



# SENATOR THE HON. JONATHON DUNIAM

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries  
Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism  
Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate  
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MC19-000273

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

Dear Mayor O'Loughlin

Thank you for your recent letter to Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, regarding tourism resolutions raised at the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) meeting and considered by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board. As the Assistant Minister responsible for regional tourism, your letter has been referred to me.

The strong attendance at the NGA meeting demonstrates the continued importance of local councils and the significant role local government plays across Australia. Tourism is one of the key contributors to the economic growth of many regional areas. Visitation to regional areas has steadily increased over the last five years, with 43 cents in every tourism dollar being spent in regional areas and tourism employing one in 13 Australians.

With reference to Resolutions 84 and 119, the Australian Government is committed to growing local economies by supporting regional communities and investing in tourism infrastructure to attract more tourists beyond major metropolitan areas. The Government is providing funding for regional tourism infrastructure through the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF). In the most recent round of BBRF, over \$70 million was provided to support tourism-related infrastructure and community based projects. Dedicated funding for tourism-related infrastructure will continue to be offered in the next round of BBRF. More information about specific regional projects can be found at [www.business.gov.au/assistance/building-better-regions-fund](http://www.business.gov.au/assistance/building-better-regions-fund).

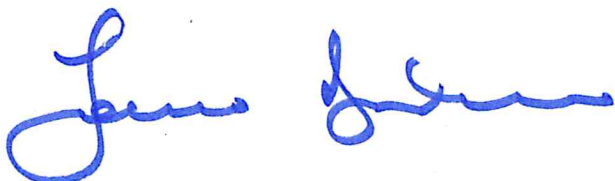
The Government is also investing in the future of the tourism industry through a \$50 million National Tourism Icons package. Announced in the 2019–20 Budget, the package provides funding for tourism infrastructure and upgrades at five iconic destinations across Australia.

Under the current national *Tourism 2020* strategy, the Australian Government is continuing to support the growth and success of Australia's tourism sector through world-class marketing, research, policy and industry collaboration.

The Government is also currently developing the next long-term tourism strategy for Australia out to 2030, together with state, territory and local governments and the tourism industry. Encouraging regional dispersal of visitors will be a priority of this strategy.

I thank the ALGA for its submission in March 2019 in response to the Beyond Tourism 2020 Steering Committee's report to Government. I also encourage the organisation and its members to continue to participate in the range of consultation opportunities surrounding the development of the 2030 strategy to ensure the views of local government are well represented.

Yours sincerely



Jonathon Duniam

24 / 10 / 2019

As. I look forward to meeting  
with you soon.