ALGA
Australian Local Government Association

8 Geils Court
Deakin ACT 2600

E alga@alga.asn.au
W alga.com.au
P 02 6122 9400

Wednesday 24 June 2026

The Hon Milton Dick MP
Member for Oxley
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Speaker,

Fairer Funding now to avert a crisis for Local Councils

On behalf of the 538 local councils serving communities across Australia, we have taken the extraordinary step of collectively writing to you, and the whole Parliament, to warn of a financial crisis affecting Local Government in this country.

We come from all corners of the continent and represent every community in Australia, but we are speaking with one voice to say that the lack of fair untied funding for Local Government - as a percentage of national taxation - is threatening the viability of councils across the country.

This crisis is particularly acute in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia where communities are the most isolated and councils face the biggest financial challenges. Our cities and urban councils are also facing rapid growth that puts pressure on their ability to meet the needs of their communities.

Councils provide vital services and infrastructure that our national economy and productivity rely upon. The success of our Australian system of government depends upon our councils succeeding at a grassroots level.

But this system is in jeopardy. Long term planning and delivery requires long term financial security and certainty. Councils have limited options to raise revenue and in many cases are highly reliant on untied Financial Assistance Grants from the Commonwealth.

Over time the value of these grants has steadily decreased, creating an uncertain and unfair funding situation for councils. This lack of long-term, secure, untied and adequate funding prevents councils and communities from determining their own priorities and making investments in the infrastructure and services needed across Australia.

For these reasons, councils of all sizes across every state and territory are calling on the Australian Parliament to act and deliver fairer funding of an immediate increase of $3.5 billion, restoring Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of federal taxation revenue annually.

We are tabling a copy of this letter to all Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the hope of a multi-partisan approach to address this crisis. The very future of Local Government and the communities we serve depends upon it.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Matt Burnett
ALGA President & LGAQ President

Mayor Darcy Byrne
LGNSW President

Cr Peter Pangquee BM
LGANT President

Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross
LGA SA President

Mayor Mick Tucker
LGAT President

Cr Jennifer Anderson
MAV President

Mayor Mark Irwin AM
WALGA President