

Leanne, Can We act please

*Copy given to
Leanne*



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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*E30.2
WM(A)*

28 July 2011

Mayor Sullivan
Oberon Council
PO Box 84
OBERON NSW 2787

Dear Mayor Sullivan

Roads to Recovery Program

We achieved the Roads to Recovery Program because of strong and united local government campaigning in 2000. Further campaigns by local government have been very successful with two extensions to the Program and a funding increase to \$350m per annum in 2009. By the time the current Program ends in 2014 more than \$4.5 billion in additional funding will have been provided for local roads.

It is now time for local government to again mount a campaign for increased and ongoing Roads to Recovery Program funding. There is no question that local government needs the funding. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) commissioned research, released at the 2010 National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Bunbury, which shows that the national shortfall in the level of funding for local roads amounts to about \$1.2 billion annually.

ALGA will be launching local government's Roads to Recovery campaign at the 2011 National Local Roads and Transport Congress being held in Mount Gambier from 16-18 November.

Our campaign needs the support of every council and in advance of the launch I am asking your council to pass a resolution of support. A suggested text for your council's motion is attached.

The motion calls for the Roads to Recovery Program to be made permanent at a rate that recognises the backlog of needs on local roads and a continuation of the current popular and successful arrangements. These arrangements provide all councils with certainty of funding and give them the control over the works to be funded.

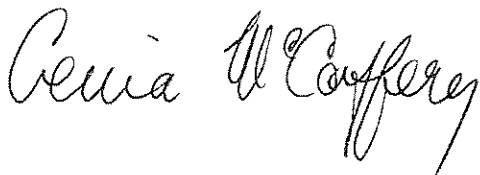
You will notice that the motion does not link the ongoing Roads to Recovery Program to any source of funding such as fuel excise. I have discussed the suggested wording for the motion with all state associations and we have agreed not to link the campaign to a funding source at this time because of uncertainty arising from the announcements to review fuel excise by the Productivity Commission, the review of the Financial Assistance Grants and the Henry Taxation Review recommendations on road user charging. You may be assured that ALGA will be making the strongest possible representations to these reviews to protect and improve local government's financial position.

As part of our campaign, it is important to ensure that national political leaders are left in no doubt about local government views. I am therefore asking that you write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Opposition spokesperson for Transport and your local Federal Member of Parliament to advise them of councils' support for a new Roads to Recovery Program. I have enclosed some possible text for such letters which you might find useful. To help coordinate the campaign, I would appreciate your advice when council has passed this motion.

Our advocacy on this vital issue will be strengthened by a show of unity and it is important that as many councils as possible attend the Congress in Mount Gambier for the launch of the Roads to Recovery campaign to show local government's strong support for its extension. I will be writing separately with a brochure on the arrangements for the Congress. In the meantime you can register for the Congress using the ALGA website and take advantage of cheap "early bird" registrations rates.

I have no doubt that by working together we can successfully take the argument to the Federal Government on Federal local road funding and achieve a new Roads to Recovery program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Genia McCaffery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Mayor Genia McCaffery
President

**TEXT OF POSSIBLE COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE ROADS TO
RECOVERY PROGRAM**

[insert name of council] calls on the Federal Government to:

- **recognise the successful delivery of the Roads to Recovery Program by local government since 2000;**
- **continue the Roads to Recovery Program on a permanent basis to assist local government meet its responsibilities of providing access for its communities;**
- **continue the Roads to Recovery Program with the current administrative arrangements; and**
- **provide an increased level of funding under a future Roads to Recovery Program that recognises the shortfall of funding on local roads of \$1.2 billion annually.**

DRAFT LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND OPPOSITION TRANSPORT SPOKESMAN

XXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXX

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

[Insert date]

Dear XXXXXX

Roads to Recovery Program

I am writing to advise you of a resolution recently passed by Council concerning the Roads to Recovery Program which ceases in June 2014. This is an important and popular Federal program that provides funding directly to local government to address the road infrastructure backlog on local roads and has been very gratefully received by local government and local communities..

Local government's analysis shows that the backlog of needs on local roads remains high and is now about \$1.2 billion annually. The size of this backlog means that there is no possibility of local government being able to address the roads needs with their limited funding base.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. Without out the Roads to Recovery funding access to the basic services such as health, education and economic and social needs will begin to decline for communities.

Council considered and passed the following resolution on [insert date]:

[insert name of council] calls on the Federal Government to:

- **recognise the successful delivery of the Roads to Recovery Program by local government since 2000;**
- **continue the Roads to Recovery Program on a permanent basis to assist local government meet its responsibilities of providing access for its communities;**
- **continue the Roads to Recovery Program with the current administrative arrangements; and**
- **provide an increased level of funding under a future Roads to Recovery Program that recognises the shortfall of funding on local roads of \$1.2 billion annually.**

Council urges you to consider this resolution as the (*government/opposition*) develops its future transport infrastructure funding programs.

Yours sincerely

Mayor

DRAFT LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL MP
Mr/Ms X, MP
Member for
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

[Insert date]

Dear Mr/Ms X

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- **continue the Roads to Recovery Program with the current administrative arrangements; and**
- **provide an increased level of funding under a future Roads to Recovery Program that recognises the shortfall of funding on local roads of \$1.2 billion annually.**

Council urges you to bring this resolution to the attention of government ministers and shadow ministers whenever the opportunity arises.

Yours sincerely

Mayor