

Infrastructure Position Statement

Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

(3) *Local government is best placed to plan for, deliver and manage essential local infrastructure.*

Background

Local government owns \$142 billion in infrastructure assets.

Local government infrastructure responsibilities include local road and bridge networks, local water and sewerage utilities, stormwater and water management, buildings and facilities, regional airports and aerodromes, parks, recreation, cultural, family and community services facilities, and a range of other infrastructure vital to local communities.

Infrastructure comprises the assets needed to provide people with access to economic and social facilities and services. Major infrastructure is generally fixed in place has a long service life and significant whole-of-life cycle cost.

Local government also plays a key role in identifying and advocating for the provision of State Government infrastructure to meet the needs of their communities (e.g. schools, hospitals, state roads). State and Commonwealth Government growth plans and projects needs to make up front provision for the delivery of associated local infrastructure.

Our Position

Local government is best placed to plan for essential local infrastructure.

LGNSW advocates for:

- Mandatory upfront engagement by State and Commonwealth governments with local government about specific local priorities.
- Effective coordination of State and Commonwealth funding programs where co-contribution is required.
- State and Commonwealth Government growth plans and projects must make upfront provision for, and include, the delivery of associated local infrastructure.
- Increased opportunity for community use of state and federal facilities.
- Increased infrastructure funding to local government through Commonwealth and State Government revenue sharing and grant programs (e.g. Roads to Recovery, NSW block grants for regional roads, local water utilities, library grants).
- The removal of rate pegging and other constraints on council revenue to assist councils in meeting the infrastructure funding needs of their communities.
- The importance of infrastructure funding mechanisms such as Development Contributions and Voluntary Planning Agreements and the creation of other mechanisms for efficient and equitable value capture.
- The removal of the cap on development contributions.
- Equitable infrastructure funding, so that Commonwealth and State assistance is directed to areas of greatest need.
- Fairer funding of infrastructure provided through long established partnerships between the Federal, NSW and local governments for shared infrastructure and service responsibilities.

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