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5 May 2022

Pat Conaghan MP
Member for Cowper
PO Box 2056
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Via email: pat.conaghan.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Pat,

Working in conjunction with its member state and territory associations, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has developed a national advocacy campaign, *Don't Leave Local Communities Behind*, that will run in the lead up to the upcoming May 21 Federal election.

The goal of *Don't Leave Local Communities Behind*, is to secure funding and policy commitments that will support every Australian council and community, and ensure all Australians have an equal opportunity to share in the benefits of Australia's post-pandemic recovery. All Australian councils have been asked to participate in this campaign to ensure a coordinated approach that will deliver the best possible outcomes.

The *Don't Leave Local Communities Behind* campaign will promote 17 priorities in the portfolios of economic recovery, transport and community infrastructure, building resilience, circular economy and intergovernmental relations. The full list of national Federal election priorities that will be promoted through this campaign is outlined in Attachment A.

At the March 2022 meeting, Kempsey Shire Council voted unanimously to support the ALGA's campaign with the following recommendations:

That Council:

- 1. supports the national funding priorities of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), which would contribute an estimated \$6.46 billion per year to Australia's GDP and create 43,444 jobs; and***
- 2. agrees to support and participate in the Australian Local Government Association's advocacy for their endorsed national funding priorities by writing to the local Federal Member, Mr Pat Conaghan MP of Parliament, all known election candidates in local Federal electorates and the President of the Australian Local Government Association to:***
 - a. express support for ALGA's funding priorities;***
 - b. identify priority local projects and programs that could be progressed with the additional financial assistance from the Federal Government being sought by ALGA; and***
 - c. seek funding commitments from the members, candidates and their parties for these identified local projects and programs.***

As indicated above, Kempsey Shire Council has identified priority local projects and programs that could be progressed with additional financial assistance from the Federal Government. For your ease of reference, the full list of priority projects is outlined in Attachment B.

Kempsey Shire Council seeks your strong support of these key priorities to deliver increased Federal funding for these vital projects that can only benefit the quality of life in our local communities by providing enhanced services and facilities throughout the Shire.

If you would like further information on any of the Kempsey Shire's priority projects, please contact Council's General Manager, Craig Milburn, on 6566 3320.

Any correspondence received in response to this letter will be published on the Kempsey Shire Council website.

For further information on the ALGA's *Don't Leave Local Communities Behind* campaign, visit: <https://alga.com.au/home/dontleavelocalcommunitiesbehind/>

Yours sincerely



Leo Hauville
Mayor

Attachment A

The full list of national Federal Election priorities that will be promoted through this campaign is outlined below:

Economic recovery

1. An initial injection of Financial Assistance Grants to local government of \$1.3 billion to support communities and jobs and also resolve the current practice of bringing forward two quarterly Financial Assistance Grant payments each year.
2. A commitment to return Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue via a phased approach.

Transport and community infrastructure

3. \$500 million per annum for a four-year continuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.
4. A strategic local roads investment program of \$300 million per annum over four years to address road transport first and last mile issues and congestion on local roads.
5. An increase in Roads to Recovery to \$800 million per annum (an additional \$300 million per annum) and the Black Spot Program to \$200 million per annum over four years, while addressing the South Australian road funding anomaly by making the additional \$20 million per annum to SA in 2021-22 and 2022-23 permanent.
6. Continuing the Stronger Regional Digital Connectivity Package at \$55 million over four years.
7. \$200 million over four years to assist councils to develop and implement innovative housing partnerships.

Building resilience

8. A targeted disaster mitigation program of \$200 million per annum for four years which will reduce the costs of response and recovery and strengthen community resilience.
9. A commitment to ensuring betterment funding as a core element of disaster recovery funding arrangements.
10. A commitment to include community infrastructure that is publicly accessible and owned, and local government waste, water and wastewater assets under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.
11. A Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200 million over four years to enable planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in local communities and enable councils to achieve climate neutrality as soon as practicable.
12. \$100 million per annum over four years provided directly to local governments to support the capabilities of Indigenous councils and the implementation of the Closing the Gap local/regional voice.

Circular economy

13. Support to provide guidance and advice to councils on how to unlock the circular economy locally, particularly in rural, regional, and remote areas.

14. Support to investigate and, if feasible, implement a national bin harmonisation program that will improve kerbside recycling, reduce contamination, and maximise opportunities for reuse.

15. \$100 million per annum over four years to fund local government circular waste innovation projects.

Intergovernmental relations

16. Reinstating local government representation to the primary intergovernmental forum in Australia, the National Cabinet.

17. Ensuring local government's ongoing voting membership of other relevant Ministerial forums.

For further information on the ALGA campaign, visit:

<https://alga.com.au/home/dontleavelocalcommunitiesbehind/>