



THE HON ANGUS TAYLOR MP  
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR CITIES AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 29 August 2016 regarding resolutions of the National General Assembly of Local Government in June 2016.

I welcome the Assembly's interest in City Deals and delivering smart, connected cities using digital technologies, and provide the details below in response to the resolutions raised.

With regard to the resolution submitted by Lake Macquarie City Council, in April this year the Australian Government released its Smart Cities Plan, which sets out the Government's vision for cities and its commitment to smart investment, smart policy and smart technology. The Plan represents a new framework for cities policy, one that will deliver better outcomes for our cities, the people who live in them, and all Australians.

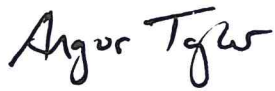
City Deals are our primary tool for delivery of the Smart Cities Plan – a mechanism designed to coordinate investment, planning and reform across the three levels of government. We are already working with State and local governments on City Deals for Townsville, Launceston and Western Sydney. The process for selecting future City Deal locations will be announced in due course.

I note the resolution refers to the UK City Deals model. As our Smart Cities Plan notes, while the UK model is not directly applicable to Australia because of our different federal system, it is a demonstration of what can be achieved when policy, investment and regulatory decisions are taken together to look at cities' needs as a whole.

With regard to the resolution submitted by Brisbane City Council, the Government is also establishing a competitive \$50 million Smart Cities and Suburbs programme, which will support local governments and partner to fast-track innovative technology solutions that improve long-standing urban problems. State and local governments have been active participants in the consultation roundtables on the programme, which are being held around Australia.

I look forward to continuing to work with local government on delivering better outcomes for our cities and the people who live in them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

ANGUS TAYLOR

12 / 10 / 2016