

# Media Release Talking Points

## CONTEXT

- The current funding arrangements for local government are no longer fit for purpose.
- The roles and responsibilities of local government has grown significantly. The main funding available from the Australian Government (the Financial Assistance Grants) has consistently declined from a level equal to 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue (CTR) in 1996 to just 0.55% of CTR today.
- The Australian Government collects approximately 82% of Australia's tax revenue and is responsible for just one tenth of Australia's public infrastructure assets.
- Local councils raise 3.6% of taxes and are responsible for 33% of public infrastructure, including 75% of Australia's roads
- 3.6% of the tax take is not adequate funding to unlock the potential of our communities.

## OUTCOMES TO SECTOR ON A NATIONAL SCALE

- The decline in funding from the Commonwealth Government has left local councils worse off
- The result is increased pressure on rates and council budgets, making it harder to maintain community services and infrastructure.
- There is a current infrastructure backlog of \$30+ billion dollars. The requirement to upgrade and renew infrastructure built during the 'baby boom' and rapid growth periods in the 60s and 70s is becoming a major problem. New infrastructure is also required to meet the needs of the growing population and to meet productivity and safety requirements.
- There are also increasing community expectations related to the type and standards of services available to local communities. This is placing pressure on local governments particularly when they are required to provide services previously provided by the other spheres of government. This is particularly the case in thin markets such as rural and regional areas where, if federal or state governments withdraw services, local government must step in or no one will.
- Increased funding would result in communities getting more of the valuable facilities and services that allow them to thrive, increase social cohesion and productivity and create jobs.

## SUPPORTING POINTS

- [share specific details of at least one thing your council could do if you received up to double of your Financial Assistance Grants funding].
- Share specific details of what has been achieved with the funding received to date and how much more could have been achieved e.g. heated indoor pool, covered grandstand at the main sports oval
- 81% of Australians agreed in a poll\* that politicians should focus on local issues and local communities at the 2019 election
- This initiative will create jobs in our community and improve our local economy. It will help manage the growth/decline in population

- All politics eventually boils down to the needs of our constituencies. As the Mayor of [insert the name of your council], and representative of this community, I stand behind this initiative and join local government's call for all members of the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament to support it as well.

## CALL TO ACTION

- We're calling for your party to agree to provide a fairer share of national taxation revenue to local governments to reflect the role of councils and the needs of local communities.

\* The poll was run in an omnibus survey by YouGov Galaxy, which does the monthly Newspann, in June 2018.