

**2014 NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS & TRANSPORT CONGRESS**  
**ALGA PRESIDENT'S SPEECH NOTES**  
**2.15pm FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2014**  
**PRESIDENT'S CLOSING ADDRESS**

Delegates that brings us to an end. It is my pleasure to wrap this Congress up with some brief closing remarks and some thanks.

The road and transport agenda for local government is a huge commitment. It is one of our largest areas of expenditure, estimated at more than \$7.5 billion per annum and this is not enough to meet the backlog and underspend on our roads and transport infrastructure.

Funding is one thing, but the policy settings are another. Delegates in my opening address I said we wanted to achieve 4 things:

- to provide you with all the information you need to understand the national transport agenda in the lead-up to the next Federal election;
- to facilitate dialogue amongst ourselves on the relevant issues and to determine what we need to maximise local government's role in transport reforms;
- to report to you on the up-date of the 'National State of the Local Road Assets Report'; and finally
- to start forming up our 2016 Federal election strategy and commencing the work required to build our case for continued federal support.

I believe we have met these objectives.

Delegates, in closing I want to thank all speakers. In particular I want to thank the Deputy Prime Minister for his continued support of this Congress. I look forward to working with him over the coming years.

Delegates, as I opened this Congress I will close it. We, in local government face five key challenges in our relationship with the Federal Government in the next two years:

1. Securing our place in the Federation by maintaining the direct funding relationship between local government and the Commonwealth;
2. Growing the funding pie;
3. Restoring indexation for, and improving the level of FAGs;
4. Achieving permanency for Roads to Recovery beyond the budget cycle; and finally
5. improving the capacity of the sector to manage our assets and ensure that they are fit for purpose.

These are not trivial issues and they will change the shape of local government for decades to come. I reiterate them now because we need the support of all councils in progressing these issues. Indeed we need you and your council to take up these themes and issues within your own communities.

I now want to thank you for your participation in this Congress. It is only successful because you make it successful. And now my final task is to announce that the Congress will return to Victoria in 2015 and will be held in Ballarat between 17 and 19 November. So put it in your diaries. I note the presence of Councillor Vicki Coltman, representing Ballarat City Council.

Please, travel safely and I look forward to seeing you next year, in Ballarat.