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**Mayor calls for support from Federal Member for a Fairer Share for
<insert community name>**

Mayor/Councillor <insert name> has called on the newly-elected/returned local member in the seat of <insert seat name> to support the call by the Australian Local Government Association for a fairer share of taxation revenue to flow to local communities through their councils.

Councils across Australia receive Commonwealth grants, known as Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs), to provide services and infrastructure for their local communities but the relative size of the grants has almost halved over the past 20 years, stopping many communities from achieving their full potential.

“Communities everywhere face major challenges in attracting and retaining people or trying to meet the needs of growing populations and we are no different”, said Mayor <name>. “At the national level councils manage 33% of the nation’s public infrastructure, including 75% of our roads, but we raise only 3.6% of taxes through our rates. We rely on transfers from other levels of government, especially the Federal Government, and without a fairer share of tax revenue we can’t hope to keep our roads, parks and public facilities up to scratch.”

“The future of our community depends on getting a better deal. It seems only right that a fair share of the taxes we pay to the Federal Government should be spent here at the local level on the things our community considers a priority,” Mayor <name> said.

“If we can restore the grants back to where they were 20 years ago – and that means bringing them up from a little over ½ percent of Commonwealth tax revenue back to 1 percent - then Council can look at some major projects to improve life for our residents. If the grants are restored, we could <list examples of what could be done if the amount of FAGs you are receiving was doubled>.

“A fairer share of tax for our communities will help with local jobs and stimulate the local economy and help to unlock the potential of <insert the community name>.”

More information about this local government initiatives is available at <http://fairershare.com.au/>

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Media enquiries:

[Council Media spokesperson/contact name], [contact number]