



general
purpose
committee

2
section

infrastructure

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE

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ITEM: 18 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Road Funding Campaign**FILE NUMBER:** GG021/074 PT11/ENG/IND24NBX.E01

REPORT:

The ALGA Executive has advised of an undertaking to a revised National Road Funding Campaign to increase federal road funding in light of the Federal Government's *Roads to Recovery* initiative, which represents a 72% increase in Commonwealth assistance to Local Government roads. However, the amount falls short of the identified cost of maintaining Australia's road network.

Australia wide, \$7 billion is spent annually by all levels of government on the road funding task. The Federal Government's roads package means this figure will now rise by \$400 million per annum, approximately 6 per cent. This modest increase will not bring the country's roads up to an acceptable standard and means that a road funding campaign remains necessary to ensure the issue is satisfactorily addressed over the long term.

The professionally-co-ordinated campaign will involve extensive lobbying of all Federal political candidates, especially those in marginal seats. There will also be an Australia-wide advertising campaign. Specifically, the ALGA will be seeking:

- a commitment to the doubling, over the next ten years, of Commonwealth road funding to not less than \$2.4 billion per annum.
- a commitment to the extension of the \$1.6 billion Roads to Recovery program beyond the current four year provision.
- a commitment to the extension of the Black Spot program beyond 2001/2002.
- an increase in Black Spot funding from \$40 million per annum to \$100 million per annum for at least four years.
- an increase in funding for the National Highway System and Roads of National Importance by \$400 million per annum.
- greater flexibility in Black Spot nomination criteria, to include projects greater than \$500,000 and allowing nominations for sites on National Highways and Roads of National Importance.

The Association is seeking support of councils to contribute to the campaign fund. NSW's commitment to the ALGA National Road Funding Campaign will be \$220,000, including its share of existing expenditure.

Contributions are being sought from councils calculated according to the Associations' subscriptions which recognises the differing financial capacities of councils. Hawkesbury City Council's contribution to this campaign is \$1,851, including GST. Written confirmation of Council's support is desired by the end of April.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee exercising its delegation as full Council:

1. Support the Australian Local Government Association's National Road Funding Campaign; and,
2. Money be provided from the existing roads budget towards the campaign at the calculated contribution for Hawkesbury City Council in the amount of \$1,851 (one thousand eight hundred and fifty one dollars).

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

Oooo END OF ITEM 18 Oooo

ITEM: 19 Natural Disaster Relief Program - Financial Assistance**FILE NUMBER:** GG021/074 PT11/ENG/IND24NCX.E02

REPORT:

The severe storms of 15 January 2001 resulted in substantial blockages to Council's drainage network, both piped systems and gutters. It was therefore necessary to carry out an emergency clean up.

Under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements between the State and Federal Governments, financial assistance is available to councils to restore council-owned assets to their pre-disaster condition, following a declared natural disaster. An application was lodged with the Department of Public Works and Services for \$50,000. Advice has been received from the Department that Hawkesbury Council's application was successful and a grant of \$50,000, the maximum allowable under the program guidelines, has been provided. The funding represents 100% of the estimated cost of emergency restoration works. Funding must be finalised by June 2003. The vast majority of the work has been completed

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

Oooo END OF ITEM 19 Oooo