

NOTICE OF MOTION

SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR: Councillor Mark Jamieson

COUNCIL MEETING: 15 October 2015

I hereby notify of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting to take place on Thursday, 15 October 2015:

That Council –

- a) Acknowledges the importance of funding from the Federal Government to this Council (and all Councils across Australia) through the Financial Assistance Grants, which assist with the provision of important infrastructure and services to our communities;
- b) Acknowledges it will receive \$10,312,470 in 2015-16 under the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants (including the Identified Road Component);
- c) Notes that in the 2014 Federal Budget, the Commonwealth Government took the decision to pause the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants from 1 July 2014 for three financial years; and
- d) Fully supports the Australian Local Government Association in its campaign to encourage the Federal Government to restore the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants as a matter of priority.


.....
Councillor

02-10-2015 .
.....
Date

To all Councillors and Directors

I hereby notify that Councillor M Jamieson intends to move the motion as shown above at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on 15 October 2015.


.....
Chief Executive Officer

8/10/15
.....
Date

COUNCILLOR COMMENT

Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) are a vital part of the revenue base of all Councils, and this year councils across Australia will receive over \$2.3 billion from the Australian Government under this important program.

This Council welcomes the funding it receives from the Commonwealth through the FAG's and acknowledges the important funding link this creates between the Federal Government and this Council.

The Federal Government's decision in the 2014 Federal Budget to pause the indexation of FAGs for three years beginning in 2014-15 will – according to the Federal Government's own budget papers - cost councils across Australia an estimated \$925 million by 2017-18, leading to a permanent reduction of around 13% to the grants into the future.

FAGs funding is not currently keeping pace with the cost and demand for services and infrastructure in local communities. In an environment where considerable responsibility for service provision resides with councils, there is greater pressure on councils such as own to provide an increasingly wide range of services and facilities to meet the needs of our community. This all comes at a cost and the pause that has been applied to the FAG's only increases the impost on the budgets of councils across Australia.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and State Local Government Associations are campaigning to encourage the Federal Government to reverse the decision to pause the indexation of the FAGs.

I believe that it is important for our Council to lend its support for this campaign, not only in the context of our own interests but also to support the interests of our fellow councils across Queensland and Australia.