



THE HON MICHAEL KEENAN MP
Minister for Justice
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter-Terrorism

MC17-009519

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

06 OCT 2017

Dear Mayor O'Loughlin

David

Thank you for your letters of 22 August 2017 seeking comment on resolutions recently considered by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board, relating to the risk of vehicle incursions at community events; flood mitigation; and disaster recovery funding. I have worked across Government to provide you with a consolidated response to address the issues you have brought to my attention in your letters.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to address the National General Assembly of Local Government on 20 June 2017. Partnerships between the Australian Government and local governments are vitally important. The safety and harmony of our communities relies on collaboration across all three levels of government. I appreciate you seeking comment on these issues of particular interest to local governments, and have provided information on each below.

Resolution 51 relates to managing the risk of vehicle incursions at community events. The Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee has developed, through close partnership with all levels of government and the private sector, Australia's *Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism*. The strategy was launched on 20 August 2017 and is designed to help owners and operators make crowded places across Australia more resilient to terrorism. As the primary responsibility for making locations as safe as possible rests with the owners and operators of those locations, the strategy provides them with tools to better understand the attractiveness of their site and what effective protective security measures they should consider. The *Hostile Vehicle Guidelines for Crowded Places* may also be of assistance in considering risks for community events.

Resolution 53 relates to funding for flood mitigation infrastructure. The Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme to which you refer is delivered by Emergency Management Victoria under the *National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience (NPA)*. Through the NPA, which is currently in the final stages of consultation for its extension to 30 June 2018, the Australian Government provides funding to each state and territory to address their highest natural disaster risks and direct funding allocations to important local initiatives that reflect the needs of each community. Enquiries related to the application process and funding allocation under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme should be directed to Emergency Management Victoria.

The Australian Government also works with state, territory and local governments to invest in infrastructure that protects local communities, including more resilient roads and bridges, and flood levees. The Government also contributes to proactive initiatives to build new and upgrade public infrastructure. Enquiries about funding for general infrastructure projects should be directed to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Resolutions 56, 57, 58, 60 and 74 relate to disaster recovery funding. The Government is committed to working closely with state, territory and local governments to develop a long-term approach to achieve the right balance between mitigation and recovery funding. As you may be aware, over the past 12 months the Australian Government has been working closely with the states on proposed reforms to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). On 1 July 2017 I also released the 2017 NDRRA Determination, which identifies the relief and recovery assistance to which the Commonwealth will financially contribute.

My department will continue to consult with the ALGA Board as part of discussions in relation to natural disaster reforms, and through the Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee, and its sub-committees—Mitigation and Risk Sub-committee and Community Outcomes and Recovery Sub-committee.

I trust this information is of assistance, and look forward to continued cooperation between the Australian Government and ALGA in the future.

Thank you again for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Michael Keenan