



Media Release

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WELCOMES BILLION DOLLAR STIMULUS BOOST

22 January, 2020

The peak body for local government officers has welcomed today's Commonwealth Government announcement of a major local stimulus package.

The Commonwealth Government today announced the establishment of a new \$500 million Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program and the pre-payment of half of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants, \$1.3 billion, following consultation with the local government sector.

"The package provides additional funding support to enable councils to continue delivering opportunities for local jobs and local businesses," said Local Government Professionals Australia Chief Executive, Clare Sullivan.

The stimulus will see priority local road and community infrastructure projects delivered through local governments creating new jobs and protecting businesses to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Local governments have been continuing to provide essential services and promoting economic activity in their communities throughout the pandemic but without the financial support behind them, so Local Government Professionals Australia welcomes the stimulus announcement today," said Ms Sullivan.

"But we particularly commend the ability of councils to deliver so efficiently. When the Federal Government was looking for avenues of economic stimulus, local government officers were able to quickly respond with details of a range of capital works projects that could be brought forward and started quickly to create jobs and economic activity in their communities."

Local Government Professionals Australia has applauded the work of its members and local government officers in being able to respond to requests from the Commonwealth Government and to support national programs.

"Local government is an agile and practical sphere of government capable of fast-tracking infrastructure projects to help stimulate the economy and delivery better results for communities across the country," said Ms Sullivan.

Local Government Professionals Australia has particularly supported Local Government Minister Mark Coulton's efforts in bringing forward this financial year's Financial Assistance Grants, the historically successful Commonwealth-to-local funding mechanism, after consultation with the organisation and the sector.





“Local government has a proven track record of delivering essential services and employment-boosting projects for its communities at the grass roots level,” said Local Government Professionals Australia President, Mark Crawley.

“Councils, particularly in regional and remote areas, rely heavily on funding support from the Commonwealth and this year they are facing even greater financial pressures and funding constraints.

“That’s why this organisation and the council officers we serve welcome the announcement today.”

Read the Deputy Prime Minister’s press release here:

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/mccormack/media-release/18-billion-boost-local-government>

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Additional Facts and Figures

- Roads managed by local governments amount to approximately 662,000 km in length, approximately 75 per cent of the total national road length or enough to circle the Earth 16.5 times.
- The value of local roads infrastructure \$136.4 billion in 2018.
- The replacement cost of local government land and fixed assets supporting various economic (*roads, buildings, water supply*) and social services (*health, welfare services*) is in the order of \$426 billion (as of 2016-17).

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About Local Government Professionals Australia

Local Government Professionals Australia is the national component of the peak body representing local government professionals, with a focus on developing organisations and the broader local government sector, to build better communities around Australia.

Since the foundation of the organisation in 1936, LG Professionals Australia has created opportunities for the near 200,000 local government workforce across over 500 councils to come together to share ideas, discuss challenges and learn new ways of practice.

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