CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

1. 1251056 *
   Andrew Powell MP - Shadow Minister For The Environment
   Applications Open - Illegal Dumping Surveillance Camera Grant Program - Andrew Powell MP - Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection.

2. 1251057 *
   Campbell Newman - Premier Of Queensland
   Queensland Week Initiative - Paint the Town Maroon - 1-9 June 2013 - Premier of Queensland.

3. 1251116 *
   Local Government Association Of Qld Ltd (LGAQ)

4. 1251238 *
   Australian Local Government Association - Alga

5. 1256448 *
   Hon David Crisafulli Mp - Minister For Local Government
   Installation of Signage - Commencement of Local Laws Compliance - Issues with Long Term Camping - Hon David Crisafulli MP.

6. 1256449 *
   Hon David Crisafulli Mp - Minister For Local Government
   Advice regarding Request for Financial Support - Drainage Works and Swimming Pool Upgrades - Hon David Crisafulli MP.

7. 1256684 *
   Local Government Association Of Qld Ltd (LGAQ)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Document ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
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Dear Councillor Lowis

I am writing to inform you of the release of the Illegal Dumping Surveillance Camera Grant Program (IDSCGP).

Illegal dumping costs Queensland and local governments millions of dollars in clean-up every year and creates an unsightly hazard in our local environments. This is why the Queensland Government has established the Litter and Illegal Dumping Unit (LIDU) in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Through LIDU, the government is committed to working in partnership with local governments and communities to catch offenders, clean up the environment and change behaviours. This new program complements the existing Everyone’s Environment grants program which offers funding to community groups to clean up and restore local environments.

The program has been designed specifically to provide local governments with quality portable surveillance equipment aimed at combating illegal dumping activities within council boundaries.

The department is now seeking applications for this equipment. Applications can be made online through the department’s website at <www.ehp.qld.gov.au> and I urge your council to take the opportunity to apply.

Later this year, LIDU will be releasing a Litter and Illegal Dumping Handbook aimed at supporting local governments with information about compliance, community education and behavioural change strategies. In addition, the first of a series of training events for local government investigation and compliance officers will be convened in June 2013.

Should you have further enquiries, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Troy Collings on 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely,

ANDREW POWELL MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
10 May 2013

Councillor Bill Lowis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Councillor Lowis

Communities around the State will soon come together to mark the State’s official separation from New South Wales by celebrating Queensland Week, 1–9 June 2013.

I encourage all Queenslanders to join the party and we will again support local event organisers to connect with their communities and share the spirit of this great state.

Our online Queensland Week events calendar is an opportunity to promote your activities and a series of Queensland Week support materials will also be available for all registered events. Visit the Queensland Week website at www.queenslandweek.qld.gov.au for information on how to register.

As part of the celebrations, key buildings and infrastructure across the State will be lit maroon for Queensland Day (6 June) or for the duration of Queensland Week (1–9 June). I invite you to take part in this Queensland Week initiative and ‘paint the town maroon’ by lighting available local landmarks in the state colour.

Ms Sarina Singh from Events Coordination within my department will be in further contact with you regarding your participation in the ‘paint the town maroon’ initiative. Should you have any questions regarding the 2013 Queensland Week program or the online events calendar, please contact Ms Singh on telephone (07) 3224 6817 or by email at sarina.singh@premiers.qld.gov.au.

I wish you all the best with planning your 2013 Queensland Week celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

CAMPBELL NEWMAN
10 May 2013

Cr Bill Lowis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Cr Lowis,

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION CAMPAIGN

I am writing to you at the earliest opportunity since the official commencement in Brisbane of what will be an historic 18 week 'Yes Campaign' to achieve recognition for local government in the Australian Constitution. As you would be aware the Prime Minister and Minister for Local Government and Regional Development announced in Brisbane on 8 May that a referendum will be held in conjunction with the Federal election on 14 September this year.

The purpose of my letter is to inform you of key elements of the campaign strategy and structure and to specifically elicit your support on a small number of key actions.

Before I do those two things, I believe it is important that I personally frame the proposition for you. Colleagues, this time it is different. After two previous failed attempts in 1974 and 1988 there are three compelling reasons as to why the 2013 referendum should succeed. Firstly, the question enjoys bi-partisan political support from the national leaders of the ALP, Coalition and Greens, notwithstanding some pockets of resistance within Coalition ranks. Secondly, there is a compelling reason for Australians to support the proposition this time around - uncertainty regarding the legal validity of direct payments from Canberra to councils arising out of the Pape and Williams High Court cases. Finally, Local Government has its act together - we are unified around the question, very well organised and will wage a $20m campaign - unprecedented in Australian non-party political history.

Be very clear - we aim to win. Putting up a good fight is not an acceptable outcome and Queensland will lead the way with the highest 'Yes' vote in the country. Banana Benders will have to carry their numbers into the national tally to ensure the two constitutional tests are met i.e. by a majority of voters nationally and a majority of states (and territories). All previous polling conducted by ALGA and other entities shows Queensland already has the highest YES vote in the country. Our aim is to maintain and build on that level of support.

The Campaign Strategy and Structure

This will be a tightly controlled, very well-funded and ruthlessly executed campaign. As an entire sphere of government we need to be on message all of the time right throughout the 18 week campaign. To that end, there will be a National Campaign Director (soon to be appointed) and a National Campaign Committee comprised of two ALGA representatives, the Campaign Director, Polister, and Creative (advertising) Director and possibly one or two at most other technical advisors. That arrangement will be mirrored in each state and territory. The LGAQs full time State Campaign Director is our Media Executive Craig Johnstone. He will be supported by Astra Dadzis a very experienced political journalist who has worked specifically with the LGAQ for the past 18 months on our prepositioning campaign, and by a State Wide 'Yes Campaign' logistics Co-ordinator.
You our Member Councils have already contributed $2million to the effort. A million dollars in two previous $500,000 tranches (in 2010/11 and 2011/12) for our own Queensland - specific prepositioning campaign and another million dollars in the current 2012-13 financial year with a further million dollars to be raised by way of special levy in the 2013-14 LGAQ subscription. All up LGAQ will contribute $2.1million to ALGA for the national campaign, the bulk of which will be spent here in our home state.

My request of you

1. It is vitally important that you, the Mayor, as your community’s first citizen is actively involved in promoting the ‘Yes Case’ in the media and in all of your community engagements and interactions. As often said “all politics is local” and your contribution and efforts will be every bit as important to the ‘Yes Campaign’ as state or national contributions by various advocates.

2. Second, it is critical that as far as it is possible you as Mayor exercise a level of discipline and control over all statements by Council and councillors with respect to public statements on any aspect of the conduct of this ‘Yes Campaign’. Unfortunately, any factually incorrect or misguided statements will be seized upon by the media and opponents of the ‘Yes Campaign’ and magnified in the media, so your assistance in that regard will be greatly appreciated.

3. I am asking your Council to appoint a dedicated officer as your direct contact for all ‘Yes Case’ matters and to advise Mr Craig Johnstone, LGAQ Media Executive and stated ‘Yes Campaign’ Director (craig.johnstone@lgaq.asn.au) of their name and contact details.

Colleagues, LGAQ will leave no stone unturned to achieve our sphere of government’s cherished and now legally necessary goal of Constitutional Recognition for Local Government.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0418750747, CEO Greg Hallam or Craig Johnstone on 0487007870 at any time should you require advice or assistance regarding the ‘Yes Campaign’.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Cr Margaret de Wit
PRESIDENT

cc: Council CEO
To the Mayor, councillors and CEO

**Prime Minister announces local government referendum**

Today the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced the Government's intention to proceed with a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution in conjunction with the September 14 Federal Election. The Prime Minister's announcement fulfils the promise made in the 2010 agreement between the Gillard Government, the Greens and independents on forming government, to hold a referendum on the recognition of local government by the end of 2013.

This is an important decision for communities to ensure that they continue to receive the services and infrastructure they need. It will ensure greater funding security for the 150 services that local government delivers to its communities.

Two recent High Court decisions - the *Pape Case* in 2009 and the *Williams Case* in 2012 - challenged the Commonwealth's ability to fund activities which it believes are in the national interest and rejected the Commonwealth's position that it has very broad spending powers across many areas. This has important ramifications for local government programs like the Roads to Recovery program, which may now be vulnerable to further challenge in the High Court. If challenged, the Roads to Recovery program is likely to be found to be unconstitutional, and this could potentially have devastating consequences for the sustainability of councils and communities across the nation.

Passing the referendum to allow the Commonwealth Government to provide funds directory to local councils for their communities will remove the legal uncertainty about the Roads to Recovery program and ensure that this program and other programs where the Commonwealth provides funding directly to local government will be able to continue. It will enshrine in the Constitution the ability of the Commonwealth Government to provide funding directly to communities where it believes this is in the national interest, and formalise programs such as Roads to Recovery, which have been directly funded for over a decade.
The Government has agreed that financial recognition is the most appropriate form of recognition and the one most likely to receive bipartisan and community support.

ALGA has advocated tirelessly on behalf of local government to progress the recognition of local government. The establishment of the Expert Panel in 2011 and the Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee in 2012 were identified by ALGA many years ago as necessary mechanisms to gain bipartisan support and to identify the best way to proceed on constitutional recognition. Both the Expert Panel and the Joint Select Committee recommended that a referendum should be held in 2013, and the Government has accepted their advice and conclusions.

Behind the scenes, ALGA and local government state and territory associations have laid the groundwork for the campaign, to be ready as soon as the referendum was announced. This has included a comprehensive campaign structure at national and state level which will be rolled out nationally. You may have noticed that ALGA has already advertised for a National Campaign Director in all major newspapers, in anticipation of the Government’s announcement. Over the coming weeks information to support councils in their individual campaigns at the local level will be collated and distributed. In the meantime the Fact Sheets distributed to councils in 2010, including a brochure which can be adapted by councils to reinforce the importance of continued funding to provide vital services to their communities, and the Case for Change distributed in 2012, are documents which can be used immediately to raise awareness in the community and in local media. These documents are also available on ALGA’s website. Further materials will be prepared during the campaign and councils are urged to read ALGA News (at http://alga.asn.au/ and clicking on the "media" tab) which will give updates of campaign activities and messages on a weekly basis, every Friday. Information will also be posted to our dedicated constitutional recognition website at http://www.councilreferendum.com.au/.

Some points you can raise when speaking about the referendum are:

- This referendum is important for our communities to ensure that they can continue to receive the level of services and infrastructure they need.

- The Roads to Recovery program has been extremely important for our community (give example of a road/s funded by the program and the amount of funding received for this project through R2R).

- Community infrastructure programs directly funded by the Commonwealth have enabled our communities to benefit from (give examples of upgrades to pools, libraries, sporting complexes etc. in your community and the value of these facilities).
- Bipartisan support has been shown in the past to be essential for the success of referendums, and council urges (give the names of your local member/members) to support this referendum.

- This referendum is about communities - it will not change the relationships between councils and state governments. It will simply formalise Commonwealth funding direct to communities which has been occurring for decades, but which has always been open to legal challenge. This referendum will put an end to this legal uncertainty.

In addition, ALGA has prepared a general set of points on the referendum and I have attached a copy of these for your further reference.

To run an effective campaign requires adequate funding and the most important thing that councils can do straight away is to provide the funding sought by their state association.

We need to put all our combined resources into making this referendum a success. I will continue to keep you updated on progress and the state and territory associations will be implementing their campaigns at state level.

Yours sincerely

Felicity-ann Lewis
President

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<th>AGENDA</th>
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<td>28/5/13</td>
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</table>
SPEAKING POINTS FOR REFERENDUM ANNOUNCEMENT

- It is an important referendum because it will help maintain vital infrastructure and services to local communities.

- The referendum is about confirming the Federal Government’s ability to provide funding to local government directly – something governments from both sides of politics have been doing for more than ten years.

- The referendum is supported by the Federal Government, the Federal Opposition, the Greens and the Independents.

- The referendum seeks to continue what we already thought was the case – that the Federal Government should be able to provide funding for vital local community services and infrastructure directly through councils.

- The change being proposed is a simple pragmatic change to address a problem which has arisen over the last few years.

- It won’t change the status of local government, or its powers, or its relationship with the state government. It will however, remove the legal uncertainty about the Federal Government’s ability to fund local communities directly through their councils; uncertainty created by two High Court cases – the Pape Case and the Williams Case - in the last couple of years.

- The Federal Government has been funding vital community services and infrastructure through programs like Roads to Recovery and the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program for more than a decade. Billions of dollars have been invested in tens of thousands of local community projects covering roads, footpaths and bridges, community halls, ovals, childcare centres, swimming pools, etc. Local communities deserve that support and this is what the referendum is all about.

- The referendum will formalise what has already been happening for more than ten years. To those who suggest there will be unforeseen consequences, well there have not been any over the past ten years.

- Councils will still remain the responsibility of the State governments. The proposed change to the Constitution makes this quite clear. The States will still be able to amalgamate councils, de-amalgamate councils, change council boundaries and dismiss non-performing councils.
• This referendum is different from previous referendums on local government. It is not about the status of local government. It is about fixing a problem and removing uncertainty about the funding of vital local community services and infrastructure.

• Direct Federal funding is important because the Federal Government collects more than 80% of all tax revenue in Australia. This was not the case when the Constitution was written. We need a relatively small change to the Constitution to take account of today's circumstances. The local services and infrastructure we are talking about cannot be funded by the State Governments because they don't have the revenue. That is why the Federal Government had to introduce direct funding of councils to begin with.
13 MAY 2013

Our ref: WR13/4121

Councillor Bill Lowis  
Mayor  
Burdekin Shire Council  
PO Box 974  
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Councillor Lowis

I refer to a meeting between representatives of the Wunjunga Progress Association Incorporated and myself at the Burdekin Community Cabinet meeting on 21 April 2013, to discuss issues associated with long term camping at Funny Dunny Park.

The Progress Association expressed their concern for the lack of local law enforcement at Funny Dunny Park, with some campers staying up to 8 months.

I am advised Council have resolved to amend its Subordinate Local Law No. 4 to allow stays of up to 4 days in any 14 day period, and Council is currently developing signage stating the prescribed length of stays and penalties for non-conformance. I acknowledge that Council is unable to commence local law enforcement until the appropriate signage is installed.

I agree that local issues such as these should be dealt with at a local government level. However, I have advised the Progress Association that I will encourage Council to expedite the installation of the relevant signage to allow local laws compliance to commence, particularly with the impending tourist season and probable influx of campers during this time.

I am grateful for Council’s cooperation on this matter.
If you require any further information, please contact Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Northern Region, Department of Local Government Community Recovery and Resilience, on 4799 7195, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience
13 MAY 2013

Our ref: OUT13/1899

Councillor Bill Lowis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Councillor Lowis,

Thank you for meeting with me at the Burdekin Community Cabinet meeting on 21 April 2013 to discuss financial support for drainage works and swimming pool upgrades in the Burdekin Shire.

As discussed in our meeting, Council should consider seeking financial support through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program (LGGSP). This funding program provides funding for eligible councils to deliver important community infrastructure. In the 2012–13 LGGSP funding round, I approved total funding of $12.5 million to 43 councils to undertake 66 projects under the Infrastructure component of the LGGSP.

The Department’s Northern Regional Office will ensure Council is advised of future LGGSP or other program funding opportunities as they become available and is happy to assist Council with the development of its funding applications.

If you require any further information, please contact Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Northern Region, on 4799 7195, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely,

David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience
The Australian Government's 2013-14 Budget has delivered several new funding initiatives for local government.

President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis has welcomed the plan outlined by Treasurer Wayne Swan tonight to return Australia to a Budget surplus over the coming years.

"This plan offers opportunities over the coming years to invest in areas vital for our future growth and to build stronger communities," Mayor Lewis said.

"Funding such as $40 million in additional assistance to rebuild flood-damaged communities and $12.9 million in support to enable councils to connect to the NBN have been positively received.

"Local government especially welcomes the Budget's allocation of $44.1 million for municipal and essential services in Indigenous communities.

"We also welcome funding of $9.1 million over four years to create a 'one-stop shop' for grants advertising and reporting and $9.9 million over two years to upgrade remote community landing strips."

ALGA's Budget Submission noted that this was always going to be a difficult Budget. In order to address the continued revenue write-downs generated from weaker resource prices and the continued high value of the Australian dollar, there has been the need for some difficult choices.

Local government understands better than most the pressures of delivering services with tight resources. However, as our Submission stressed, times of financial restraint do not negate the need to invest in vital services, programs and infrastructure. Nor do the circumstances that call for that investment change to suit the financial situation.
Mayor Lewis welcomed the Government's decision to again bring forward the first two quarterly payments of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) of the 2013-14 financial year, worth $1.3 billion into 2012-13.

FAGs funding assists councils to deliver vital local services and infrastructure and councils are receiving a total of $2.2 billion under this program in 2012-13.

ALGA Media enquiries:
Megan Magill, Director Public Affairs, Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 0418 415 649.
10 May 2013

Cr Bill Lowis
Mayor
Burdekin Shire Council
PO Box 974
AYR QLD 4807

Dear Cr Lowis

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P 07 3000 2222
F 07 3252 4473
W www.lgaq.asn.au

Local Government House
25 Evelyn Street
Newshead Qld 4006

PO Box 2230
Fortitude Valley BC
Qld 4006

Local Government Association Of Queensland Ltd.
ABN 11 010 883 293 ACN 142 783 917
You our Member Councils have already contributed $2million to the effort. A million dollars in two previous $500,000 tranches (in 2010/11 and 2011/12) for our own Queensland specific prepositioning campaign and another million dollars in the current 2012-13 financial year with a further million dollars to be raised by way of special levy in the 2013-14 LGAQ subscription. All up LGAQ will contribute $2.1million to ALGA for the national campaign, the bulk of which will be spent here in our home state.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0418750747, CEO Greg Hallam or Craig Johnstone on 0487007870 at any time should you require advice or assistance regarding the 'Yes Campaign'.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Hallam PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: Council CEO and ROC CEOs
The Budget continues Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery funding with a decision to pay the first two installments of 2013-14 in 2012-13. Other funding is available to support the continuation of rebuilding of community infrastructure in a number of disaster affected council areas.

**Financial Assistance Grants** - two quarters of the 2013-14 FAGs will be paid in June 2013 and will provide earlier than expected funding for priority works. For Queensland councils this is estimated to bring forward $223.9M of grant payments from 2013-14. A modest increase in FAG grant funding is projected over the period to 2016-17 based on population and Consumer Price Index forecasts which are currently used by the Commonwealth to review grants.

Financial Assistance Grants to local government by jurisdiction 2013-14

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<th>Grants</th>
<th>NSW</th>
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**Road funding** to Queensland councils is expected to total $144.8M in 2013-14, comprised of Roads to Recovery ($66.8M), untied local roads grants ($65.5M to be included with Financial Assistance Grant payments) and ‘Black Spot’ safety improvement projects ($12.5M). Further allocations available to Queensland include:

- Heavy vehicle safety and productivity initiatives ($3.6M);
- **National Partnership on the Nation Building Program — investment** - $677.8M to fund nationally significant projects to improve the efficiency and safety of the national land transport network and a further $4.2M for off-network projects designed to improve rail and road infrastructure not included on the national network.
Local roads funding - 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Roads to Recovery $m</th>
<th>Identified local roads grants $m</th>
<th>Black Spots $m</th>
<th>Additional SA funds $m</th>
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<td>64.5</td>
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Specific transport projects to receive 2013-14 Commonwealth Budget funding include:

- Brisbane Cross River Rail - 9.8 kilometres of new underground tunnel from Yeerongpilly Station to Victoria Park with four underground stations $715M (inc $100M 2012-13);
- Gateway Upgrade North between Nudgee Road and Barrett St northbound, and Depot Road southbound including widening from four to six lanes $718M (conditional on no new tolls being imposed);
- Ipswich Motorway widening between Rocklea to Darra from two to three lanes in both directions; upgrade the northern service road across Oxley Creek and introduce smarter motorway treatments for the entire section $279M;
- Bruce Highway works package to improve safety and productivity as well as reduce travel times and improve flood immunity $4.1b over ten years;
- Warrego Highway Upgrades between Toowoomba and Miles to improve safety, capacity and regeneration of various sections on the Warrego Highway $317.5M;
- Construction of a new interchange at Mains and Kessels Road in Macgregor $280M;
- Flattening and straightening the Bruce Highway over the Cardwell Range $128.5M;
- Duplication of the Bruce Highway between Temples Lane and Boundary Road on the southern approach to Mackay $50M;
- Straightening and raising the Bruce Highway between Sandy Corner and Collinsons Lagoon $50M;
• Straightening the Bruce Highway south of Gin Gin and upgrading the intersection with the Bundaberg-Gin Gin Road $20M;
• Construction of a new higher bridge over the Yeppen Lagoon and the upgrade of the roundabout at the intersection of the Bruce and Capricorn highways south of Rockhampton $68M;
• Construction of a new interchange at the intersection between the Bruce and Dawson Highways, the Calliope Crossroads near Gladstone $150M;
• Realigning and widening the Bruce Highway through Cairns’ southern suburbs between Ray Jones Drive and Sheehy Road $150M;
• Upgrading the Burdekin River Bridge on the Bruce Highway including structural repair work $25M;
• Strengthening and widening the Warrego Highway between Roma and Mitchell including the construction of a new higher bridge over the Maranoa River at Mitchell $44.1M;
• Construction of three new overtaking lanes along the Warrego Highway between Oakey and Dalby $10M;
• Duplication of the Bruce Highway between the Cooroy South interchange and Sankeys Road (also known as Section A) $395M;
• Duplication of the Bruce Highway between Vantassel Street and Cluden, south of Townsville $110M;
• Construction of a new interchange to replace the existing intersections between Roys Road and Bells Creek Road, as well as upgrading the Boundary Road interchange part of a $195M package;
• Construction of the final section of the Townsville Ring Road between Shaw Road and Mount Low $160M.

Other transport initiatives include the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program which will provide $9.9M nationally over the next two years to upgrade airstrips and applications on a co-funding basis will open soon.

Flood and other disaster recovery funding of $62.3M is allocated over the four years to 2016-17 toward the 2013 Queensland Floods Support Package, including $57.2 million exceptional circumstances NDRRA funding. This includes assistance for clean up efforts and recovery, and support for businesses, primary producers, and local councils. A further $40 million is available under a ‘betterment’ fund to help rebuild local council assets to a more disaster resilient standard. This will include funding for waterways in affected communities.
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**Water** funding for six specific urban water management projects and 18 projects, across 17 remote communities, under the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns. These projects will assist implementation of the COAG Strategy for Water and Wastewater in Remote (including Indigenous) Communities. Further funding under the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program to improve the efficiency and productivity of rural water management and usage, delivering substantial and lasting water returns to the environment and helping secure a long-term sustainable future for irrigated agriculture.

**Regional Development** support is provided through a national commitment of almost $1 billion through the Regional Development Australia Fund to finance infrastructure projects that address the specific economic and community needs of our regions. Projects funded through this initiative include the Torres Strait Coastal Protection Works.

In 2013-14 the Commonwealth is providing funding of $15M as part of a forward allocation of $42M for the construction of the Townsville Convention and Entertainment Centre to deliver on a commitment made as part of the 2010 election.

Regional Infrastructure Fund - Stream 3 provides funding for the Regional Development Australia Fund which is made direct to eligible local governments and not-for-profit organisations for local projects identified by Regional Development Australia Committees.

The Commonwealth is providing funding to help improve the planning and design of capital cities and major regional centres that are experiencing population growth pressures and housing and transport affordability cost pressures. The Building Better Regional Cities program is a commitment by the Commonwealth to invest in local housing infrastructure projects that is helping build more affordable homes in high growth regional cities.

**Employment initiatives** funding of $15.7 million to continue the *Priority Employment Area Initiative* for one year to 30 June 2014, including funding to engage local employment coordinators in 20 vulnerable labour markets to drive local solutions to unemployment.

The Government has also announced a national allocation of $12.9 million over three years as part of a package to trial flexible child care arrangements and establish a *Child Care Accessibility Fund* for eligible local governments to ease critical child care shortages in their communities.

**Indigenous communities** support provided through funding of $26.3M over two calendar years to continue welfare reform initiatives in the Cape York communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge until 31 December 2015. The initiatives will continue to focus on restoring local
Indigenous leadership and rebuilding social norms, improving engagement with parents about their children's schooling, and encouraging increased economic participation. In addition, two new initiatives will be introduced to support disengaged youth, and improve school attendance and enrolment. The measure consists of $24.5 million in new funding and a redirection of $1.8 million from the 2012-13 Budget measure *School Enrolment and Attendance in Queensland — continuation*. This measure builds on the 2012-13 Budget measure titled *Cape York Welfare Reform Trial — extension*.

Specific Indigenous health initiatives include:

- the National Partnership on the Torres Strait health protection strategy — Saibai Island health clinic to provide additional staff for the treatment of communicable diseases and develop and implement a culturally appropriate sexual health education campaign; and
- the *National Partnership on reducing acute rheumatic heart fever among Indigenous children* to support register and control programs for acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in Indigenous children

**NBN**

Nationally $12.9M to connect more local councils to the NBN and provide training for small business and not-for-profits in 20 regional NBN rollout sites. The Budget provides an additional $5.7 million over two years to expand the support available to local government organisations to develop online services to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their service delivery by taking advantage of the bandwidth and high data capacity of the National Broadband Network (NBN). This measure expands the Digital Local Government program from the existing 40 councils to an additional 15 local councils consistent with the NBN rollout plan. LGAQ will be seeking further details on these initiatives and will advise councils accordingly.

**Referendum on the recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution** has received ‘administered expenses’ of $0.5 million in 2012-13 and $9.5 million in 2013-14, along with allocations made to the Department and AEC in order to conduct the referendum.

Please call or email Greg Hoffman 1300 542 700 with enquiries regarding this Circular.