



The Hon Alan Tudge MP

Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population

Ref: MC18-006984

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

Dear Mayor *David*

Thank you for your letter of 2 August 2018 to Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, the then Minister for Jobs and Innovation, regarding the National General Assembly of Local Government. Your letter was forwarded to me as I am the Minister responsible for the matter you raised. I apologise for the delay in replying.

With regard to the development of a 'Smart Cities Partnership' program, you may be aware the Australian Government is delivering a number of initiatives to help local governments build smart city capability and to take advantage of opportunities presented by the evolution of the digital economy.

The \$50 million Smart Cities and Suburbs Program (the Program) is a key aspect of the Government's cities agenda and supports local governments to deliver innovative smart city projects that improve the liveability, productivity and sustainability of cities and towns across Australia. The Program encourages collaboration and partnerships, with local governments required to partner with industry, research, and private sector organisations, to develop solutions to local problems.

Round One of the Program was highly competitive, with 176 applications received. 49 projects were successful and benefited from \$27.7 million of Government funding. These projects are underway and due to be completed by 30 June 2019. Round Two of the Program was open for applications between 2 May 2018 and 2 July 2018. Applications are currently under assessment, with successful projects to be announced in late 2018. Further information can be found at www.infrastructure.gov.au.

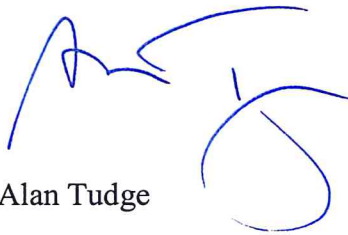
To help local governments build capability in developing and executing smart city projects, the Government, in partnership with the Australian Smart Communities Association, developed the "Future Ready" webinar series. The webinars focused on co-learning to grow smart city capability, exploring smart city case studies from global leaders, sharing tips and tricks of digital success, investigating new business models and citizen-centric design. The series can be found at www.australiansmartcommunities.org.au/future-ready.

The Government has also developed an online Smart Cities Collaboration Platform to enable smart city projects and ideas to be shared, and support capacity building in local government. Projects that have received Government funding through the Program will use the platform to share information about their projects. Independently funded projects are also able to use the platform for this purpose. We are investigating options to further develop the capability of the Platform by adding for example, a resource library and calendar of smart city events and forums. The platform can be found at <https://infrastructure.gov.au/cities/smart-cities/collaboration-platform/>.

I welcome your continued engagement on issues relating to smart cities.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention and I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a large, circular flourish.

Alan Tudge

16/10/2018