



17 September 2018

Dear Colleagues,

RE: WHEN THE NATION VOTES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

According to a YouGov Galaxy poll commissioned by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), 81% of Australians agree that ‘political candidates should focus on local issues and local communities at the next federal election’.

The lead up to the federal election, due by 18 May 2019, is a key opportunity for our sector to band together and ensure all political parties contesting the election recognise that when it comes to identifying local needs and local solutions, local government are the experts.

State and territory local government associations have collaborated with ALGA to develop 12 essential initiatives for the sector, and these are outlined in ALGA’s enclosed federal election document *All politics is local – 12 ways to deliver for Australian communities* (www.allpoliticsislocal.com.au).

The major policy change that we’re seeking at the election is for the funds distributed under Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to be at least equal to 1 percent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue and your council can play a critical role in championing this initiative at the local level with your local federal representatives and election candidates.

Now is the time to tell them what more money for local infrastructure means for your region. Now is the time to call for FAGs to be restored to at least 1% of total Commonwealth revenue. And now is the time to show the difference that extra money can make. On the ground. Where you and your communities live.

It is you and your local communities that politicians in this election will be listening to the most.

That is why we’ve made it simple for your council to pitch in to the advocacy happening at the national level by preparing you a federal election advocacy kit, which is available at this link: <http://allpoliticsislocal.com.au/council-advocacy-kit/>. Using the resources provided in the kit, you can make the issues local – and make them matter.

We encourage you to use the key theme ‘All Politics is Local’. This theme highlights that all politics comes down to local people and communities and it is perfect to draw attention to the federal election priorities of local government.

Your support of our sector’s advocacy efforts is critical and we urge you to lend your voice to the sector’s call to all federal political parties to respond to ALGA’s election initiatives, and in

particular, our push to restore FAGs to at least 1 percent of Commonwealth tax revenue, like it was in 1996.

If we can get enough election candidates championing your local priorities, the candidates will carry our combined calls into their party rooms and we will ultimately get national programs funded by government and more projects delivered for our communities at the local level.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor David O'Loughlin
President, ALGA



Mayor Damien Ryan
President, LGANT



Mayor Doug Chipman
President, LGAT



Cr Sue Clearihan
President, LGA of SA



Mayor Mark Jamieson
President, LGAQ



Cr Mary Lalios
President, MAV



Cr Lynne Craigie
President, WALGA



Cr Linda Scott
President, LGNSW