with key Federal Parliamentarians to help achieve smarter, more productive and more resilient communities throughout Australia. I'm particularly interested in how we can work on improving the way our cities grow, developing vibrant regions, and increasing investment in productive infrastructure that is critical to the future of our country.

ALGA will be making a detailed submission in the lead up to the 2017/2018 Federal Budget. This submission will focus on ensuring the security of services and infrastructure for local communities including:

- improving access to municipal services and implementing a Jobs Creation Community Infrastructure Program;
- accelerating transport reforms to enable greater and safer freight movements through higher productivity vehicles; and
- continuing to maintain basic access through improved local roads and infrastructure.

Specifically, ALGA is seeking the following:

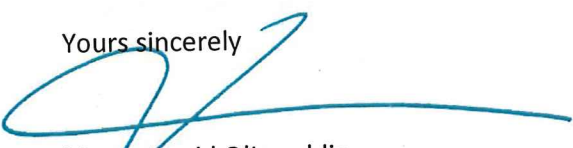
- an immediate end to the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) indexation freeze. Over the three years of the freeze, the base level of FAGs has been reduced by more than \$300 million per annum;
- an increase of the quantum of FAGs to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation, which would better provide councils with the financial resources required to help meet the local services and infrastructure needed by communities;
- implementing a Local Freight Productivity Investment Plan to increase productivity through a targeted investment of \$200 million per year for five years, specifically targeting productivity outcomes through improved access and connectivity;
- permanent doubling of Roads to Recovery (to at least \$700 million per annum) to address the \$1.2 billion annual funding shortfall which is needed to maintain Australia's local roads and to support national productivity improvements; and
- establishing a Community Infrastructure Funding Program of \$300 million per annum over four years to help restore the estimated 11 per cent of roads and community infrastructure that are in poor or very poor condition.

ALGA relies on a close relationship with State and Territory Local Government Associations as well as the support and engagement of the sector through our conferences, newsletter and research. Four save-the-date cards are enclosed to advise your council of ALGA's events throughout the year. Please distribute these cards to the relevant people in your council. Local Government's major event, the National General Assembly, will be held in Canberra from 18 – 21 June and I strongly encourage you to mark this in your calendar to ensure your voice and the voice of your community is heard at this important event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to maintain a strong and collaborative relationship with your State or Territory Local Government Association. The President and Vice President of your Association sit on the ALGA Board and shape the national policy priorities we pursue. It is through your Association that you can ensure the needs and views of your community are captured at the state level and pursued at the national level.

I look forward to working closely with you.

Yours sincerely



Mayor David O'Loughlin
City of Prospect
President, Australian Local Government Association