

11 August 2022

Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Climate Change Bill 2022 and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Climate Change Bill 2022* and the *Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022*.

The Australian Local Government Association is the national voice of local governments, representing seven jurisdictional local government associations and the interests of 537 local governments across the country. Collectively Australia's councils employ more than 196,000 people and manage infrastructure worth approximately \$460 billion.

Managing the impacts of climate change is a pressing issue for local government, and ALGA welcomes these Bills which clearly set out national targets.

The [2021 Australian Local Government Climate Review](#) demonstrated the scope of climate action already undertaken by local governments and their communities. Notably:

- 73% of responding councils have set or are planning ambitious corporate or operational emissions reduction targets; and
- 80% of responding councils have set or are investigating developing community-wide emissions reductions targets.

Further research ([100% Renewables](#)) shows that more than 1-in-6 councils across Australia have adopted a net zero target, and 10 have already gone carbon neutral.

By setting a clear and transparent national minimum standard, these Bills will support more councils to develop and implement their own local targets and plans, which will make a significant contribution to reducing our emissions at a national level.

At an operational level, many councils are already investing in new technologies to reduce emissions, supporting local businesses to innovate and adapt, and creating new jobs in their communities.

This includes introducing energy efficient LED streetlights, installing electric vehicle charging stations, using recycled road construction materials, and increasing tree canopy coverage.

Working in partnership with other levels of government, councils can deliver highly effective climate change projects that can mitigate against the production of greenhouse gas emissions, and assist our communities to be better prepared and better able to adapt to future climatic conditions.

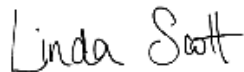
Councils across Australia are asking the Federal Government for a [Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund](#) of \$200 million over four years to enable planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in our communities and enable councils to achieve climate neutrality as soon as practicable.

Economic modelling commissioned by ALGA shows that this initiative would create 467 new jobs and contribute \$73 million per year to Australia's GDP.

Councils are committed to reducing Australia's emissions, but with a dedicated federal funding stream could do even more, delivering local solutions to this national challenge.

Please contact ALGA's Executive Director Policy Liz de Chastel (liz.dechastel@alga.asn.au) if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cr Linda Scott
National President