

Template letter from Councillors/Mayors to the Opposition Leader

NOTES:

- The objective of this template is for your council's mayor to write to the Opposition Leader to ask how the ALP will partner with local government to unlock the potential of communities
- The secondary objective is to outline why the initiatives are important to communities in your council.
- Letters can be PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 sent to
- Emails can be submitted via <mailto:anthony.albanese.mp@aph.gov.au>

TEMPLATE OF LETTER/EMAIL:

Letter to the Opposition Leader from Mayors post-election

Dear Mr Albanese

I am writing to you on behalf of [insert Council name]. Firstly, let me say that we are grateful for the financial assistance that the Commonwealth Government provides to our community. However, we are extremely concerned that this is not sufficient funding for Local Government and that this has a negative effect on the safety of our roads, the quality of our services and infrastructure and the health and wellbeing of our community.

The Commonwealth Government collects about 80% of Australia's total tax revenue/ Local councils raise only 3.6% of Australia's but Councils are responsible for 33% of Australia's public infrastructure, including 75% of the nation's roads. 3.6% of the tax take is not adequate funding. There is currently a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog and this is going to continue to grow to impact further on productivity and safety. All communities are vulnerable if this backlog is not addressed. Councils also deliver a wide range of services vital to ensure community wellbeing and social cohesion. We do not have adequate funds to provide the high quality services necessary for growing and ageing populations.

That is why we are asking the Commonwealth Government to stop the decline in funding to local governments and restore a fairer share of funding, so we can deliver the services, facilities and infrastructure that our communities so desperately need. We need your help as the Leader of the Opposition and potential future Prime Minister.

We are seeking a commitment from the ALP to increase funding for local councils. In the first instance we are asking for the return of the funds lost due to the indexation freeze on the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) – which is about \$1billion. Over time, we are seeking the restoration of the quantum of the FAGs to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

The decline in funding is a serious issue which affects us specifically because [insert examples/anecdotes/case studies of issues within your council regarding funding for roads, parks, libraries, sports facilities etc].

We urge you to declare that in the next Parliament you will commit to supporting increased funding so that communities get a fairer share.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to receiving a response and, hopefully, your commitment to support this vital campaign.

Yours sincerely

Mayor