



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vote 'Yes' for Local Government

The Australian Government today announced their support for a referendum on Local Government at the time of the September Federal Election.

LGAT President, Mayor Barry Easter, says it will now be 'full steam ahead' to convince Tasmanians to support inclusion of Local Government in the Constitution.

"Voting 'yes' in September will secure funding for Local Government services and infrastructure", Mayor Easter said. "This is important for every Tasmanian community and I urge all political parties to support the referendum proposal and referendum legislation when it is debated in Parliament next week".

The Local Government Association of Tasmania will be working closely and intensively with the Australian Local Government Association and member councils for the next few months. Every council around the country will be involved in an integrated campaign.

President Easter said, "It is important that councils get financial certainty and formal recognition as legitimate recipients of direct federal funding".

"Recent High Court challenges put programs such as Roads to Recovery and the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program at risk."

"Getting a referendum passed is a major challenge, but a challenge we are ready for," said Mayor Easter.

"We are building off a strong base", he continued. "In 2011, our statewide community survey found a high level of support for the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government".

1,210 residents were surveyed in 2011, with 78.9 per cent of respondents strongly in support of ensuring continued direct funding of Local Government by the Federal Government.

A referendum on the question of financial recognition for Local Government must be passed by the majority of voters in the majority of the states in order to be enacted.

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