



MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Reference: MC16-071496

Mayor Troy Pickard  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

ALGA MAIL	
ITEM No:	
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Dear Mayor Pickard

Thank you for your letter of 29 August 2016, regarding the National General Assembly of Local Governments' resolution calling on Australian, state and territory governments to deliver future infrastructure upgrades in all Aboriginal living areas to Australian national standards. This resolution raises an important point around the standard of essential infrastructure services in many remote Indigenous communities. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Commonwealth's previous involvement in the delivery of municipal and essential services and related infrastructure was confusing and resulted in duplication and inconsistency. Recent Commonwealth reforms mean state and territory governments are now responsible for these services in remote Indigenous communities, as they are for any other town or city. The only exception is the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia, where the Commonwealth will continue to fund services until responsibility can be transferred to the South Australian Government.

The Commonwealth provided significant one-off payments to assist the jurisdictions to take up their responsibility. How and where this funding is allocated is a decision for individual states and territory. I note the resolution also calls on state and territory governments and encourage you to bring this matter to their attention.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the resolution.

Yours sincerely

NIGEL SCULLION

15/1/2016