



2024

**NATIONAL LOCAL ROADS, TRANSPORT
& INFRASTRUCTURE CONGRESS**

Margaret River | 3 - 4 December 2024

Communique

2024 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

220 local government leaders and engineering and works staff from across Australia gathered in Margaret River, Western Australia from 3-4 December for the 2024 National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress.

We acknowledged the Wadandi and Pibelmen peoples as traditional custodians of the lands on which we met, and paid our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

This year's Congress included a significant focus on road safety. Congress delegates acknowledged that local governments manage more than 75% of Australia's road network and have a key role to play addressing Australia's unacceptable national road toll.

Delegates acknowledged the importance of prioritising road safety in infrastructure investments, and discussed opportunities to deliver safer roads in both regional and urban settings.

Sustainable funding is a significant barrier, and ALGA will continue to advocate for more federal support for councils to improve the condition, safety and productivity of Australia's road network.

We welcomed and thanked the federal politicians who addressed our Congress, including Minister for Local Government the Hon Kristy McBain, and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie.

The banner features a blue and purple gradient background with stylized clouds and a road. The year '2024' is prominently displayed in a white box on the left. The event title is written in white capital letters across the middle.

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This year's Congress included sessions on improving freight productivity, decarbonising Australia's transport sector, water management, regional airports, addressing the housing crisis, renewable energy transition, the circular economy, and active transport and electric vehicle trends.

The event also covered effective asset management, which is vital to the broad range of services and functions delivered by councils.

We also heard from National Emergency Management Coordinator-General Brendan Moon about recent national emergency management reviews, and how councils can support the implementation of their recommendations.

Sustainably funded, councils can deliver roads and community infrastructure that will support local solutions to national priorities.

Increasing federal formula-based funding to local government will assist councils to build stronger, more productive and resilient communities.

In the lead up to the next federal election, councils will be calling on all parties and candidates to put our communities first, and provide fair funding to local government for the benefit of all Australians.