



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Local Govt should unite to get better funding deal

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is urging Australia's 450 Local Government Councils to unite to get a better funding deal from Government and for constitutional recognition of Local Government.

"I have been meeting with Councils around the electorate of New England in recent weeks discussing their concerns.

Two of their major shared issues have been adequate funding for and constitutional recognition of Local Government.

Local Government has been asked to deliver more and more services by Federal and State Governments with less and less funding available to them to do so," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that there has been major cost shifting onto Local Government over the last 15 years or so and there needs to be better recognition of this by both the Federal and State Governments.

"The Mayors of the 450 Local Government instrumentalities across Australia need to unite, sign a common charter of arrangement and put that before the Federal Government and Opposition to get better recognition and funding for Local Government.

Whether that money is a percentage of income tax or GST or just greater allocation of Federal Assistance Grants, Local Government needs and deserves the extra funding to be able to deliver what Federal and State Governments are requiring them to deliver on top of what rate payers expect from them.

If Local Government can unite on this issue and really drive the need, I have no doubt that they will achieve the outcome they desire," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor will be writing to all Mayors in Australia as he did on the Roads to Recovery Program, urging them to become active and united on this issue.

"We have seen the positive result of active advocacy by Local Government on the continuation and enhancement of the Roads to Recovery Program.

The same positive result could be achieved on constitutional recognition and better funding of Local Government if Mayors and their Councils take the same active positive approach," Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868