

Media Release

For immediate release 22 May 2020

Additional Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding for Local Government Welcomed

Today's announcement by the Australian Government of an additional \$500 million for Local Government, through the new Local Road and Community Infrastructure program, was welcomed by the Tasmanian Local Government Sector. It is anticipated this will lead to around \$16 million for expenditure on local roads and community infrastructure in Tasmania.

Local Government Association of Tasmania President, Mayor Christina Holmdahl said:

"Tasmanian Councils have worked hard to find ways to adjust their budget priorities to respond to the challenges brought about by Covid-19"

"This additional funding through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program will support Tasmanian Councils to continue to provide the infrastructure their communities and local businesses need, as well as providing local employment opportunities".

Capital funding like this is vital as councils manage the substantial impacts to their revenue and the cost of providing relief measures to communities now and into the future.

Councils are already working to identify suitable, ready projects that can be brought forward.

In addition the bringing forward of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) payments will provide benefit to those councils who are facing short term cash flow issues related to reduced revenue and relief measures such as deferral of rates payments.

"Our sector is focussed on recovery and is working with our communities and local businesses to get back up and running as soon as we can"

"On behalf of the Tasmanian Local Government Sector I would like to thank the Australian Government for their support".

Ends.

Contact

Mayor Christina Holmdahl is available for comment but as she is in a council meeting please text on 0417 804 210