Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Inquiry into local government sustainability

SUBMISSION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

14 May 2024

Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2
Foreword 4
1. Introduction 4
2. The Department's relationship with local government 6
Engagement 6
Direct engagements: 6
Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) 6
National Awards 6
Local Government Associations 7
Indirect engagements: 7
Local Government Ministers' Forum 7
Local Government Senior Officials Meeting 7
Regional Development Australia Committees 8
Planning Ministers' Meeting 8
Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting 8
Urban Policy Forum and Network 9
Office of Northern Australia 9
Policy 9
Regional Investment Framework 9
National Agreement on Closing the Gap 9
National Urban Policy 10
National Cultural Policy – *Revive* 10
Aviation White Paper 10
Infrastructure Investment Program 10
3. Program Support for Local Government 11
Program design 11
Sectoral Support – Financial Assistance Grant 11
4. Quantum of Commonwealth Support 13

Figure 1: Commonwealth Commitments to Local Government 13
Figure 2: Commonwealth commitments to local government by agency from 2018-19 to 2022-23....14
Figure 3: Commonwealth commitments to local government by ABS remoteness. 15

5. Closing 16

Appendix A: Department administered programs and initiatives which support local government17

Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) 18
Supplementary funding to South Australia for local roads 19
Figure 4: Chronology of key events in the FA Grant program calculation and payment processes 20
Infrastructure Group....21
Black Spot Program 21
Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) 21
Heavy Vehicle Rest Area (HVRA) Initiative 21
Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP) 22
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program 22
Remote Roads Upgrade Pilot Program (RRUPP)....22
Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program 23
Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP)....23
National Road Safety Action Grants Program (NRSAGP) 23
National Safety Action Plan 2023-25 24
Regions, Cities and Territories Group....25
City and Regional Deals....25
Central Australia Plan Community Infrastructure Package (CIP) 25
Housing Support Program (HSP) 25
regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) 26
urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (uPPP)....26
Priority Community Infrastructure Program (PCIP) 26
Investing in Our Communities (IIOC) 26
Growing Regions Program 26
Thriving Suburbs Program....27
Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) 27
Regional Growth Fund (RGF)....27
Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) 28
Community Development Grants (CDG) Programme 28
Transport Group 28
Regional Airports Program (RAP)....28
Remote Airstrip Upgrade (RAU) Program....29
Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP)....29
Communications and Media Group....30
Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP)....30
Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP)....30
On Farm Connectivity Program (OCFP) 30

Peri-Urban Mobile Program (PUMP) 31
Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) 31
Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP) 32
Regional Telecommunications Review 32
Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) Program 32
Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation (TDRI) Program 33
Creative Economy and the Arts Group 34
Festivals Australia Program 34
Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program 34
Regional Arts Fund 34
Revive Program 35
Appendix B: List of Councils by Remoteness **36**

Foreword

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's inquiry into local government sustainability. This submission will provide an overview of the work the department undertakes and the specific role and interactions the department has in delivering Government objectives for the local government sector.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. From the desert to the high Country, connecting to our beaches and sand, through the snow, the rivers and saltwaters, in our cities, bushes and islands, we reflect, respect, and celebrate the unique and diverse communities we serve.
We walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, celebrating two of the oldest continuing living cultures in the world – listening, learning, and yarning, to understand the past and work as one towards an inclusive future. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present. We are committed to creating positive change and promoting meaningful Reconciliation.

Given the department's leadership role in developing Government policy with regard to the local government sector, we look forward to engaging with the Committee as the Inquiry progresses and stand ready to provide further evidence as required.

1. Introduction

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is responsible for the design and implementation of the Australian Government's infrastructure, transport, regional development, communications and arts policies and programs.

The department's work is critical to the economic, sustainability and social wellbeing of the nation, as it seeks to:

- Improve major transport and digital infrastructure across Australia.
- Support an efficient, sustainable, competitive, safe, accessible and secure transport system.
- Improve living standards and facilitate economic growth in our cities and regions including northern Australia.
- Support regional growth and resilience through connectivity, reliability and security for agricultural and other primary industry users.
- Provide good governance frameworks and services to support communities in the territories.
- Enable people in Australia to connect to effective, safe communications services and enabling investment in communications, technologies and infrastructure, for inclusiveness and sustainable economic growth.
- Support sustainable and inclusive creative and cultural sectors, and protect and promote Australian content and culture.

The department's work connects and enriches every Australian community, underpins our economy and society, and empowers our regions. We provide policy advice across all of our responsibilities in the infrastructure, transport, communications and arts sectors, regions, cities and territories. Through various programs in 2022-23, the department delivered approximately $10.5 billion of funding to deliver outcomes right across Australia.

2. The department's relationship with local government

Local government is fundamental to the lives of each and every Australian and is a trusted delivery partner of the services communities rely on. To deliver on the Government's objectives, the department works with local governments to improve service delivery, capitalise on joint strengths, and tackle the big challenges in Australia's communities. The contribution of local governments is evident right across the department's portfolio, be it through the direct delivery of local infrastructure, as partners in developing solutions for our cities and regions, or through joint support for the arts and its contribution to the cultural wellbeing of our communities.

Many of the Government's priorities cannot be delivered without the vital role of councils and the department works to engage and support the sector to strengthen its capability. While many Government departments engage with local government and provide funding through their portfolios, this department is unique in administering funding aimed solely to support the general operation of the sector through the Financial Assistance Grant. The department also facilitates strategic engagement across Commonwealth portfolios on Government policy and its impact on local government, however this does not extend to coordinating engagement for other departments.

The structure, powers and responsibilities of the Australian and state governments were established during federation. Local government, as an extension of state governments, was not identified as a Commonwealth responsibility and therefore remains the exclusive purview of the states and territories. As such, the department's work in supporting local government is delivered largely in partnership with the states and territories either through the development of joint, collaborative policy or through the provision of funding delivered in accordance with the Constitution.

In this context the department's role in supporting local governments can be broadly classified into:

- Sectoral engagements – seeking to understand and collaborate, directly or through the states and territories.
- Policy guidance – shaping direction to meet government objectives and serve local communities.
- Financial support – working through states and territories to support councils to meet their service obligations, or through targeted competitive grant programs designed to enable jurisdictions to capitalise on opportunities.

Each of these components complement one another in a natural policy cycle where our engagement explores issues to inform policy, which in turn guides decisions on the funding support made available.

Engagement

The department facilitates a number of engagements for the sector, either directly with councils and their representative bodies or indirectly through the states and territories or other stakeholders.

Direct engagements:

Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG)

The ACLG showcases the important partnership the Australian Government has with local governments across Australia. The ACLG was first established as a formal meeting between senior leaders of local government and the Australian Government in 2008 and also convened in 2009, 2010 and 2013. The re-establishment of the ACLG in 2023 builds on the Government's commitment to work with local governments to build liveable and socially equitable communities in Australia's cities and regions.

National Awards

The National Awards for Local Government are an annual celebration of local government achievements in Australia. They highlight initiatives implemented by local governments that are innovative, make a difference

to their local communities, display excellence, and have outcomes that are replicable across the country. Details of the next National Awards will be announced at the upcoming ACLG.

Local Government Associations

A local government association operates in each of the states and the Northern Territory as a representative body for local governments within those jurisdictions. Additionally, a national body, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), provides representation for the sector overall. The department frequently consults and engages with ALGA and the state and territory associations on specific policy matters and program delivery and in a general capacity to discuss sectoral issues. Such engagement includes:

- Collaboration on the delivery of the ACLG.
- Collaboration on the delivery of ALGA's annual National General Assembly.
- Consultation on specific aspects of policy development and program design and delivery.
- Roundtable discussions on broader policy issues, challenges and opportunities for the sector.
- As delivery partners through grant programs and, city and regional deals.

Indirect engagements:

Local Government Ministers' Forum

The Local Government Ministers' Forum (LGMF) is a Ministerial Council that facilitates inter-jurisdictional collaboration and progresses matters of national importance to the local government portfolio. The forum provides an opportunity to forge collaborative action, which is underpinned by the shared understanding of challenges impacting the local government sector. Ministers from the Commonwealth, states and territories are joined by the President of ALGA and meet bi-annually to discuss the issues facing the sector and set a strategic work plan to support councils in overcoming them. The last meeting of the LGMF took place on 12 April 2024 in Brisbane.

LGMF has identified the efficient operation of the local government sector as its strategic focus for 2024 and will work to enhance the operation of the sector and the support available through other levels of government.

Examples of work underway include:

- Exploring financial datasets with a view to sharing best practice in financial reporting.
- Supporting local government in adopting the latest standards for the management of assets. Better understanding the distribution of grant funding available to councils.

Local Government Senior Officials Meeting

The Local Government Senior Officials' Meeting (LGSOM) is a meeting of senior officials from Commonwealth, state and territory departments with portfolio responsibility for local government. LGSOM was established to support the LGMF in achieving its objectives and does this by:

- Providing relevant, comprehensive and timely advice to LGMF on local government issues.
- Overseeing the LGMF workplan and the satisfactory completion of actions.
- Sharing jurisdictional insights to support informed decision-making.

Alongside this function LGSOM allows for departmental representatives from each jurisdiction to engage in detailed strategic discussions on issues affecting the local government sector, encouraging collaborative action and problem solving.

Regional Development Australia Committees

Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) are critical to the delivery of the Australian Government's vision for a strong and connected regional Australia which shapes economic growth and resilience.

RDAs focus their economic development activities and strategy on delivering the Government's Regional Investment Framework in their region, including investment in people, places, services, industries and local economies. The national network of 50 RDA Committees are a vital link between regional stakeholders and all three levels of government and provide valuable local intelligence which informs policy and program implementation.

RDAs facilitate meaningful engagement across the three levels of government in a range of different ways to promote growth and development in the regions and ensure investments deliver better outcomes for regional communities. RDA Committees generally have a healthy proportion of elected representatives and staff from local government areas (LGAs) as voluntary board members, providing direct local government representation and input into the Committees' economic development activities.

RDAs and LGAs can work together collegiately to contribute relevant local data and intelligence which inform regional development strategies, program design and policy responses. RDAs also act in an advisory capacity as conduits to assist the community and businesses with relevant local government matters such as planning regulations or local infrastructure needs. This assists in breaking down barriers between ratepayers and their local councils to identify community needs, funding gaps and sources.

Planning Ministers' Meeting

The Planning Ministers' Meeting (PMM) is a Ministerial Council that discusses and progresses nationally significant planning matters, including priorities tasked by National Cabinet. These matters have included the National Urban Policy, disaster resilience and climate adaptation land-use planning, telecommunications planning, and implementation of the National Planning Reforms Blueprint. ALGA represents local governments at PMM as an observer.

Current issues of particular relevance to local governments include:

- Agreement for the NSW Government to lead on the development of a framework and guidance on nationally agreed principles for natural disaster and climate risk considerations in land use planning decisions.
- Work towards a nationally consistent approach to prioritising and accelerating the planning and deployment of mobile communications infrastructure to ensure reliable mobile coverage, especially in rapidly growing suburban communities.
- Reforms to land use planning systems, and reporting relevant to the National Planning Reform Blueprint, supporting the broader housing agenda.

Local government is also engaged at a working level through ALGA representation on the subordinate interjurisdictional working group, established in 2024.

Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting

The Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meeting (ITMM) is a Ministerial Council that discusses and progresses nationally significant infrastructure and transport issues, including priorities tasked by National Cabinet. Local government often plays a significant role in the management of issues considered by ITTM and its decisions may have significant implications for them. ALGA is a member of ITTM and the sector is closely engaged through them to inform ministers of the local government perspective.

Current issues of particular relevance to local governments include road safety actions and the transition to net zero.

Urban Policy Forum and Network

The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, formed the Urban Policy Forum (the Forum) and the Urban Policy Network (the Network) in 2023.

The Forum and Network provide advice on the Government's urban policy agenda, including on the design and implementation of the National Urban Policy. Member experience covers a range of crucial areas including sustainable development, planning, climate change adaption, urban governance, local government, liveability, migration, housing and building design. The local government sector is represented on the Forum by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Sally Capp AO, and by three members on the Network: ALGA, Peri-urban Councils Victoria and Regional Capitals Australia.

Office of Northern Australia

The Office of Northern Australia (ONA) engages with Local Government entities across northern Australia as a way of receiving valuable, place-based expertise and diverse insights into the opportunities and challenges in the north. Formal engagement was undertaken to inform the Northern Australia Action Plan – Refresh of the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia, due for release in 2024, and through the Northern Australia Ministerial Forum.

Policy

The department has a significant role in designing and implementing Government policy which guides Commonwealth engagement with local government. While the department does not coordinate the engagement of other Government portfolios with councils and the sector, the policy settings established through the department contribute to a framework for Government investment in the sector.

Key examples of such framing policy include:

Regional Investment Framework

The Regional Investment Framework (RIF) sets out a new approach to delivering regional investment, coordinating across governments to make investment work better for regions and placing regions and their people at the centre of decision making. It supports a cohesive approach to seizing opportunities and responding to challenges across Australia's diverse regions and provides an integrated and coordinated framework for regional development regardless of a region's or local government's economic circumstances. Its ability to influence decision making in Budget processes, drive meaningful collaboration across and between governments, and embed data and evidence to support better outcomes ensures local voices are heard and influence policy responses.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

All Australian governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations are signatories to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which outlines 19 socioeconomic targets which impact on the life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The department is the Commonwealth lead on the delivery of essential community infrastructure (Target 9b), supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages (Target 16) and ensuring equal levels of digital inclusion (Target 17).

The department is working across government and with First Nations communities and organisations on the delivery of the three socio-economic targets, as well as implementing the four Priority Reforms that aim to transform the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations.

National Urban Policy

A National Urban Policy (NUP) is currently being developed to ensure growth in cities is sustainable, to address the urgent challenges our major cities and their local governments are facing dealing with issues such as equitable access to jobs, homes and services, and climate impacts.

The department is engaging with a range of stakeholders, including local governments, ALGA and the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors, to inform the development of a draft NUP.

National Cultural Policy – *Revive*

The National Cultural Policy was implemented in January 2023 with the intent to provide a national framework that facilitates partnership and coordination between all levels of government. The implementation of *Revive* is contributing to whole of government outcomes in health, education, social cohesion, community resilience, tourism and regional development.

Local Government participation is encouraged through the re-establishment of intergovernmental meetings between the Commonwealth, state and territory cultural ministers, and ALGA. These meetings have been operational since June 2022 and are held twice a year.

Aviation White Paper

The Aviation White Paper (the White Paper) is expected to be released in mid-2024 and will set the long-term policies to guide the next stage of development in the aviation sector. The White Paper will explore the likely future trends in aviation and detail policy directions on desired aviation outcomes in relation to safety, competitiveness, sustainability and efficiency.

Local governments are a key stakeholder in the aviation sector. As outlined by ALGA's submission to the Aviation Green paper, local governments are generally responsible for managing planning and development around airports (with State, Territory and the Australian Government, where required) and also lease, manage, or own airports, mainly in regional and rural Australia. There are 200 regional and rural airports owned and operated by councils across Australia. Locals governments and their representative organisations have been active participants in the White Paper's consultation processes, including through the provision of submissions in response to the Aviation Green Paper or attendance at roundtable events.

Infrastructure Investment Program

Local governments are responsible for a significant portion of Australia's road network. The Department's role in the delivery and management of the Australian Government's Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP) supports local government through subprograms such as Roads to Recovery, Black Spot, and the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure program, which consolidates the existing Bridges Renewal and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity programs.

In November 2023, the Government strengthened its commitment to road safety with significant increases in funding and changes to these subprograms to reduce the administrative burden on local councils.

3. Program Support for Local Government

The department facilitates a number of Australian Government programs which directly or indirectly support the local government sector. These programs respond to the various directions established in the government's overarching policy frameworks. They vary in duration and intent for example:

- Long-term programs such as the Financial Assistance Grant program.
- Timebound initiatives designed to support councils in responding to specific events such as the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.
- Competitive programs providing support for targeted issues such as the Housing Support Program.
- Indirect benefit programs such as some telecommunications programs which do not directly fund local government but provide critical benefits to local communities and avoid further financial burden on councils.

In 2022-23 the department administered Commonwealth Government programs providing funding to local government of approximately $4.7 billion. A list of programs and initiatives administered by the department which benefit or provide funding either targeted at councils or for which councils are eligible to apply is included at **Appendix A**.

Program design

High quality planning underpins efficient, effective, economical and ethical grants administration. The department works together with a range of intergovernmental and non-government stakeholders to plan, design and administer grant programs. These key stakeholders are best-placed to provide valuable insights into how to best design and administer our programs to ensure the requirements of the program align with the needs of the community.

This collaboration provides the department with the opportunity to establish key expectations and ensure any concerns can be addressed in design to avoid issues arising during implementation. This approach to program design aligns with the key principles for grants administration as set out in the *Commonwealth Grant Rules and Guidelines 2017* (CGRGs).

A recent example of this engagement can be seen through the roundtable discussions held as part of the design for the Growing Regions Program and the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program in March 2023. Three separate roundtable discussions were held virtually with representatives from RDAs, local government associations, identified peak bodies and First Nations organisations.

Examples of the discussion and its value in developing program design can be found online in the

Growing Regions Program Roundtable Report
(www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/growing-regions-program-roundtable-report.pdf)

Sectoral Support – Financial Assistance Grant

Alongside the department's other administered programs is the Financial Assistance (FA) Grant which is currently the largest single vehicle of Government financial support to local government and unique among Government grants in its intent of providing financial support to councils for their general operation.

The FA Grant is administered in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act). It represents one of the only sources of untied funding available to local governments allowing councils to spend the funds according to local priorities and is increasingly vital to the financial sustainability of some councils, particularly those in rural, regional and remote areas.

The Government will have provided over $67 billion in untied funding to local government under the FA Grant program since 1974-75 by the end of 2023-24. The quantum of the FA Grant program is derived annually in line with changes to the population and the Consumer Price Index, as prescribed by the Act.

The program consists of two components:

- A general-purpose component according to population (i.e. on a per capita basis).
- An identified local road component according to fixed historical shares.

Based on these components a total allocation is made to each state and territory. Local government grants commissions in each jurisdiction (other than the Australian Capital Territory which incorporates local government services within the territory government) are then required to make recommendations on how this allocation should be distributed to individual councils. Recommendation must be made in line with the National Principles formulated under the Act. Recommendations consider the impact on councils for things such as, amalgamations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and other grant support.

The grant is paid in quarterly instalments to state and territory governments for immediate distribution to local governing bodies.

Further detail on the administration of the FA Grant is included in **Appendix A**.

4. Quantum of Commonwealth Support

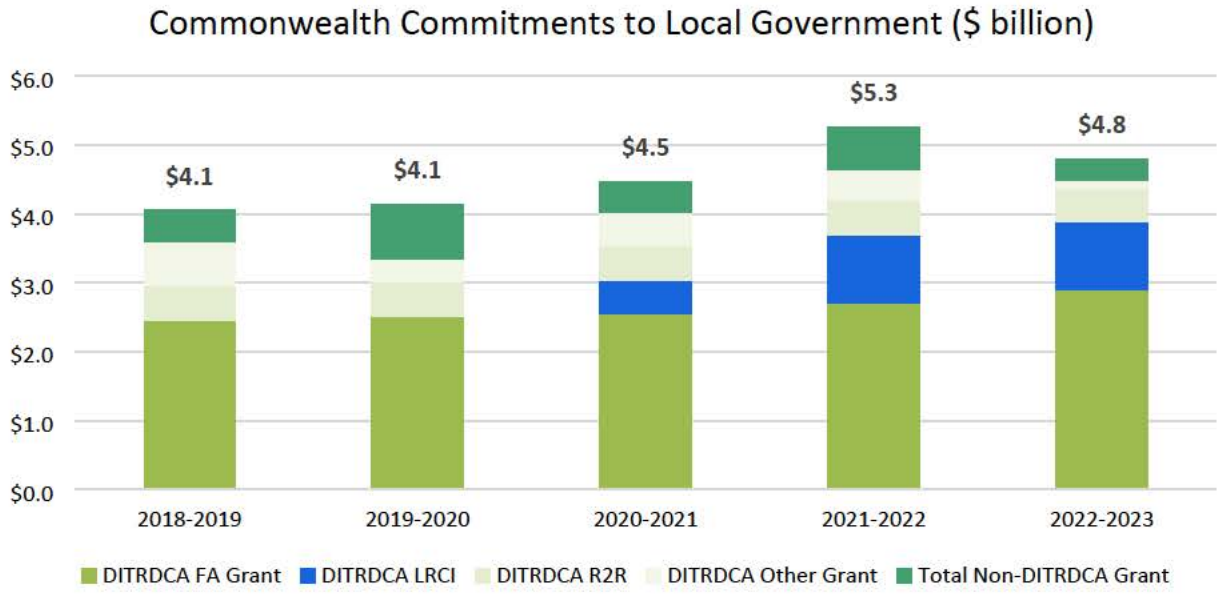
While the majority of Commonwealth funding made available to local governments is administered by the department, other portfolios also contribute significantly to Australian Government support for the sector. This section aims to provide an overview and commentary of Commonwealth funding provided through the department and other agencies either directed at or available to local government.

Data used in compiling this section has been obtained from publicly available sources. This includes GrantConnect, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Budget – Department of the Treasury, as well as data that informed the department's Annual Reports for the relevant reporting period. The timeframes involved in compiling this submission have not allowed for verification from individual Commonwealth departments of this data. As such the information provided here may not be fully exhaustive of government support but is offered as an approximate guide.

Councils have been classified using the five Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Areas. These include: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; and Very Remote Australia. A list of councils per classification is provided at **Appendix B**.

Figure 1 below provides total funding committed by the Commonwealth to local governments from 2018-19 to 2022-23 which was approximately $22.7 billion. Funding committed to local government includes both direct funding specifically targeted at local government and indirect funding for which local governments are eligible as reported on GrantsConnect. On average during this period, commitments worth approximately $4.5 billion were made annually to local governments with the majority of the funding provided through the untied Financial Assistance Grant program (FA Grant).

Figure 1: Commonwealth Commitments to Local Government



Notes: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts (DITRDCA)
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI)
Roads to Recovery (R2R)
Non-DITRDCA funding only includes data reported on Grantconnect.
Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
GrantConnect, www.grants.gov.au

Figure 2 provides the Commonwealth's commitment to local government by agency from 2018-19 to 2022-23. During this period the department was responsible for administering $20.1 billion or 88.5 percent of the Commonwealth's total commitment. The majority of this funding, $13.1 billion or 57. 8 percent, is provided

under the untied FA Grant. Roads to Recovery (RTR) and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) programs provide approximately 11 percent of the total Commonwealth commitment.

Totals over the period are influenced by the impact of funding made available in response to Covid-19 and natural disaster events alongside other budget considerations taken by Government.

Figure 2: Commonwealth commitments to local government by agency from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. (DITRDCA)	2018-19 $'000	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	Total $'000	% of Total
FA Grant	2,457,106	2,517,327	2,554,573	2,696,096	2,902,839	13,127,941	57.8%
LRCI	0	0	487,396	991,164	974,791	2,453,351	10.8%
RTR	500,288	500,288	500,288	500,288	500,288	2,501,438	11.0%
Other Grants[1]	638,841	333,935	483,467	448,631	114,007	2,018,880	8.9%
Total DITRDCA	**3,596,234**	**3,351,549**	**4,025,724**	**4,636,178**	**4,491,925**	**20,101,610**	**88.5%**
Other Agencies	**2018-19 $'000**	**2019-20 $'000**	**2020-21 $'000**	**2021-22 $'000**	**2022-23 $'000**	**Total $'000**	**% of Total**
Health and Aged Care	206,995	628,946	350,470	256,143	240,864	*1,683,419*	7.4%
National Emergency Management Agency	0	0	0	242,736	5	*242,741*	1.1%
National Indigenous Australians Agency	1,257	119,290	30,939	51,297	25,416	*228,199*	1.0%
Education	102,036	5,371	28,049	20,395	22,003	*177,853*	0.8%
Prime Minister & Cabinet	93,735	2,937	0	0	0	*96,672*	0.4%
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water	906	26,723	11,030	27,392	45291	*71,343*	0.3%
Attorney-General's	23,687	1,072	6,376	1,742	2,800	*35,676*	0.2%
Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry	13,932	4,181	8,538	946	0	*27,597*	0.1%
Australian Trade and Investment Commission	0	1,030	8,836	7,664	64	*17,594*	0.1%
Social Services	2,326	1,718	1,185	7,053	5,261	*17,542*	0.1%
Home Affairs	4,943	763	0	3,230	43	*8,979*	*
Industry, Science & Resources	1,269	713	3,201	250	632	*6,065*	*
Veterans' Affairs	1,710	433	701	678	434	*3,954*	*
National Disability Insurance Agency	1,418	534	0	0	0	*1,952*	*
Employment & Workplace Relations	0	0	44	555	0	*599*	*
Foreign Affairs & Trade	64	53	26	263	0	*406*	*
Agriculture	343	0	0	0	0	*343*	*
Wine Australia	59	0	0	0	0	*59*	*
Defence	0	0	25	0	0	*25*	*
Organ and Tissue Authority	11	0	0	6	0	*17*	*
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	9	0	0	0	0	*9*	*
Total Other Agencies	454,699	793,762	449,420	620,350	302,813	***2,621,043***	11.5%
Total Commonwealth Commitment to LGA	4,050,933	4,145,311	4,475,143	5,256,529	4,794,738	***22,722,653***	100%

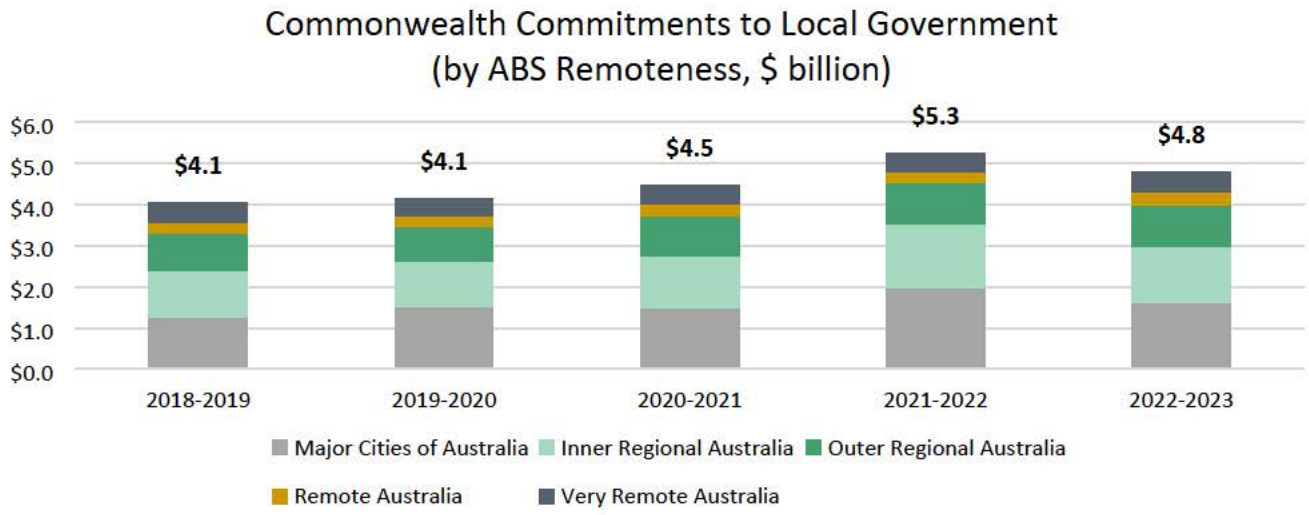
Notes: [1] Other Grants includes various programs administered by the department such as, Aviation programs, Arts and Cultural development, Building Better Regions, Road Safety initiatives and Regional Communications
* Percentage less than 0.05% of total Commonwealth commitment to local government.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. GrantConnect, www.grants.gov.au

Regional, rural and remote councils are the biggest beneficiaries of the Commonwealth's funding committed to local governments. Of the total $22.7 billion committed to local government over the period, almost $15 billion or 66% has been committed to councils outside of major cities. On average, the Commonwealth commits $4.5 billion annually in funding to local government, of which, almost $3 billion is provided to councils in rural, regional and remote areas.

Figure 3 below provides a graphical representation by year of the one third, two thirds allocation between Major Cities of Australia and those councils position in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote. The allocation is largely consistent across the five-year period.

Figure 3: Commonwealth commitments to local government by ABS remoteness.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Remoteness classifications 2021
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
GrantConnect, www.grants.gov.au

5. Closing

Australia's local government sector reflects the vibrancy and diversity of the communities it serves. This diversity brings great strength and opportunity but also a unique complexity in developing solutions for the sector.

The department's approach must be equally diverse if it is to facilitate outcomes which strengthen and enhance local governments and through this submission the department aims to have illustrated the breadth and complexity of the work undertaken to achieve this.

In its partnership with local government the department has observed many of the challenges faced by the sector but will not provide a commentary on these at this time. The Committee's Inquiry presents an opportunity for local government to provide its own perspective on these issues which is best heard directly.

The department thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide a later supplementary submission through which any observations and further information on the issues and opportunities identified by the sector will be provided.

Appendix A: Department administered programs and initiatives which support local government

Details on the various programs administered by the department with relevance for local governments are listed in the index below. All funding amounts and information provided are from the 2023-24 Budget figures. Programs have been arranged by the relevant department group for ease of reference.

It should be noted that in addition to programs which exclusively fund local governments, this list includes programs open to local government but for which other tiers of government and stakeholders may also apply. Furthermore, some programs may provide benefit to local governments but do not directly fund them. As such, the totals made available through these programs may exceed the funding actually provided to local government.

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Remote Roads Upgrade Pilot Program (RRUPP)....22
Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program 23
Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP)....23
National Road Safety Action Grants Program (NRSAGP) 23
National Safety Action Plan 2023-25 24
Regions, Cities and Territories Group....25
City and Regional Deals....25
Central Australia Plan Community Infrastructure Package (CIP) 25
Housing Support Program (HSP) 25
regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) 26
urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (uPPP)....26
Priority Community Infrastructure Program (PCIP) 26
Investing in Our Communities (IIOC) 26
Growing Regions Program 26
Thriving Suburbs Program....27
Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) 27
Regional Growth Fund (RGF)....27
Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) 28
Community Development Grants (CDG) Programme 28
Transport Group 28

Regional Airports Program (RAP) 28
Remote Airstrip Upgrade (RAU) Program 29
Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP) 29
Communications and Media Group 30
Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) 30
Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP) 30
On Farm Connectivity Program (OCFP) 30
Peri-Urban Mobile Program (PUMP) 31
Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) 31
Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP) 32
Regional Telecommunications Review 32
Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) Program 32
Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation (TDRI) Program 33
Creative Economy and the Arts Group 34
Festivals Australia Program 34
Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program 34
Regional Arts Fund 34
Revive Program 35

Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant)

The Financial Assistance Grant (FA Grant) is administered in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act). The Australian Government will have provided over $67 billion to local government under the FA Grant program since 1974-75 (including 2023-24). The FA Grant represents one of the only sources of untied funding available to local governments, allowing councils to spend the funds according to local priorities.

The quantum of the FA Grant program is derived annually in line with changes to the population and the Consumer Price Index, as prescribed by the Act.

The Financial Assistance Grant program consists of two components:

- A general-purpose component which is distributed between the states and territories according to population (i.e. on a per capita basis).
- An identified local road component which is distributed between the states and territories according to fixed historical shares.

Funding under the FA Grant program is paid through state and territory governments to local governments. Local government grants commissions in each jurisdiction determine the intrastate distribution of grants between local governments within their jurisdiction.

In recommending FA Grant allocations to local governing bodies, local government grants commissions in each jurisdiction (other the ACT which does not have a grants commission) are required to make their recommendations in line with the National Principles formulated under the Act. The seven National Principles establish a nationally consistent basis for distributing the financial assistance grant.

The National Principles relating to the general-purpose component are:

- *Horizontal equalisation*
  The general-purpose grant will be allocated to local governing bodies, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis as defined by the Act. This is a basis that ensures each local governing body in the State or Territory is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the State or Territory. It takes account of differences in the expenditure required by those local governing bodies in the performance of their functions and in the capacity of those local governing bodies to raise revenue.

- *Effort neutrality*
  An effort or policy neutral approach will be used in assessing the expenditure requirements and revenue-raising capacity of each local governing body. This means as far as practicable, that policies of individual local governing bodies in terms of expenditure and revenue effort will not affect grant determination.

- *Minimum grant*
  The minimum general-purpose grant allocation for a local governing body in a year will be not less than the amount to which the local governing body would be entitled if 30 per cent of the total amount of general-purpose grants to which the State or Territory is entitled under section 9 of the Act in respect of the year were allocated among local governing bodies in the State or Territory on a per capita basis.

- *Other grant support*
  Other relevant grant support provided to local governing bodies to meet any of the expenditure needs assessed should be taken into account using an inclusion approach.

- *Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders*

Financial assistance shall be allocated to councils in a way which recognises the needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders within their boundaries.

- *Council Amalgamation*
  Where two or more local governing bodies are amalgamated into a single body, the general-purpose grant provided to the new body for each of the four years following amalgamation should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities.

The National Principle relating to the identified road component is:

- *Identified road component*
  The identified road component of the financial assistance grant should be allocated to local governing bodies as far as practicable on the basis of the relative needs of each local governing body for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. In assessing road needs, relevant considerations include length, type and usage of roads in each local governing area.

A table providing the chronology of key events in the process of FA Grant payments is provided at **Figure 4** on the next page.

Supplementary funding to South Australia for local roads

The supplementary funding is to address an anomaly in the allocation of fixed historical road shares for the FA Grant. South Australia is provided with only 5.5 per cent of funding for local roads even though it manages 11.7 per cent.

In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government recommitted $20.0 million (annually to 2025-26) to South Australia as supplementary funding for local roads. The project agreement was executed on 28 August 2023 with the payment for 2023-24 made to South Australia on 29 August 2023.

The Government has provided this funding since 2004-05.

Figure 4: Chronology of key events in the FA Grant program calculation and payment processes

By 30 June

- The Treasurer determines and provides the Final Factor. The Final Factor determines whether the Financial Assistance Grant program (FA Grant) allocation changes and if so by how much. The Final Factor finalises the current year's FA Grant allocation and the Estimated Factor estimates the next year's allocation.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides population estimates to the department to determine the breakdown of the general purpose component of the FA Grant to calculate each jurisdictions allocations.
- The funding difference between the Final allocation and the Estimated allocation determines the adjustment required for the next financial year's cash payment. The cash payment is paid quarterly.

July

- In early July, the department calculates the general purpose allocations for the states and territories using the ABS population estimates. The identified road allocation are also calculated according to fixed historical shares.

  The Minister responsible for Local Government approves jurisdictional allocations, comprising the general purpose and identified road components. The Minister then writes to State and Northern Territory Ministers and Treasurers providing them with their state and territory allocations, and requests their recommendations for the distribution of funding to local governing bodies within their jurisdictions. The Minister also approves the allocation to the Australian Capital Territory.

- In mid July, State and Northern Territory Local Government Grants Commissions make recommendations to their local government Ministers on the funding allocations to be distributed to local governing bodies. These recommendations are based on their methodologies made against the seven FA Grant National Principles including horizontal equalisation. State and Northern Territory Ministers then forward their recommendations for individual allocations to local government bodies, to the Minister responsible for Local Government.

- In late July/early August, the department confirms the Local Government Grants Commission recommendations meet the requirements of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) 1995 Act* (such as the 30 per cent minimum grant principle). The Minister responsible for Local Government approves the individual allocations to local governing bodies.

August

- On or after 15 August, the department processes the first quarter payment to states and territories.

November

- On or after 15 November, the department processes the second quarter payment to states and territories.

February (following year)

- On or after 15 February, the department processes the third quarter payment to states and territories.

April (following year)

- Budget Update: Treasury provides the department with estimated factors for Budget purposes. These are point in time estimates based on the latest projections. The department applies these factors to the program allocation to estimate forward estimates in the Budget process.

May (following year)

- On or after 15 May, the department processes the fourth quarter payment to states and territories.

June (following year)

- If the Australian Government decides to make a Bring Forward payment (a portion of the next financial year's funding), the department calculates local government allocations based on the current years allocations, seeks Ministerial approval of the state and territory allocations, and a breakdown of the jurisdictional allocation to local governing bodies. Payment is made in the current financial year.
- Funding in the next financial year is adjusted by the amount of the Bring Forward.

Infrastructure Group

Black Spot Program

Commencement: 1996.

Program Description:

The Black Spot Program funds safety measures such as traffic lights, roundabouts, safety barriers, and pedestrian treatments at locations where crashes are occurring, or are at risk of occurring. Nominations are assessed and prioritised through state and territory road and infrastructure departments, with Consultative Panels responsible for considering and recommending these nominations to the Minister.

Upon approval, funding is paid on a quarterly basis to the states and territories, who will then distribute to local governments as part of their delivery responsibilities.

Program Funding:

$130 million has been made available in 2023-24 and 2024-25, with $140 million committed in 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Bridges Renewal Program (BRP)

Commencement: 2014.

Program Description:

The BRP provides support for projects that improve access, safety and efficiency of freight and general road users through the upgrade and replacement of bridges. State, territory, and local governments are eligible to submit nominations on an ongoing basis.

Available funding is capped at up to $5 million per project, representing up to 50% of the total cost per project in urban areas and up to 80% per project in regional/remote areas. Co-contributions may be sourced from local government, state and territory, Commonwealth or private funding sources. The program funds both construction-only, and design and construct projects, which are expected to be delivered in two or three years, respectively.

Program Funding:

Up to $551.3 million was made available until 30 June 2024, with approximately 90% of projects led by local governments. BRP will cease on 30 June 2024 and bridges projects will be funded under the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) from 1 July 2024.

Heavy Vehicle Rest Area (HVRA) Initiative

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description:

The HVRA initiative supports new and upgraded heavy vehicle rest areas to improve safety by ensuring there are enough appropriately located heavy vehicle rest stops, with appropriate amenities. Heavy vehicle drivers benefit from improved facilities to rest, to enable them to be more productive and efficient, and other road users will also benefit from a safer road transport network. State and territory, and local governments are eligible to submit nominations on an ongoing basis.

Available funding is capped at up to $5 million per project, representing up to 50% of the total cost per project in urban areas and up to 80% per project in regional/remote areas. Co-contributions may be sourced from local government, state and territory, Commonwealth or private funding sources. The program funds both construction-only, and design and construct projects, which are expected to be delivered in two or three years, respectively.

Program Funding:

$140 million has been made available over 10 years for the HVRA initiative, which is currently delivered under the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP). The commitment will be retained under the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program from 1 July 2024, and it will operate under its own guidelines.

Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP)

Commencement: 2008.

Program Description:

The HVSPP supports state, territory and local government to reduce the proportion of road accidents involving heavy vehicles through targeting management of heavy vehicle driver fatigue and speed. The program improves the capacity of roads to facilitate the efficient movement of heavy vehicles, reducing travel times and vehicle emissions, improving safety and supporting communities. Eligible government entities can submit nominations on an ongoing basis.

Available funding is capped at up to $5 million per project, representing up to 50% of the total cost per project in urban areas and up to 80% per project in regional/remote areas. Co-contributions may be sourced from local government, state and territory, Commonwealth or private funding sources. The program funds both construction- only, and design and construct projects, which are expected to be delivered in two or three years, respectively.

Program Funding:

Funding of $538.8 million has been made available until 30 June 2024. HVSPP will cease on 30 June 2024 and heavy vehicle safety and productivity projects will be funded under the new Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) from 1 July 2024.

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program

Commencement: 2020.

Program Description:

The LRCI program was established as a temporary stimulus program in 2020 to support local government to deliver improved road safety, accessibility and visual amenity, and create jobs and ongoing community benefits. 550 organisations receive funding under the program, including local governments, state and territory authorities for unincorporated areas, and non-state entities (for Norfolk Island and the Indian Ocean Territories).

The department regularly engages directly with local government funding recipients and with the Australian Local Government Association on LRCI program administration and to assist with member communications.

Program Funding:

A total of $3.25 billion has been made available across 4 phases of the LRCI program. Phase 4 funding allocations include an additional $250 million targeted to improve rural, regional and outer urban roads.

Remote Roads Upgrade Pilot Program (RRUPP)

Commencement: 2021.

Program Description:

The RRUPP targets road improvements for regional and remote communities, and addresses significant deficiencies on key regional and rural roads that limit community access, pose safety risks and impact the economic development of the surrounding area.

Program Funding:

$150 million has been made available to 2024-25.

Roads to Recovery (RTR) Program

Commencement: 2001.

Program Description:

The RTR program was established to support the maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure assets, which facilitates greater accessibility, and improves safety, economic and social outcomes for Australians. 551 organisations receive funding under the program, including local governments, state authorities and Local Government Associations for unincorporated areas, and non-state entities (for Norfolk Island and the Indian Ocean Territories).

Funding allocations for each local governing body are calculated according to a formula based on population and road length set by the relevant Local Government Grants Commission. The department regularly engages directly with local government funding recipients and with the Australian Local Government Association on RTR program administration and to assist with member communications. Local Government Grants Commissions in each state and territory are currently being consulted on funding allocations in preparation for commencement of the next funding period.

Program Funding:

The RTR program operates on a five-year funding period, with $2.64 billion made available over the current period from 2019 to 2024. A new funding period will commence 1 July 2024 with funding gradually increasing from the current $500 million per year to $1 billion per year from 2027-28.

Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP)

Commencement: 2024.

Program Description:

The SLRIP will be implemented on 1 July 2024 and will support state and territory, and local governments to address emerging priorities in road infrastructure needs by enhancing existing roads, increasing heavy vehicle transport productivity, and improving the access, safety and efficiency of freight and general road users.

SLRIP will consolidate the existing Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP) into a single application-based ongoing funding stream. State and territory, and local governments will be invited to submit nominations on an ongoing basis once applications open on 1 July 2024.

Program Funding:

The Australian Government will make available, on average, $200 million per year from 2024-2025.

National Road Safety Action Grants Program (NRSAGP)

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description:

The NRSAGP is designed to reduce the impact of road trauma and foster a national road safety culture. NRSAGP focuses on five key areas of activity critical to the delivery of the National Road Safety Action Plan:

1. Community Education and Awareness, including workplace road safety.
2. Vulnerable Road Users.

3. First Nations road safety.
4. Technology and Innovation.
5. Research and Data.

Program Funding:

$43.6 million has been made available to deliver key non-infrastructure commitments in the National Road Safety Action Plan 2023-25.

National Safety Action Plan 2023-25

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description:

The Office of Road Safety manages the Intergovernmental Steering Committee on Road Safety (ISCRS), which oversees implementation of the National Road Safety Action Plan 2023-25 (the Action Plan). The Action Plan implements the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30, which aims to reduce road fatalities by 50 per cent, and serious injuries by 30 per cent, by 2030.

ISCRS is chaired by the First Assistant Secretary, Road and Vehicle Safety Division, and includes representatives from all state and territory road transport agencies as well as the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). The Action Plan includes Australian Government, and state and territory commitments to help support local government road safety capability, and recognises the importance of local government as managers of a large part of the road network. Through the ISCRS, ALGA is able to monitor implementation of the Action Plan, its impact on local government, and ensure local government concerns are represented

Program Funding:

Under the Action Plan, the Australian Government has committed to develop a framework to assist local governments to undertake risk assessments of their networks, and prioritise road safety infrastructure investment. The department has engaged the Australasian College of Road Safety to develop the framework, with input from local governments and ALGA. The framework is due late-2024. The cost of the project is $249,975. A second Australian Government commitment, will include the delivery of training to local governments in the use of this framework and will be delivered in late 2024.

Regions, Cities and Territories Group

City and Regional Deals

Commencement: 2016.

Program Description:

City and Regional Deals provide place-based investment to enhance Australia's urban and regional areas, while recognising the important role of local government in land use planning and community engagement. Commitments are negotiated and agreed between the three levels of government, the private sector and the community to meet the needs of specific places.

Deals work to align the investment, planning and governance necessary to accelerate growth and job creation, stimulate urban renewal, reduce congestion and drive economic reforms.

Program Funding:
$9.3 billion has been made available through the City and Regional Deal model.

Central Australia Plan Community Infrastructure Package (CIP)

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description:
The CIP supports the construction of new, or upgrades to existing, community infrastructure for Central Desert and MacDonnell regional councils. Proposed projects must fill an identified need for the community, or provide economic and social benefits by improving community amenity and liveability in Central Australia.

The CIP has been developed in partnership between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, and the Office of the Central Australian Regional Controller in response to the urgent challenges facing the communities in Alice Springs and Central Australia, and is in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Program Funding:
$50 million of funding has been made available, including $5.2 million identified for allocation across 9 projects.

Housing Support Program (HSP)

Commencement: 2023-24.

Program Description:
The HSP supports local, state and territory governments to achieve the National Housing Accord targets. Funding is available across two streams and can be used for initiatives to help enable housing supply including connecting essential services, amenities to support new housing development or building planning capability.

Program Funding:
$500 million has been made available from 2023-24 to 2024-25 with stream one applications closing 29 April 2024 and stream two expected to open May 2024.

regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP)

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description:
The rPPP supports precinct development proposals, as well as the delivery of construction-ready precinct projects across regional, rural and remote Australia. Through collaborative partnerships engaging in design, stewardship and accountability of planned outcomes, the rPPP will facilitate place-based approaches to planning and reflect the government's approach to regional investment as outlined under the regional investment framework.

Program Funding:
$400 million has been made available from 2023-24 to 2026-27.

urban Precincts and Partnerships Program (uPPP)

Commencement: Not yet commenced

Program Description:
The uPPP is expected to support precinct development proposals, as well as the delivery of construction-ready precinct projects in urban areas. Through collaborative partnerships engaging in design, stewardship and accountability of planned outcomes, the uPPP will facilitate place-based approaches to planning and provide targeted benefits related to productivity, equity, and resilience for the people of urban Australia.

Program Funding:
$150 million has been made available from 2024-25 to 2027-28.

Priority Community Infrastructure Program (PCIP)

Commencement: February 2023.

Program Description:

The PCIP promotes building resilient communities through the provision of social and community facilities; improving community amenity, accessibility and liveability through investment in community infrastructure; and driving economic growth in communities and the broader region.

The PCIP delivers grant funding typically of $5 million or more and only applicants nominated by the Australian Government were invited to apply for funding. Eligible applications were assessed individually.

Program Funding:
Around $950 million has been made available under the program from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

Investing in Our Communities (IIOC)

Commencement: February 2023.

Program Description:

The IIOC Program aims to enhance community infrastructure; encourage community cohesion; and have a positive impact on economic activity within communities The IIOC program delivers grant funding of up to $5 million and only applicants nominated by the Australian Government were invited to apply for funding. Eligible applications were assessed individually.

Program Funding:
More than $325.9 million has been made available from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

Growing Regions Program

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description:
The Growing Regions Program promotes the delivery of community-focused infrastructure which contributes to local and regional priorities, improving equity and supporting diverse social inclusion, and enhancing amenity and liveability in the regions. The Australian Government provides grants between $500,000 and $15 million to local government entities and incorporated not-for-profit organisations outside the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas for capital works projects that deliver community and economic infrastructure projects across regional and rural Australia.

Program Funding:
$600 million has been made available for the open competitive program over two rounds from 2023-24. Round 1 Applications are currently under assessment.

Thriving Suburbs Program

Commencement: Not yet commenced

Program Description:
The new Thriving Suburbs Program provides funding for capital works for community and economic infrastructure that enhances liveability and prosperity in urban, suburban and peri-urban communities inside the Greater Capital City Statistical Areas. This will assist to deliver investment in locally-driven urban and suburban infrastructure and community projects.

Program Funding:
$200 million has been made available through one open and competitive round from 2024-25 to 2025-26.

Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF)

Commencement: 2017.

Program Description:
The BBRF promoted sustainable population growth and improving the quality of life in regional areas driving economic growth and building stronger regional communities into the future. It was delivered through two grant streams: the Infrastructure Projects Stream, which supported investment-ready projects and provided economic and social benefits for regional and remote areas through grants between $20,000 to $10 million, and the Community Investments Stream which promoted building vibrant communities, funding new and expanded local events, strategic regional plans, or leadership and capability strengthening activities that provide economic and social benefits to regional and remote Australia through grants between $5,000 to $1 million.

Program Funding:
$1.1 billion was made available across five funding rounds from 2017-18 to 2024-25, including $207.7 million made available in the 2020-21 Budget for Round 5. On 24 October 2022, the Australian Government announced that the BBRF will be discontinued.

Regional Growth Fund (RGF)

Commencement: 2018.

Program Description:
The RGF promoted long-term economic growth and job creation in regions, including those undergoing structural adjustment. It drove regional economic prosperity by providing access to funding for community-focused infrastructure projects throughout rural and regional areas of Australia and leverage investment from the private sector, not-for-profit organisations and other levels of government in the region. It provided grants of $10 million or more through an open competitive grant opportunity.

Program Funding:

$272.2 million was made available in the 2018-19 Budget over four years until 2021-22.

Stronger Communities Programme (SCP)

Commencement: 2015.

Program Description:
SCP promotes participation in local projects, improved community participation and contributions to vibrant and viable communities. It supports community recovery from the widespread impacts of adverse weather events and economic pressures, funding small capital projects in each of Australia's 151 federal electorates. The program enables each electorate to receive up to 20 projects with funding ranging from $2,500 to $20,000.

Program Funding:
$22.7 million has been made available for the program in the 2022-23 Budget with over $21.7million provided under Round 8 of the Program, which was delivered as a closed non-competitive opportunity.

Community Development Grants (CDG) Programme

Commencement: 2013.

Program Description:
The CDG programme delivered construction and upgrades to facilities to provide long term improvements to the social and economic viability of local communities; promoted job creation in the delivery of these projects; and improved social amenity, increased health and wellbeing and social cohesion by utilisation of the infrastructure by community groups.

Program Funding:
$2.4 billion was made available under the program for projects to be completed between 2013-14 and 2025-26, delivered via closed, non-competitive grant opportunities.

Transport Group

Regional Airports Program (RAP)

Commencement: 2019.

Program Description:
The RAP promotes aviation safety and access for regional communities. It assists eligible airport owners to improve access and safety at airports with passenger throughput of less than 250,000 per annum, in inner and outer regional locations. The majority of regional airports are owned or managed by local governments who are eligible to apply for grant funding.

Program Funding:
$100 million has been made available over three rounds with funding awarded to 194 projects.

Remote Airstrip Upgrade (RAU) Program

Commencement: 2011.

Program Description:
The RAU program is an element of the Regional Aviation Access Program (RAAP) and supports enhanced safety and accessibility at eligible aerodromes in remote and very remote locations. This includes local governments that own or manage a remote aerodrome. Safe, operational aerodromes are vital in the delivery of essential goods and services in remote and very remote communities, particularly where road access is unavailable, unreliable or disrupted for extended periods due to seasonal weather conditions. An effective airstrip, accessible all year round, improves the delivery of health care services such as those provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) or other aeromedical providers, improves access to work and education opportunities and helps connect residents of remote communities.

Program Funding:
More than $100 million has been made available over 9 rounds with 449 projects delivered nationwide. In the 2023-24 Budget, $12 million was announced for Round 10 and applications are currently under consideration.

Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP)

Commencement: 2019-20.

Program Description:
The SLGAAP is provided under the National Land Transport Act 2014 (NLT Act) Parts 4 and 5. SLGAAP provides funding to assist local government road managers for the purpose of improving:

- Safety and productivity of heavy vehicle operators.
- Capacity of local government road managers to assess applications for access to local road infrastructure by a larger range of heavy vehicles, including oversize over-mass vehicles.
- Capacity of road freight operators to consider the safety requirements of their journey.
- Safe use of road infrastructure assets and increase road freight productivity.
- Collection of local government asset data to feed into the development of a national automated access system for heavy vehicles.

This provides information on safe operating limits of road infrastructure and facilitates safe access for heavy vehicles. In 2024-25 the expansion and extension of the project under phase 3 will directly assist local government, enabling a greater number of more accurate and timely asset assessments which will feed into the national automated road access system for heavy vehicles. A national automated access system will improve productivity by replacing case-by-case permits for heavy vehicle access.

Program Funding:
More than $42 million has been made available from 2019-20 to 2028-29 including $22.3 million in additional funding which was announced in the 2023-24 Budget.

Communications and Media Group

Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP)

Commencement: 2015.

Program Description: The MBSP invests in telecommunications infrastructure to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia. The MBSP awards grant funding to Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and Mobile Network Infrastructure Providers (MNIPs) to deploy new mobile network infrastructure.

Local governments have the opportunity to engage with the MBSP in a number of ways including providing in-kind financial contributions and consultation to MNOs and MNIPs. Local governments are also involved in the delivery of funded solutions, through providing relevant land and building approvals. While local governments are not the direct beneficiaries of the MBSP, the deployment of new or upgraded mobile phone infrastructure benefits communities in local government areas where funded solutions are built.

Program Funding: To date, more than $1 billion in funding has been invested to deliver up to 1,400 new mobile base stations across Australia through competitive, merit-based grant opportunities. Under Round 7, $55 million (GST inclusive) in Commonwealth funding was awarded to deliver mobile coverage solutions to regional, rural and remote Australia. The MBSP is supported by co-contributions from state and territory, and local governments, and grantees.

Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP)

Commencement: 2020.

Program Description: The MNHP provides grant opportunities for mobile network operators and infrastructure providers to improve the resilience of Australia's regional mobile network telecommunications infrastructure, supporting communities during and when recovering from natural disasters.

Local Governments are also involved in the delivery of funded projects, through providing relevant land and building approvals. While local governments are not the direct beneficiaries of MNHP, the deployment of resilience upgrades to mobile telecommunications network infrastructure benefits communities in local government areas in regional, remote and very remote Australia.

Program Funding: $30 million in funding has been made available for Rounds 2 and 3 of the MNHP as part of the *Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia*. Opportunities are delivered through a targeted competitive grants program. Round 1 of the Program was delivered in two stages and provided up to $23.5 million (GST inclusive) in funding to deliver approximately 1,000 projects. The MNHP is also supported by co-contributions from state and territory governments and grantees.

On Farm Connectivity Program (OCFP)

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description: The OCFP enables primary producers in agriculture, forestry and/or fisheries to take advantage of connected machinery and sensor technology through a two-stage application and rebate process. The program aims to:

- Extend digital connectivity.
- Enhance primary producers' abilities to implement digital agribusiness solutions through improved connectivity.
- Capitalise on the agricultural sector's productivity and growth.
- Support access to new communications equipment and services.

Program Funding: Funding of $30 million has been made available for two rounds of the program under the *Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia.* In May 2024, $13.05 million had been committed with $8.84 million paid to the approved supplier. Applications for round 1 will close 31 May 2024.

Peri-Urban Mobile Program (PUMP)

Commencement: 2021-22.

Program Description: The PUMP provides funding to mobile network operators (MNOs) and mobile network infrastructure providers (MNIPs) to deploy new or upgraded mobile phone infrastructure to address mobile reception and quality of service issues in the peri-urban fringe areas of major cities that are at risk of bushfires and other natural disasters.

Local governments are encouraged to provide in-kind contributions and consultation to MNOs. PUMP was promoted to local governments through the Australian Local Government Association's news bulletin on 29 January 2024. Local Governments are also involved in the delivery of funded projects, through providing relevant land and building approvals. While local governments are not the direct beneficiaries of PUMP, the deployment of new or upgraded mobile phone infrastructure benefits communities in local government located within the peri-urban fringe of Australia's major cities.

Program Funding: $25.7 million in funding (GST exclusive) was provided to Optus, Telstra and TPG Telecom under Round 1 through a targeted competitive grants program, to deliver 66 new 4G and 5G mobile base stations at 50 locations across the peri-urban fringes of Australia's major cities. A further $20 million in funding was made available for Round 2 which closed in April 2024. The PUMP is supported by co-contributions from state governments and grantees.

Regional Connectivity Program (RCP)

Commencement: 2020-21.

Program Description: The RCP targets investment in telecommunications infrastructure projects which respond to local priorities, with the objective of maximising 'place-based' economic opportunities and social benefits for regional, rural and remote communities and businesses. The program aims to improve digital connectivity by strengthening economic growth, assisting progress towards Target 17 of the Closing the Gap initiative, supporting regional development, and reducing the digital divide between rural and metropolitan locations.

The RCP complements the National Broadband Network (NBN) and the Government's Mobile Black Spot Program by targeting the delivery of new and improved access to broadband and mobile connectivity in areas outside of the NBN fixed-line footprint.

In addition to being able to join a consortia application, local governments have the opportunity to engage with the RCP in a number of ways including providing in-kind financial contributions and consultation on priority areas. Local governments are also involved in the delivery of funded projects, through providing relevant land and building approvals. While local governments are not the direct beneficiaries of the RCP, the deployment of new and improved access to broadband and mobile connectivity benefits communities in local government areas in regional, remote and very remote Australia.

Program Funding: $115.2 million (GST inclusive) in funding has been made available to deliver projects in Round 3 of the program, funded under the *Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia*. Prior to this $115.8 million in funding was made available for Round 1, and a further $137.2 million made available for Round 2. The RCP is supported by co-contributions from state, territory and local governments and grantees.

Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program (RRAMP)

Commencement: 2023-24; not yet commenced

Program Description: The RRAMP is a new Australian Government program which will support projects which improve mobile coverage on regional highways and major roads, with a strong preference for multi-carrier outcomes. By targeting regional Australia, RRAMP will deliver mobile coverage in areas that are currently underserved, supporting economic growth, improving social connectivity, and improving the safety of drivers.

State and territory governments will conduct pilot programs to test new and innovative solutions to improve coverage. It is expected that local governments will be encouraged to contribute financially (in-kind) to proposed projects and provide consultation regarding locations. While local governments are not the direct beneficiaries of the RRAMP, increased coverage on regional highways and major roads will benefit communities in local government areas in regional, remote and very remote Australia.

Pilot programs will fund new, or the expansion of existing, infrastructure, and the outcomes of the pilots will inform the design of the scaled-up National Program.

Program Funding: An initial $50 million in funding has been made available to the RRAMP Pilot, through the *Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia*.

Regional Telecommunications Review

Commencement: 2024.

Program Description: The Regional Telecommunications Review is undertaken every 3 years and considers the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. In undertaking the Review, the Committee must have regard to whether people in regional, rural and remote Australia have equitable access to telecommunications services as compared to services available within urban areas.

The Committee invites individuals, regional community groups, businesses, industry and governments to engage directly with the Review. Relevant local governments have been invited to engage with the Committee in face-to-face consultations in various locations around Australia. Local governments also have the opportunity to participate by providing the Committee with a written submission in response to the 2024 Regional Telecommunication Review Issues Paper.

The Committee will report to the Minister by 31 December 2024, and may make recommendations to the Australian Government.

Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) Program

Commencement: 2020.

Program Description: The STAND Program supported the increase and improvement of telecommunications resilience in regional and remote communities recently affected by severe bushfires or at future risk of bushfires. It aimed to enhance the capability to restore services to areas affected by bushfires or natural disasters by quickly deploying temporary facilities to address gaps caused by outages.

The Program provided NBN Co. with grant funding to install and operate 1,068 Sky Muster satellites (also referred to as 'Disaster Satellite Services') to provide additional telecommunications redundancy at evacuation centres and emergency service depots across the country.

State and territory governments were responsible for nominating suitable locations for the installation of the Disaster Satellite Services. Where relevant, state governments consulted with local governments to select the most appropriate evacuation centres for the satellite services.

Program Funding: A total of $6.2 million in funding was made available to NBN Co. as a one-off ad-hoc grant opportunity. The Disaster Satellite services are funded by the Australian Government through to 31 December 2025.

Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation (TDRI) Program

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description: The TDRI Program aims to improve the preparedness of Australia's telecommunications networks against rising climate risks, including against an anticipated increase in the frequency and severity of natural hazards in Australia. The Program encourages the development and deployment of innovative, new or emerging technologies and solutions that will improve resilience and ensure that Australian communities remain connected and can continue to access vital services before, during and after a natural disaster occurs.

Local governments can be involved with the two funding rounds under the TDRI Program by providing in-kind financial contributions and consultation. They are also directly eligible to apply for grant funding under the Program, provided their application was in partnership with a mobile network operator, mobile network infrastructure provider, or NBN Co.

Program Funding: $50 million in total funding has been made available for the Program, with $17.4 million awarded for the Power Resilience and Innovation Round in May 2024.

Creative Economy and the Arts Group

Festivals Australia Program

Commencement: 1994.

Program Description: The Festivals Australia program supports individual art projects that allow community members living in or visiting regional or remote Australia to participate in or appreciate an arts-driven experience at a festival or significant one-off community celebration. The program supports partnerships and collaboration across the arts sector and encourages community participation in arts projects at regional and remote festivals. Local governments are eligible to apply.

Program Funding: More than $1.4 million in funding is made available per year, delivered through two open competitive funding rounds around February and September. In March 2024, $657,851 in funding was announced, to be shared among 18 projects in regional and remote communities through Round 17 of the program.

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program

Commencement: 2022.

Program Description: The IVAIS program supports the operation of over 100 organisations, including more than 85 Indigenous art centres, as well as a number of art fairs, regional hubs and industry service organisations that are at the heart of Australia's world-renowned Indigenous visual art movement. Together these organisations support more than 8,000 artists and over 500 Indigenous arts workers, most in very remote Indigenous communities. In 2023-24, the IVAIS program is supporting six local governments, located in Western Australia and Queensland, to provide services to First Nations visual artists and engage Indigenous arts workers.

Program Funding: Approximately $23.5 million in funding is made available each year directly to organisations through a closed, non-competitive process. Approximately $3.9 million is made available through an annual open competitive grant round.

Regional Arts Fund

Commencement: 1997.

Program Description: The Regional Arts Fund supports artists, arts workers, organisations and local governments to advance cultural development in regional, remote and rural communities. The program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and organisations in each state and territory on behalf of the Australian Government. The program funds quick response grants, project grants and national strategic partnerships which encourage and support sustainable economic, social and cultural development in regional communities

Program Funding: More than $6 million in funding is made available per year through ongoing competitive and strategic grants opportunities. The Australian Government's Cultural Policy *Revive*: a place for every story, a story for every place, provided an ongoing uplift to the Regional Arts Fund of $8.5 million over four years from 2023-24. Approximately 300 grants are approved each year across all funding streams.

Revive Program

Commencement: 2023.

Program Description: *Revive* is a 5-year National Cultural Plan to renew and *Revive* Australia's arts, entertainment and cultural sector, structured around 5 interconnected pillars which set out the Australian Government's strategic objectives:

- First Nations First: Recognising and respecting the crucial place of First Nations stories at the centre of Australia's arts and culture.
- A Place for Every Story: Reflecting the breadth of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as the creators of culture.
- Centrality of the Artist: Supporting the artist as worker and celebrating artists as creators.
- Strong Cultural Infrastructure: Providing support across the spectrum of institutions which sustain our arts, culture and heritage.
- Engaging the Audience: Making sure our stories connect with people at home and abroad.

Local government engagement is encouraged through the re-establishment of intergovernmental meetings between Commonwealth and, state and territory cultural minsters and the Australian Local Government Association. These meetings have been operational since June 2022 and are held twice a year.

Program Funding: $286 million in funding will be made available from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

Appendix B: List of Councils by Remoteness

State	Council Name	
Major Cities		
NSW	Bayside Council	Ku-Ring-Gai Council
	Blacktown City Council	Lake Macquarie City Council
	Blue Mountains City Council	Lane Cove Municipal Council
	Burwood Council	Liverpool City Council
	Campbelltown City Council	Maitland City Council
	Canterbury-Bankstown Council	Mosman Municipal Council
	Central Coast Council (NSW)	Newcastle City Council
	Cessnock City Council	North Sydney Council
	City of Canada Bay Council	Northern Beaches Council
	City of Parramatta Council	Penrith City Council
	Council of the City of Ryde	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
	Council of the City of Shellharbour	Randwick City Council
	Council of the Municipality of Woollahra	Strathfield Municipal Council
	Cumberland Council	Sutherland Shire Council
	Fairfield City Council	The Council of Camden
	Georges River Council	The Council of the City of Sydney
	Hawkesbury City Council	The Hills Shire Council
	Hornsby Shire Council	Tweed Shire Council
	Hunter's Hill Council	Waverley Council
	Inner West Council	Willoughby City Council
	Kiama Municipal Council	Wollongong City Council
QLD	Brisbane City Council	Moreton Bay Regional Council
	Gold Coast City Council	Noosa Shire Council
	Ipswich City Council	Redland City Council
	Logan City Council	Sunshine Coast Regional Council
SA	Adelaide Hills Council	City of Tea Tree Gully
	City of Burnside	City of West Torrens
	City of Charles Sturt	Corporation of the City of Campbelltown
	City of Holdfast Bay	Corporation of the City of Marion
	City of Mitcham	Corporation of the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters
	City of Onkaparinga	Corporation of the City of Unley
	City of Playford	Corporation of the Town of Walkerville
	City of Port Adelaide Enfield	District Council of Mount Barker
	City of Prospect	The Corporation of the City of Adelaide
	City of Salisbury	Town of Gawler
VIC	Banyule City Council	Kingston City Council
	Bayside City Council	Manningham City Council
	Brimbank City Council	Maroondah City Council
	Cardinia Shire Council	Melbourne City Council (City of Melbourne)
	Casey City Council	Melton City Council
	City of Boroondara	Merri-bek City Council
	City of Darebin	Monash City Council
	City of Glen Eira	Moonee Valley City Council

	City of Greater Dandenong	Moorabool Shire Council
	City of Greater Geelong	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
	City of Knox	Nillumbik Shire Council
	City of Maribyrnong	Stonnington City Council
	City of Port Phillip	Whitehorse City Council
	City of Whittlesea	Wyndham City Council
	Frankston City Council	Yarra City Council
	Hobsons Bay City Council	Yarra Ranges Shire Council
	Hume City Council	
WA	City of Armadale	City of Stirling
	City of Bayswater	City of Subiaco
	City of Belmont	City of Swan
	City of Canning	City of Vincent
	City of Cockburn	City of Wanneroo
	City of Fremantle	Shire of Mundaring
	City of Gosnells	Shire of Murray
	City of Joondalup	Shire of Peppermint Grove
	City of Kalamunda	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
	City of Kwinana	Town of Bassendean
	City of Mandurah	Town of Cambridge
	City of Melville	Town of Claremont
	City of Nedlands	Town of Cottesloe
	City of Perth	Town of East Fremantle
	City of Rockingham	Town of Mosman Park
	City of South Perth	Town of Victoria Park
Inner Regional		
NSW	Albury City Council	Kempsey Shire Council
	Armidale Regional Council	Kyogle Council
	Ballina Shire Council	Lismore City Council
	Bathurst Regional Council	Mid-Coast Council
	Bellingen Shire Council	Mid-Western Regional Council
	Berrigan Shire Council	Murray River Council
	Blayney Shire Council	Muswellbrook Shire Council
	Byron Shire Council	Nambucca Valley Council
	Cabonne Shire Council	Oberon Council
	City of Lithgow Council	Orange City Council
	Clarence Valley Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
	Coffs Harbour City Council	Port Stephens Council
	Coolamon Shire Council	Richmond Valley Council
	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	Shoalhaven City Council
	Cowra Shire Council	Singleton Council
	Dubbo Regional Council	Snowy Valleys Council
	Dungog Shire Council	Tamworth Regional Council
	Edward River Council	Upper Hunter Shire Council
	Eurobodalla Shire Council	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
	Federation Council	Uralla Shire Council
	Glen Innes Severn Council	Wagga Wagga City Council
	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Wingecarribee Shire Council

	Greater Hume Shire Council	Wollondilly Shire Council
	Hilltops Council	Yass Valley Council
	Junee Shire Council	
QLD	Bundaberg Regional Council	Mackay Regional Council
	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	Rockhampton Regional Council
	Fraser Coast Regional Council	Scenic Rim Regional Council
	Gladstone Regional Council	Somerset Regional Council
	Gympie Regional Council	South Burnett Regional Council
	Livingstone Shire Council	Southern Downs Regional Council
	Lockyer Valley Regional Council	Toowoomba Regional Council
SA	Adelaide Plains Council	Light Regional Council
	Alexandrina Council	Mid Murray Council
	City of Victor Harbor	Rural City of Murray Bridge
	Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council	The Barossa Council
	District Council of Yankalilla	Wakefield Regional Council
TAS	Brighton Council	Launceston City Council
	Clarence City Council	Meander Valley Council
	Derwent Valley Council	Northern Midlands Council
	Glenorchy City Council	Sorell Council
	Hobart City Council	West Tamar Council
	Kingborough Council	
VIC	Alpine Shire	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
	Ararat Rural City Council	Mitchell Shire Council
	Ballarat City Council	Moira Shire Council
	Bass Coast Shire Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
	Baw Shire Council	Murrindindi Shire Council
	Benalla Rural City Council	Northern Grampians Shire Council
	Borough of Queenscliffe	Pyrenees Shire Council
	Campaspe Shire Council	Shire of Moyne
	Central Goldfields Shire Council	Shire of Strathbogie
	Colac Otway Shire	South Gippsland Shire Council
	Corangamite Shire Council	Southern Grampians Shire Council
	Golden Plains Shire Council	Surf Coast Shire
	Greater Bendigo City Council	Wangaratta Rural City Council
	Greater Shepparton City Council	Warrnambool City Council
	Hepburn Shire Council	Wellington Shire Council
	Indigo Shire Council	Wodonga City Council
	Latrobe City Council	
WA	City of Bunbury	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup
	City of Busselton	Shire of Gingin
	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	Shire of Harvey
	Shire of Boddington	Shire of Northam
	Shire of Capel	Shire of Toodyay
	Shire of Chittering	Shire of Waroona
	Shire of Collie	Shire of York
	Shire of Dardanup	
Outer Regional		

NSW	Balranald Shire Council	Moree Plains Shire Council
	Bega Valley Shire Council	Murrumbidgee Council
	Bland Shire Council	Narrabri Shire Council
	Council of the City of Broken Hill	Narrandera Shire Council
	Forbes Shire Council	Narromine Shire Council
	Gilgandra Council	Parkes Shire Council
	Griffith City Council	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
	Gunnedah Shire Council	Temora Shire Council
	Gwydir Shire Council	Tenterfield Shire Council
	Hay Shire Council	Walcha Council
	Inverell Shire Council	Warren Shire Council
	Leeton Shire Council	Warrumbungle Shire Council
	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Weddin Shire Council
	Lockhart Shire Council	Wentworth Shire Council
NT	City of Darwin	Litchfield Council
	City of Palmerston	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory Inc
QLD	Banana Shire Council	Isaac Regional Council
	Burdekin Shire Council	Maranoa Regional Council
	Cairns Regional Council	Mareeba Shire Council
	Cassowary Coast Regional Council	North Burnett Regional Council
	Central Highlands Regional Council	Tablelands Regional Council
	Charters Towers Regional Council	Townsville City Council
	Douglas Shire Council	Western Downs Regional Council
	Goondiwindi Regional Council	Whitsunday Regional Council
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
SA	Barunga West Council	District Council of Peterborough
	Berri Barmera Council	District Council of Robe
	City of Mount Gambier	Kingston District Council
	Coorong District Council	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
	Copper Coast Council	Northern Areas Council
	Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	Port Pirie Regional Council
	Corporation of the City of Whyalla	Regional Council of Goyder
	District Council of Grant	Renmark Paringa Council
	District Council of Karoonda East Murray	Tatiara District Council
	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	The Flinders Ranges Council
	District Council of Mount Remarkable	Wattle Range Council
	District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	Yorke Peninsula Council
TAS	Break O'Day Council	George Town Council
	Burnie City Council	Huon Valley Council
	Central Coast Council	Kentish Council
	Central Highlands Council	Latrobe Council
	Circular Head Council	Southern Midlands Council
	Devonport City Council	Tasman Council
	Dorset Council	Waratah-Wynyard Council
VIC	Buloke Shire Council	Mansfield Shire Council
	East Gippsland Shire Council	Mildura Rural City Council
	Gannawarra Shire Council	Shire of Towong

	Glenelg Shire Council	Swan Hill Rural City Council
	Hindmarsh Shire Council	West Wimmera Shire Council
	Horsham Rural City Council	Yarriambiack Shire Council
	Loddon Shire Council	
WA	City of Albany	Shire of Kojonup
	City of Greater Geraldton	Shire of Manjimup
	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	Shire of Merredin
	Shire of Beverley	Shire of Mingenew
	Shire of Boyup Brook	Shire of Moora
	Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes	Shire of Nannup
	Shire of Brookton	Shire of Narrogin
	Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	Shire of Pingelly
	Shire of Chapman Valley	Shire of Plantagenet
	Shire of Coolgardie	Shire of Quairading
	Shire of Cranbrook	Shire of Tammin
	Shire of Cuballing	Shire of Victoria Plains
	Shire of Cunderdin	Shire of Wagin
	Shire of Dandaragan	Shire of Wandering
	Shire of Denmark	Shire of West Arthur
	Shire of Dowerin	Shire of Wickepin
	Shire of Goomalling	Shire of Williams
	Shire of Irwin	Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
	Shire of Katanning	Shire of Woodanilling
	Shire of Kellerberrin	Shire of Wyalkatchem
Remote		
NSW	Bogan Shire Council	Coonamble Shire Council
	Carrathool Shire Council	Lachlan Council
	Cobar Shire Council	Walgett Shire Council
NT	Alice Springs Town Council	Tiwi Islands Regional Council
	Belyuen Community Government Council	Wagait Shire Council
	Coomalie Community Government Council	West Daly Regional Council
	Katherine Town Council	
QLD	Balonne Shire Council	Mount Isa City Council
	Cloncurry Shire Council	Palm Island Aboriginal Council
	Cook Shire Council	Woorabinda Aboriginal Council
	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council	Wujal Aboriginal Council
SA	City of Port Lincoln	District Council of Tumby Bay
	District Council of Cleve	Kangaroo Island Council
	District Council of Franklin Harbour	Municipal Council of Roxby Downs
	District Council of Kimba	Southern Mallee District Council
	District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	
TAS	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	West Coast Council
WA	City of Karratha	Shire of Kulin
	Shire of Broome	Shire of Lake Grace
	Shire of Bruce Rock	Shire of Morawa
	Shire of Carnamah	Shire of Mount Marshall
	Shire of Coorow	Shire of Mukinbudin

	Shire of Corrigin	Shire of Narembeen
	Shire of Dalwallinu	Shire of Northampton
	Shire of Dumbleyung	Shire of Nungarin
	Shire of Esperance	Shire of Perenjori
	Shire of Gnowangerup	Shire of Three Springs
	Shire of Jerramungup	Shire of Trayning
	Shire of Kent	Shire of Westonia
	Shire of Kondinin	Shire of Yilgarn
	Shire of Koorda	Town of Port Hedland
Very Remote		
NSW	Bourke Shire Council	Lord Howe Island Board
	Brewarrina Shire Council	Silverton Village Committee Incorporated
	Central Darling Shire Council	Tibooburra Village Committee Incorporated
NT	Barkly Regional Council	Roper Gulf Regional Council
	Central Desert Regional Council	Victoria Daly Regional Council
	East Arnhem Regional Council	West Arnhem Regional Council
	MacDonnell Regional Council	
QLD	Aurukun Shire Council	Longreach Regional Council
	Barcaldine Regional Council	Mapoon Aboriginal Council
	Barcoo Shire Council	Mckinlay Shire Council
	Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	Mornington Shire Council
	Boulia Shire Council	Murweh Shire Council
	Bulloo Shire Council	Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council
	Burke Shire Council	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council
	Carpentaria Shire Council	Paroo Shire Council
	Croydon Shire Council	Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council
	Diamantina Shire Council	Quilpie Shire Council
	Doomadgee Aboriginal Community Council	Richmond Shire Council
	Etheridge Shire Council	Torres Shire Council
	Flinders Shire Council	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Winton Shire Council
	Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	
SA	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Inc	Maralinga Tjarutja
	District Council of Ceduna	Nipapanha Community Incorporated
	District Council of Coober Pedy	Outback Communities Authority
	District Council of Elliston	Wudinna District Council
	District Council of Streaky Bay	Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation
	Gerard Community Council Aboriginal Corporation	
TAS	Flinders Council	King Island Council
WA	Shire of Ashburton	Shire of Menzies
	Shire of Carnarvon	Shire of Mount Magnet
	Shire of Cue	Shire of Murchison
	Shire of Derby West Kimberley	Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
	Shire of Dundas	Shire of Ravensthorpe
	Shire of East Pilbara	Shire of Sandstone
	Shire of Exmouth	Shire of Shark Bay
	Shire of Halls Creek	Shire of Upper Gascoyne

	Shire of Laverton	Shire of Wiluna
	Shire of Leonora	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
	Shire of Meekatharra	Shire of Yalgoo