



AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

2024-25

PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION



OUR MEMBERS



ABOUT ALGA


The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the voice of local government in Australia, representing 537 councils across the nation. In structure, ALGA is a federation of state and territory local government associations.

ALGA was established in 1947 and throughout its history has been actively involved in issues of national significance affecting local government and local communities.

ALGA's policies and strategic priorities are determined by the ALGA Board, comprising two representatives from each of the member associations, who elect the President and two Vice Presidents.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

From innovative affordable housing solutions to reducing carbon emissions to increasing our resilience to natural disasters, Australia's 537 local governments are delivering on national priorities in every community.

We take our responsibilities as a trusted local delivery partner seriously, and are committed to working with state, territory and federal governments to build a stronger, more resilient nation.

Collectively we manage more than \$500 billion of public assets and deliver hundreds of services in every corner of the country.

However, we directly collect less than four percent of national taxation, and our funding of important services is reliant on partnerships with other levels of government.

This is particularly the case for many regional, rural and remote councils, which are dependent on federal Financial Assistance Grants to provide the services and facilities their communities need.

Restoring Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation is the number one priority for local government so we can deliver our services to communities based on what they need and when they need it.

It will enable us to continue to provide free or low-fee services so important to households in these challenging economic times. This includes building and maintaining more libraries, sporting and recreation facilities, events and festivals, childcare and community programs.

Providing an additional once off payment of FA Grants would also alleviate the financial sustainability pressures many councils are facing after years of COVID, droughts and natural disasters.

We greatly appreciate the range of targeted funding programs the Australian Government provides to local government, and in particular the increases announced to the Roads to Recovery and Black Spot programs in 2023, as well as the new Community Energy Upgrades Fund.

These are important programs, and we want to work with the Government to further improve their design and delivery.

We are also keen to work with the Government on a range of new funding programs to deliver local solutions to national challenges.

We are committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, addressing the impacts of climate change, creating a true circular economy, and building a stronger and more productive workforce.

This submission outlines a three-tiered approach to partnerships that will build a stronger nation – now and into the future.

ALGA is a proud signatory to the National Housing Accord and National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and we look forward to working with the Government on new partnerships for the benefit of all Australians.

Cr Linda Scott
ALGA President


ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Collects  **9.7** mega tonnes of kerbside waste every year

Manages **\$500** billion in public assets

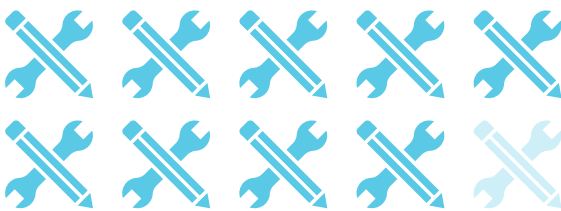


 **\$43** billion per year in operational expenditure

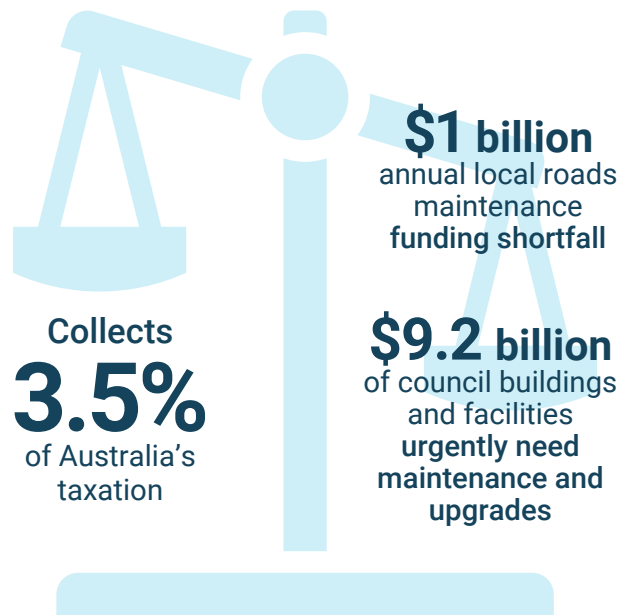
Manages **678,000** km of roads



Employs **190,000** Australians 



9 in 10 councils experiencing jobs and skills shortages

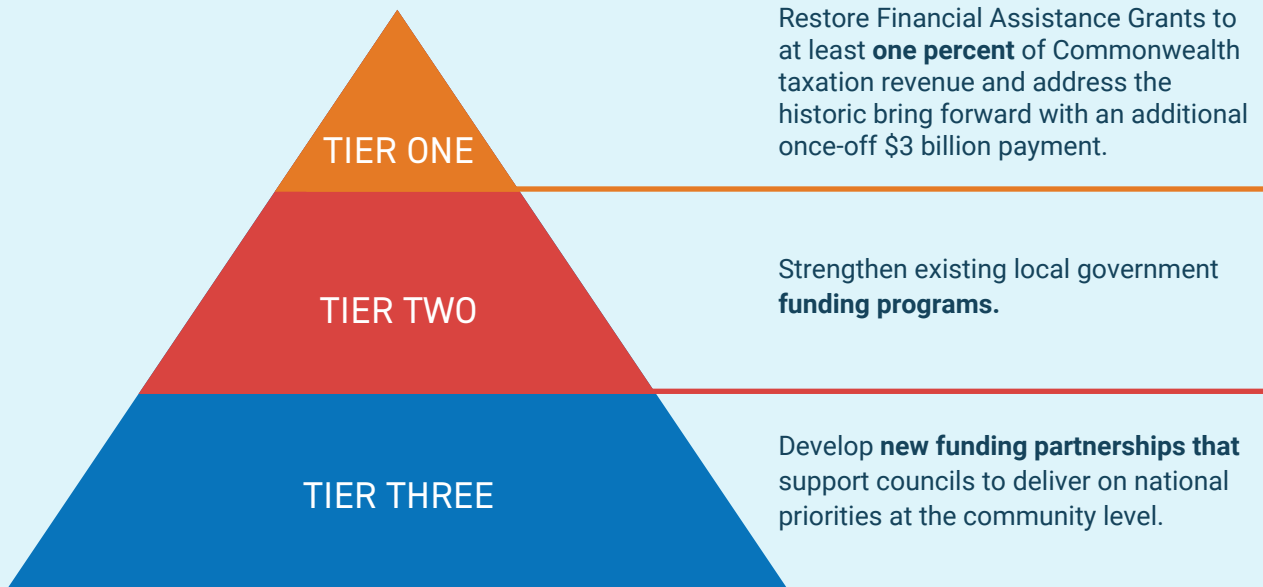


80% of councils have or are developing emissions reduction targets



More than **60%** of councils impacted by natural disasters in 2022 and 2023

ALGA'S 2024-25 BUDGET PRIORITIES



SUMMARY OF 2024-25 BUDGET COMMITMENTS SOUGHT

TIER ONE: Financial Assistance Grants

Why this is important: Financial Assistance Grants provide councils with funding certainty enabling them to plan and respond to local needs.

As Australians continue to experience a cost-of-living crisis, local governments are providing a wide range of free and low-cost facilities, services, events and programs.

A substantial increase to Financial Assistance Grants would support local governments to improve and expand on this work, providing cost of living relief to our residents.

Proposal	Portfolio	Funding ask	Distribution of Funding
1. Fair increases to Financial Assistance Grants	The Treasury	Restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue and provide councils with an additional once-off payment of \$3 billion to address the practice of bringing forward payments	Maintain existing formula-based distribution to councils

TIER TWO: Strengthen existing local government funding programs

Why this is important: Over the last two years, the Australian Government has made significant funding commitments to support communities through local government.

We call on the Government to ensure these commitments remain exclusively for local government use, and are expanded given the significance of these programs in supporting national priorities. This will enable local governments to meet community needs without “reinventing the wheel”.

Proposal	Portfolio	Funding ask	Distribution of Funding
2.1 Roads to Recovery	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)	Deliver on the Government’s commitment to increase Roads to Recovery funding to \$1 billion per year by 2027-28.	Maintain existing formula-based distribution to councils
2.2 Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program	DITRDCA	Deliver on the Government’s commitment to combine the Bridges Renewal and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programs into a new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program and increase funding to \$200 million per year by 2027-28.	Grant applications for local government only.
2.3 Black Spot Program	DITRDCA	Deliver on the Government’s commitment to increase the Black Spot Program funding from \$110 million to \$150 million per year by 2027-28.	Grant applications for local government only.
2.4 Housing Support Program	DITRDCA	Increase the Housing Support Program from \$500 million to \$750 million with the additional \$250 million available to local governments for infrastructure to improve the liveability of new housing developments.	Grant applications for local government only.
2.5 Disaster Ready Fund	Department of Home Affairs	Increase the Disaster Ready Fund by an additional \$250 million per year to a total of \$450 million per year.	Grant applications for local government only.
2.6 Community Energy Upgrades Fund	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	Make the Community Energy Upgrades Fund an annual program at \$100 million per year and broaden the scope to support councils to deliver emissions reduction initiatives in their communities.	Grant applications for local government only.

TIER THREE: New partnerships to address national priorities

Why this is important: Shared solutions at a practical level are integral to national priorities. That's why local government is ready to partner on these important reforms.

Speaking to the Local Government Grants Commission in November 2023, Minister for Local Government the Hon Kristy McBain MP highlighted the importance of councils as a trusted local delivery partner, saying *"I really want to see councils front and centre of so many of the services, the projects and the programs that are being delivered and to make sure there's a really clear path and role for councils in the work that both the State and Federal Government does."*

Proposal	Portfolio	Funding ask	Distribution of Funding
3.1 Community infrastructure	DITRDCA	A dedicated \$500 million per year fund (indexed annually) to support councils to build, maintain and revitalise community infrastructure. Funding should be allocated on a formula basis, and for untied local roads and community infrastructure projects.	Formula based funding distributed to all councils.
3.2 Productivity	DITRDCA	\$300 million per year for local governments to improve freight productivity on their road networks and support the implementation of Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms.	Grant applications for local government only.
3.3 Cyber security	Department of Home Affairs	\$10 million for a cyber security health check training package and technology uplift for local government.	Funding for federal program accessible to all local governments.
3.4 Circular economy	DCCEEW	\$120 million over four years to support Australian councils to standardise bins and implement a national education campaign to reduce contamination and reduce waste sent to landfill.	Grant applications for local government only.
3.5 Jobs and skills	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Support for councils to employ up to 5,600 additional apprentices, trainees, cadets and graduates over the next ten years; and \$6 million over three years to encourage and support councils to employ more military veterans.	Grant applications for local government only.
3.6 Closing the Gap	National Indigenous Australians Agency	\$7 million over four years to employ a network of Indigenous Affairs Policy Officers at ALGA and its member state and territory local government associations.	Direct funding to ALGA and state and territory local government associations.
3.7 Climate change	DCCEEW	\$200 million over four years to support councils to implement local adaptation actions to limit disruption to communities and local services.	Grant applications for local government only.

TIER ONE:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

“Bring forwards of Financial Assistance Grants has been a problem for a little while now... We’ve heard loudly and clearly that it creates an uncertainty for councils, which they can’t rely on. The timing of things is critical to financial planning. We’ve also heard that those bring forwards bring with it significant administrative challenge as well.”

The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Local Government, November 2023

Commitment sought

Restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue and provide councils with an additional once-off payment of \$3 billion to address the practice of bringing forward FA Grants payments.

Opportunity

Fulfil the Government’s commitment to “fair increases to Financial Assistance Grants” and support local governments to help deliver on national priorities at a community level, while reducing cost of living pressures for all Australians.

Further information

Financial Assistance Grants are vital to the continued economic prosperity of communities in every corner of our nation.

Research [produced for ALGA by AEC](#) shows that these grants make up more than 20 percent of annual operating revenue for around one in four councils, and this figure is much higher in regional, rural and remote areas.

Since 2009-10, the Australian Government has consistently pre-paid either part or all Financial Assistance Grants to councils in the previous financial year.

Originally implemented as a stimulus measure during the Global Financial Crisis, and then to encourage councils to drive local economic development during the COVID pandemic, these pre-payments are now anticipated by councils every June.

The timing of these payments is controlled by the Federal Government, creating a level of uncertainty for local governments planning their annual budgets.

According to research from [SGS Economics and Planning](#), over the past decade total expenditure per capita by local government has essentially flatlined, as expectations for public services have continued to grow.

The research also shows outlays per capita from the Commonwealth have risen sharply over this period, while those of state and territory governments have steadily grown.

Essentially, Australian councils have been asked for years to do more with less, and many have subsequently become reliant on the early payment of these grants, established fifteen years ago.

The SGS research also shows that local government supports increased productivity in at least nine different ways, including providing urban infrastructure, mitigating externalities in urban development, place making and the visitor economy, providing land for housing, better local labour markets, climate mitigation and adaptation, providing land for business, business clusters and innovation, and the circular economy.

According to the [SGS research](#), investment in Australian local government is low by international standards.

Allowing for the differing scope of local government around the world, by removing the provision of health, education and social services, Australian councils' share of GDP ranks amongst the very lowest of comparator nations.

The Government ran for election in 2022 on a policy of "fair increases" to Financial Assistance Grants. Minister McBain highlighted the importance of Financial Assistance Grants in a speech to Parliament in November 2022, saying "*We know this untied funding enables local governments to deliver their community priorities and enables the best placed solutions to come through.*"

However, since being elected the only increases have been annual indexation, in-line with the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act*.

Providing an additional once-off allocation of Financial Assistance Grants equal to one year's payments will address the bring-forward and meet the Government's commitment to "fair increases".

As Australians continue to experience a cost-of-living crisis, local governments are providing relief through a wide range of free and low-cost facilities, services, events and programs.

A substantial increase to Financial Assistance Grants would support local governments to improve and expand on this work, providing much-needed relief to all Australians.

According to research from SGS Economics and Planning, over the past decade total expenditure per capita by local government has essentially flatlined, as expectations for public services have continued to grow.



TIER TWO:

STRENGTHEN EXISTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING PROGRAMS

“Local governments are a trusted delivery partner of the services communities rely on. My Government’s priorities for cleaner, cheaper energy, more affordable housing, skills and training, as well as smart infrastructure cannot be achieved without the vital role of councils.”

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, June 2023

2.1 ROADS TO RECOVERY

Commitment sought

Deliver on the Government’s commitment to increase Roads to Recovery funding to \$1 billion per year by 2027-28 through untied funding allocations.

Opportunity

Enable councils to provide safer and more productive local roads across the country.

Further information

Australia’s 537 councils maintain more than 75 percent of the nation’s local roads while collecting less than 4 percent of national taxation.

This limits our capacity to maintain these roads to an acceptable standard, and independent research published by the [Grattan Institute in 2023](#) identified a \$1 billion per year deficit in local road maintenance funding.

In 2023 more than 1,250 people were killed on Australian roads – the highest total in five years.

Additionally, approximately 40,000 people are seriously injured on our roads every year, with around half of all crashes on local roads.

The Government’s 2023 Infrastructure Investment Program Review recommended a significant increase in Roads to Recovery funding, and ALGA strongly welcomed Minister King’s announcement in November 2023 that this funding would be doubled from \$500 million to \$1 billion per year over the forward estimates.

We look forward to the Government delivering on this commitment, providing an additional \$500 million every year through this program by 2027-28, which will support local governments to build and maintain safer and more productive local roads.

Given the significant road maintenance backlog, this funding should remain untied so local governments can use it to address their local roads needs as required.



2.2 SAFER LOCAL ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Commitment sought

Deliver on the Government's commitment to combine the Bridges Renewal and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programs into a new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program and increase funding to \$200 million per year by 2027-28.

Opportunity

Support councils to boost the safety and productivity of Australia's road network.

Further information

Councils play a significant role in boosting national productivity by enabling the efficient movement of freight across Australia's road network.

The Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity and Bridges Renewal Programs have collectively provided approximately \$150 million per year in

the past for projects that improve the safety and productivity of heavy vehicle operations in Australia.

ALGA welcomed the Government's November 2023 announcement that these two programs would be combined into a single application-based ongoing funding stream for local governments, with funding increased from \$150 million to \$200 million per year over the forward estimates.

This funding will support councils that maintain sections of key freight routes to improve the safety and productivity of their local roads, delivering a range of benefits to their communities and the Australian economy.

Councils play a significant role in boosting national productivity by enabling the efficient movement of freight across Australia's road network.



2.3 BLACK SPOT PROGRAM

Commitment sought

Deliver on the Government's commitment to increase Black Spot Program funding from \$110 to \$150 million per year by 2027-28.

Opportunity

Address the unacceptable national road toll, which currently stands at more than 1,250 deaths per year.

Further information

The Black Spot Program plays an important role supporting governments to address known high risk road safety locations.

In November 2023 the Government announced that funding for this program would be progressively increased from \$110 million to \$150 million per year over the forward Budget estimates.

This expansion will support local governments to better mitigate risks on the roads they manage and reduce Australia's unacceptable national road toll.

Broadening the criteria to include proactive – but effective and relatively low cost – treatments including audio-tactile line marking and shoulder widening would also be welcomed by councils as an opportunity to further reduce the risk of fatal and serious injury crashes.

Another opportunity for the Government to further reduce risks on our local roads would be supporting smaller regional, rural and remote councils without a road safety practitioner to implement the road safety audit tool for councils currently under development by the Office of Road Safety.

This expansion will support local governments to better mitigate risks on the roads they manage and reduce Australia's unacceptable national road toll.



2.4 HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Commitment sought

Increase the Housing Support Program from \$500 million to \$750 million with the additional \$250 million available to local governments for infrastructure to improve the liveability of new housing developments.

Opportunity

Address Australia's affordable housing crisis by creating healthier, more liveable and vibrant communities.

Further information

ALGA is a proud signatory to the National Housing Accord, and councils are committed to working collaboratively with other levels of government to address Australia's affordable housing crisis.

The Housing Support Program (HSP) was announced by the Australian Government in August 2023 as a competitive grant fund scheme for state, territory and local governments to provide infrastructure that will enable new housing developments.

While Australia desperately needs more housing, it is vital that this housing is appropriately supported by infrastructure that will enable healthy and connected communities.

Increasing the HSP by \$250 million and providing this additional funding to local governments would improve the liveability of new housing developments and deliver better social, health, environmental and economic outcomes in these growing communities.

It is vital that this housing is appropriately supported by infrastructure that will enable healthy and connected communities.



2.5 DISASTER READY FUND

Commitment sought

Increase the Disaster Ready Fund by an additional \$250 million per year to a total of \$450 million per year.

Opportunity

Better mitigate against the impacts of natural disasters with the goal of saving lives and reducing the billions of dollars spent by Australian governments on recovery each year.

Further information

According to the National Emergency Management Agency, there were 43 disasters declared in 2023, with 194 disaster support declarations across 137 local government areas.

This followed on from 46 disasters in 2022, with 524 disaster support declarations across 316 local government areas.

In 2021 [Deloitte Access Economics](#) estimated that natural disasters currently cost Australia \$38 billion per year, and that this cost will rise to

\$73 billion per year by 2060, assuming a low-emissions scenario.

Councils welcomed the announcement and legislation of the Government's \$200 million per year Disaster Ready Fund, and allocation of the first round of funding in June 2023.

However, with more than 60 percent of councils impacted by natural disasters in the past two years alone, there is still a need for increased investment in disaster mitigation.

Given that many mitigation projects cost tens of millions of dollars to plan and deliver, the current allocation for the Disaster Ready Fund is insufficient considering the number of potential projects across the country and the urgent need to significantly increase Australia's disaster preparedness.

The Disaster Ready Fund is insufficient considering the number of potential projects across the country.



2.6 COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND

Commitment sought

Make the Community Energy Upgrades Fund an annual program at \$100 million per year and broaden the scope to support councils to deliver emissions reduction initiatives in their communities.

Opportunity

Support local government to deliver emissions reduction initiatives at a local level that will contribute to Australia's emissions reduction targets.

Further information

Australia's local governments have been committed to and championed climate action for more than two decades, and a [2021 report by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability](#) showed more than three quarters of Australian councils have set or are in the process of developing community emissions reduction targets and are working towards net zero.

The Community Energy Upgrades Fund, which provides funding to councils to install energy efficiency upgrades in local government facilities, was warmly welcomed when announced by the Prime Minister at the Australian Council of Local Government in June 2023.

Making this program annual – and expanding the scope to enable councils to support their communities to reduce their emissions – would help deliver on the Government's national emissions reduction targets.

This could include broadening the criteria of the Community Energy Upgrades Fund to support local government-led community education programs.

Reviewing the co-contribution requirements in this fund would also open up the program to more councils across Australia.

ALGA also welcomed the Australian Government's commitment to joining the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), announced during the COP28 World Climate Action Summit in December 2023.

Expanding the Community Energy Upgrades Fund would be a positive step in building the partnership between the Australian Government and councils and meeting our communities' aspirations for increased climate action.

Making this program annual – and expanding the scope – would help deliver on the Government's national emissions reduction targets.



TIER THREE:

NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS NATIONAL PRIORITIES

“When all levels of government work together, we get better results in our communities, which is why we’ll continue to collaborate with local leaders across the country.”

The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Local Government, November 2023

3.1 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Commitment sought

A dedicated \$500 million per year fund (indexed annually) to support councils to build, maintain and revitalise community infrastructure. Funding should be allocated on a formula basis, and for un-tied local roads and community infrastructure projects.

Opportunity

Improve the liveability and productivity of every Australian community.

Further information

The Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program was a tremendous success, supporting all 537 Australian councils to maintain and build the infrastructure their communities need.

The direct delivery of funding to councils without the need for resource and time-consuming grant application processes ensured that projects were delivered quickly and effectively.

\$3.25 billion was committed to this program by both the current and previous Government, but this funding has now all been allocated.

ALGA’s 2021 National State of the Assets report shows there is a significant need for investment in community infrastructure, with \$9.2 billion worth of local government buildings and facilities (including libraries, communities halls, arts and cultural facilities and recreation centres) in poor condition and in urgent need of maintenance and upgrades.

Failure to invest in building and maintaining community and transport infrastructure will reduce the lifespan of these facilities and transfer the cost of renewal onto future generations.

A new dedicated fund for community and transport infrastructure – distributed on a formula basis to all councils – would enable councils to address the growing demand for new and revitalised community and road infrastructure.



3.2 PRODUCTIVITY

Commitment sought

\$300 million per year for local governments to improve freight productivity on their road networks and support the implementation of Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms.

Opportunity

Support the roll-out of Australia's Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms.

Further information

Australian councils collectively manage around 680,000km of roads, and the introduction of Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms will have an impact on this infrastructure.

These proposed changes include potential increases in the length of trucks from 19 metres to 20 metres and increases in height from 4.5 metres to 4.6 metres, which will support heavier trucks and increased loads.

Local governments understand and support the need for reforms that will improve the productivity of Australia's road transport sector, but need support from other levels of government to address the impact that these heavier loads will have on our local road networks.

A new funding program would support councils to prepare for the transition to the new Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms and invest in first and last mile infrastructure upgrades that will unlock the productivity of our national freight network.

A new funding program would support councils to prepare for the transition to the new Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms.



3.3 CYBER SECURITY

Commitment sought

\$10 million for a cyber security health check training package and technology uplift for local government.

Opportunity

Increase Australia’s resilience to cyber-attacks, including from foreign nations.

Further information

Cyber-attacks are increasingly an issue for all levels of government, as well as in the private sector.

Local governments collect and hold a significant amount of sensitive information, including credit card information, plans for buildings, information about essential infrastructure, and connections through to state government IT systems.

Cyber-attacks are mostly from overseas and from national actors or government-sanctioned criminals, making cyber security a national security and federal government issue.

Recent audits including surveys of local governments in New South Wales and Western Australia have indicated that local governments are not adequately prepared to deal with the threat of cyber-attacks.

While this is primarily the responsibility of the sector itself, governments at all levels must work together to ensure the public have confidence in government information systems and its security.

A new cyber security health check training package would increase local government’s resilience to cyber security attacks and protect valuable and sensitive information.

Cyber-attacks are mostly from overseas and from national actors or government-sanctioned criminals, making cyber security a national security and federal government issue.



3.4 CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Commitment sought

\$120 million over four years to support Australian councils to standardise bins and implement a national education campaign to reduce contamination and reduce waste sent to landfill.

Opportunity

Reduce the five mega tonnes of kerbside waste sent to Australian landfills each year and support the development of a circular economy.

Further information

According to the [2022 National Waste Report](#), in 2020–21 local governments collected approximately 9.7 mega tonnes (Mt) of waste via kerbside bin services, including more than 5Mt sent to landfill. In addition, councils collected 1.9 Mt of kerbside organics, and 1.8 Mt of kerbside recycling.

Councils are committed to identifying and implementing opportunities to divert more waste from landfill and establish a true circular economy, where valuable resources are collected, separated and re-processed into new products.

However, confusion around which products can be recycled – and which bin they should be disposed of through – is a significant barrier to diverting waste from landfill.

Standardising bin lids across all Australian households would allow for a national education campaign that would reduce contamination across different types of bins.

This would increase the value of resources collected through the kerbside recycling system and reduce waste sent to landfill.

While NSW, Victoria and the ACT have already implemented standardised bin lids, this new funding program would support councils in other states and territories to accelerate their transition in a nationally consistent way.

We understand the Government is currently developing a material list that will standardise content for co-mingled recycling bins, and this will further support the delivery of a national campaign to reduce contamination in yellow bins.



3.5 JOBS AND SKILLS

Commitment sought

Support for councils to employ up to 5,600 additional apprentices, trainees, cadets and graduates over the next ten years; and \$6 million over three years to encourage and support councils to employ more military veterans.

Opportunity

Address Australia's jobs and skills crisis, which has resulted in nine out of every ten councils being unable to secure the staff they need.

Further information

Prepared with funding from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, the [2022 Local Government Jobs and Skills Survey](#) shows that nine out of every ten councils are facing jobs and skills shortages, with engineers, planners, building surveyors, environmental health officers and HR professionals the biggest gaps.

This survey also shows that these shortages are having a significant impact on our communities, with 65 percent of councils reporting projects delayed or affected by these shortages.

Supporting councils to bring on additional apprentices, cadets, trainees and graduates would refresh the local government workforce and be an investment in Australia's broader future workforce.

Supporting councils to transition former defence staff into the local government workforce – as has been trialled in NSW – would also help address gaps, while providing new career pathways for veterans.

This support could include costs associated with attraction and recruitment, education and training, and mentorship programs that will support the transition.

Supporting councils to bring on additional apprentices, cadets, trainees and graduates would refresh the local government workforce.



3.6 CLOSING THE GAP

Commitment sought

\$7 million over four years to employ a network of Indigenous Affairs Policy Officers at ALGA and its member state and territory local government associations.

Opportunity

Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Further information

ALGA is a proud signatory to the national agreement on Closing the Gap.

Australian councils are developing programs that are addressing national Closing the Gap priorities at a local level, through supporting shared

decision making, better health and employment outcomes for indigenous Australians, increased awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture, and reconciliation in our communities.

Examples of these programs and initiatives are outlined in [ALGA's 2023 Closing the Gap Annual Report](#).

A \$7 million four-year program would enable ALGA and its member associations to support Australian local governments to build on this work and help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

A \$7 million four-year program would enable ALGA and its member associations to support Australian local governments.



3.7 CLIMATE CHANGE

Commitment sought

\$200 million over four years to support councils to implement local adaptation actions to limit disruption to communities and local services.

Opportunity

Strengthen Australia's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Further information

Local governments are on the front line dealing with the risks and impacts of climate change.

Councils are responsible for more than \$500 billion in assets, and climate change presents a considerable risk.

Many councils have already responded by adopting proactive strategies to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts through climate change risk assessments and adaptation plans.

Some councils are not able to fund this work given pressure on their budgets. This funding will provide equitable access to support councils in this important planning.

Having identified potential solutions to the challenges, councils will need additional help to implement local projects.

Implementation of these projects could have the added benefit of reducing the need for disaster recovery funding.

Local governments are on the front line dealing with the risks and impacts of climate change.





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