

## Australian Local Government Association – 2017 National General Assembly

Theme: Building Tomorrow's Communities

### Motion:

Sample motion: *That this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to restore indexation to local government financial assistance grants.*

***That this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to provide support to local governments to undertake a range of coastal community protection projects consistent with developed current regional erosion management projects and future coastal hazard adaptation strategy (CHAS) action plans, through the provision of funding avenues for design/ planning assistance and on ground action, while also supporting approvals and other regulatory relaxations (both at a federal and state level)***

Sub-themes (select all applicable):

- Governance – community driven planning and development**  
 (Question for consideration eg, what support do you need from the Commonwealth to improve the governance arrangements in your community?)
- Innovation – identifying and harnessing the key pillars of growth**  
 (Question for consideration eg, what support do you need from the Commonwealth to improve innovation within your community?)
- Liveability – maximising amenity, design and community cohesion**  
 (Question for consideration eg, what support do you need from the Commonwealth to enhance the liveability of your community?)
- Data driven public policy – using high quality data to grow the evidence base**  
 (Question for consideration eg, what support do you need from the Commonwealth to tap into big data and data analytics to provide greater insights into your community and to enhance decision making?)
- Social capital – improving the capacity of citizens and optimising workforce trends**  
 (Question for consideration eg, what support do you need from the Commonwealth to strengthen the social capital in your community?)
- Technology & infrastructure – identifying and investing in tomorrow's foundations**  
 (Question for consideration eg, what support do you need from the Commonwealth to allow your community to benefit from the smart cities agenda?)

**Background:**

Local governments generally are considered by State Governments as having responsibility for beach management, and commonly undertake works to protect beaches and community infrastructure from coastal erosion, despite the fact that the land tenure of beaches are those of state land reservations. Shoreline erosion (both now and into the future based on a range of climate scenarios) is an ongoing threat to many coastal communities, and it is important for coastal councils to plan and respond to this threat in the most effective and cost-efficient way.

Many states require local governments to develop coastal risk management planning documentation and investment plans for their particular areas. For example in Queensland, local governments are encouraged to develop and implement Shoreline Erosion Management Plans (SEMP's). While these plans are non-statutory they do require local governments to proactively plan for erosion management, investigate and address the underlying causes, determine cost effective management strategies and consider the community needs as part of this plan development.

The coastal management activities can include (but is not limited to) such aspects as modelling of coastal protection structures, design and approvals through complex state and federal legislative approval processes and significant construction investment such as large scale sand nourishment/ dredging works and groyne fields/ seawall construction.

The works described certainly would not be seen as a traditional local government function and requires substantial financially resources to be borne by the individual local government area ratepayers.

**National Objective:**

The National Objective would be for the Federal Government to provide support to local governments through the provision of funding avenues for design/ planning assistance and on ground action while also supporting approvals and other regulatory relaxations (both at a federal and state level) to undertake a range of coastal community protection projects consistent with developed current regional erosion management projects and future coastal hazard adaptation strategy action plans.

This funding revenue could either subsidise or fully fund any design planning/ modelling activities and associated construction works (triggered based or otherwise) identified in any regional coastal hazard planning documentation e.g. in Queensland SEMP's or CHAS.

The federal and state regulatory relaxation could include:

- Making the range of works associated with coastal protection identified in any regional coastal hazard planning documentation e.g. in Queensland SEMP's or CHAS as 'as of right' development for local governments and therefore only require for the projects to be submitted through a reduced formal approval process (e.g. self-assessable code)
- Remove all fees associated with development approval applications where the actions or activities are again identified in any regional coastal hazard planning documentation e.g. in Queensland SEMP's or CHAS.

Governance of the activities can be assured through the current individual state legislative requirements for local governments to develop coastal risk management planning documentation

and investment plans for their particular areas and built in aspects of self-assessable codes e.g. notification timeframes/ solutions based codes.

As an example in Queensland the local authority may request that a SEMP be endorsed by the Minister to facilitate its application in the assessment of development applications lodged as part of the approval for works process.

**Summary of arguments:**

Coastal local governments are bearing the brunt of significant costs associated with the design planning/ modelling activities and associated construction works (triggered based or otherwise) identified in any local area regional coastal hazard planning documentation (both current coastal erosion issues and future projects).

Many of the projects associated with these works are primarily for the protection of community infrastructure and in some cases state owned managed areas. The works described certainly would not be seen as a traditional local government function and requires substantial financially resources to be borne by the individual LG area ratepayers.

It is requested that representation be made to the Federal Government to provide support to local governments through the provision of funding avenues for design/ planning assistance and on ground action while also supporting approvals and other regulatory relaxations (both at a federal and state level) to undertake a range of coastal community protection projects consistent with developed current regional erosion management projects and future coastal hazard adaptation strategy action plans.