

# Template letter from Councillors/Mayors to the Prime Minister

## NOTES:

- The objective of this template is for your council's mayor to write to the Prime Minister to ask how the coalition 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 sent to

The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- Emails can be submitted via <https://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

## TEMPLATE OF LETTER/EMAIL:

### **Letter to the Prime Minister from Mayors post-election**

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of [insert Council name]. Firstly, congratulations on your re-election, and let me thank you 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 and 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 you, Prime Minister, and 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 are seeking a commitment from the Coalition to increase funding for local councils. In the first instance we are asking for a return of the funds lost due to the indexation freeze on the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) – which is about \$1 billion. Over time, we are seeking a return of 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].

It is imperative that your government makes this important issue a priority.

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