

Finance Position Statement

Policy Principles

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

- (1) Local government must have control of its revenue raising and investment decisions and be fairly funded by the Commonwealth and State/NSW Governments to meet its infrastructure and service responsibilities.*

Our Position

LGNSW advocates for:

- The removal of rate pegging and reform of NSW local government rating system, including the removal of inequitable rate exemptions.
- FAGs to be increased to at least 1% of total Commonwealth taxation revenue.
- Increased specific purpose grants from State and Commonwealth Governments to assist councils in meeting the infrastructure and service needs of their communities (e.g. R2R, Library grants etc.).
- An end to cost shifting onto local government by the State and Commonwealth Governments which currently exceeds \$670 million p.a.
- New and fairer financing opportunities for local government, with particular emphasis on infrastructure e.g. value capture, Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs) and fees and charges.
- The introduction of a broad based property levy to replace both the Emergency Services Levy on insurance policies and the 11.7% Emergency Services Levy on local government (approx. \$147 million in 2016/17).
- All councils to have access to TCorp loan facilities, subject to satisfying TCorp credit criteria.

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