

ITEM 3.2. AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S 10-POINT PLAN FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES**FILE NO:****MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR**To Council:

On 27 September, 2007 Cr Genia McCaffery, President of the Local Government Association of NSW and Cr Bruce Miller, President, Shires Association of NSW wrote seeking support for the Australian Local Government Association's Federal election document, *A 10-Point Plan for Local Communities* (see Attachment A).

The *10-Point Plan* builds on the campaign by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) over the past three years to advance the cause of local government and the needs of local communities. The Plan calls for political parties to commit to:

- local government receiving a guaranteed percentage of at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue;
- the Commonwealth Government investing at least \$250 million per year for four years in a Community Infrastructure Renewal Program;
- supporting constitutional recognition for local government and an ongoing role for local government in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG); and
- recognising local government as an equal partner in the delivery of important, mutually agreed outcomes for the Australian people and continuing to honour the Intergovernmental Agreement on cost-shifting.

Two of the points particularly complement priority City objectives. They are:

POINT 7—provide national assistance to local government in responding to the emerging impacts of climate change, engage local government as an integral partner in responding to climate change and ensure Australia shoulders its international responsibilities in meeting climate change challenges.

POINT 9—develop a sustainable urban regions program, drawing together the key urban issues of water, energy efficiency, affordable housing, sustainable urban transport, urban design and social cohesion.

The Plan also calls for permanent funding of the Roads to Recovery program and an investment of \$12.87 million over three years to establish a program to improve national local roads data and implement roads asset management plans. Local government is responsible for around 84 per cent of Australia's roads (by length) and provides road infrastructure worth some \$103 billion. This funding will assist local government to address the infrastructure maintenance backlog, especially in rural and regional areas.

In supporting this call, I note recommendation 5.5 of the 2005 Sustainable Cities Report by House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage:

“The Committee recommends that the Department of Transport and Regional Services, in consultation with the Department of the Environment and Heritage, investigate options to extend the Roads to Recovery programme to include other modes of transport as a step towards including sustainability in the funding criteria.”

This recommendation addresses critical issues of road congestion and community expectation for climate change, and should be implemented in conjunction with providing permanent funding of the Roads to Recovery Program.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council endorse the Australian Local Government Association’s Federal election document, *A 10-Point Plan for Local Communities*;
- (B) Council also endorse recommendation 5.5 of the 2005 Sustainable Cities Report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage, and requests that this be implemented in conjunction with providing permanent funding for the Roads to Recovery Program; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor write to The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition informing them of the City of Sydney’s support.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE MP
Lord Mayor