



THE HON ANGUS TAYLOR MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR CITIES AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Reference: MC17-074055

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor O'Loughlin

David

Thank you for your letters of 22 August 2017 regarding the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) resolutions on cities funds, smart communities and open data.

The Australian Government's approach to cities is set out in the Smart Cities Plan. The Plan seeks to bring together all levels of government, the private sector and local communities, to identify what we need to do today so that our cities succeed in the future. The Plan provides a vision for productive and liveable cities that encourage innovation, support growth and create jobs.

The key mechanism for delivering the Plan is City Deals. The Australian Government has agreed City Deals with Townsville and Launceston and is negotiating a deal with Western Sydney. We have committed to develop City Deals with all states and territories and in all capital cities, where other levels of government are willing.

City Deals provide an opportunity for all levels of government to work together to address the issues raised in your resolutions. Other Australian Government initiatives relevant to your resolutions are outlined below.

Resolution Number 1 and 20 – sustainable cities fund and growing suburbs fund

The Australian Government is implementing a number of programs that can assist in meeting local infrastructure needs, including:

- \$472.2 million for the Regional Growth Fund to invest in regional infrastructure projects – this includes an additional \$200 million for our successful Building Better Regions Fund and \$272.2 million for major transformational projects which support long-term economic growth and create jobs in our regional communities

- \$1 billion for the National Housing Infrastructure Facility to help local governments address infrastructure bottlenecks that impede development and build the infrastructure needed to speed up the supply of new housing
- \$1 billion for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation's Sustainable Cities Investment Program to help local governments invest in improving energy efficiency in their communities.

Resolution Number 23 – Smart Communities initiatives

As part of the Smart Cities Plan, the Australian Government has committed \$50 million to the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program. This Program will invest in local-level smart technology projects in cities, suburbs and towns. Round one of the program closed on 30 June 2017 with successful projects due to be announced in late 2017. The Government is also supporting Future Ready, to help local governments build smart community know-how. Events have been held around the country since May 2017 and will continue until November 2017.

Resolution Number 25 – Open data initiatives

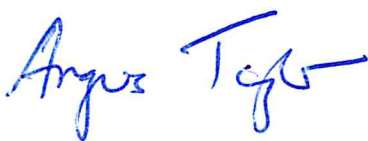
The Australian Government is supporting local governments to develop and implement open data initiatives. The Government has developed an open data portal, data.gov.au, which is increasingly being used by local governments to make their data available at no charge. If the data made available through data.gov.au is spatially enabled, it can then also be displayed on NationalMap, the Australian Government's map-based data visualisation tool.

The Logan City Council is one local government entity that has made data available on data.gov.au and NationalMap; the full list is available by clicking the 'Add data' button then navigating to 'Local Governments' on the NationalMap website. More information about how publishers can spatially enable and display their datasets through NationalMap can be found on the Help and FAQ section of the NationalMap website www.nationalmap.gov.au.

The Government has also developed an Open Data Toolkit to assist prospective data publishers, including local governments, with preparing and publishing public data. The Open Data Toolkit is available at data.gov.au.

Thank you for bringing the NGA's resolutions to my attention. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Australian Local Government Association as we implement the Smart Cities Plan.

Yours sincerely



ANGUS TAYLOR

25 / 10 / 2017