

# Advocacy Action Plan 2025

Because every Queensland  
community deserves to be  
a liveable one



Every Queensland  
community deserves  
to be a liveable one

**The Local Government Association of Queensland  
acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples as the  
Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters on  
which we work and live, and gives respect to Elders past and present.**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this  
publication may contain the images of people who have passed away.**



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# A message from LGAQ CEO, **ALISON SMITH**

## Community liveability is critical, no matter where you live.

As the level of government closest to the community, Queensland’s councils know better than anyone what is needed to create and support liveable communities.

The role and responsibilities of councils go beyond roads, rates and rubbish to provide additional services that support and enhance community liveability, often stepping up as the provider of last resort or when other levels of government fall short.

This is why the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), through our member-led advocacy, provides a strong and united voice on the critical issues that matter most to Queensland’s 77 councils and the diverse local communities they represent.

The LGAQ’s 2025 Advocacy Action Plan is a roadmap designed to highlight the top policy positions and funding priorities councils believe are critical to ensuring Queensland flourishes and our communities thrive.

Grouped by policy theme and targeted to the levels of government best positioned to act, the 2025 Advocacy Action Plan details our ongoing advocacy priorities and the 105 motions endorsed by Queensland councils at the LGAQ’s 2024 Annual Conference. Together with prior resolutions, this important document outlines the body of work that will be undertaken by the LGAQ on your behalf.

Local governments receive just 3 per cent of total government revenues but shoulder more than a third of the public infrastructure responsibility – and deliver more than 280 unique community services across the state. The only way to improve the liveability of Queensland communities is through all three levels of government working together.

The 2025 Advocacy Action Plan will aid in the LGAQ’s negotiations to secure outcomes that benefit local communities and ensure essential funding from State and Federal governments.

Informed by your fellow Queensland councils, I encourage members to use the 2025 Advocacy Action Plan to leverage and inform your own advocacy. Because together, united in purpose, we have the ability to shape a future and create lasting, positive change for the generations to come that represent the diverse tapestry of Queensland.

The LGAQ has a remarkable history of tirelessly pursuing crucial council issues and, this year, we will continue that legacy, because of our unwavering belief that every Queensland community deserves to a liveable one.

**ALISON SMITH**  
CEO, Local Government Association of Queensland



# ABOUT THE ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN

**The LGAQ is committed to member-led advocacy.**

The 2025 Advocacy Action Plan (AAP) includes key priorities raised and endorsed by Queensland's 77 councils on those things that help create liveable communities.

It also reflects the 105 resolutions – requests and calls to action to be made to the State and/or Federal governments on behalf of our sector – endorsed by councils at the 2024 LGAQ Annual Conference.

Together, these priorities demonstrate both the extent of our sector's advocacy challenge and the critical role local government plays in every aspect of community life. As a sector, we must continue to draw on our strength as a collective to ensure our shared priorities become a reality.

Our policy themes reflect the challenges Queensland councils and communities encounter daily. They are:

- + Reducing the cost of living
- + Energy and community transformation
- + Better local infrastructure
- + Addressing the housing crisis
- + Building safe, resilient and liveable communities
- + Empowering First Nations Peoples
- + Stronger councils
- + Protecting the environment

Throughout the year, the LGAQ's Advocacy team will work with members to progress these priorities with the relevant level of government.

We will do this through meetings, submissions, correspondence, working groups, forums, media and public campaigns.

By representing the interests of local government in a range of forums, the LGAQ will increase its capacity to deliver on the solutions to complex issues that affect the liveability of Queensland communities sought by our members.

Our advocacy campaigns are always stronger when our members speak with one voice, collaborating to achieve a positive outcome.

The LGAQ encourages our members to use this AAP to help support your own council's, or region's, advocacy on issues of importance to local communities, as well as to the sector as a whole.

As the peak body for local government in Queensland, the LGAQ is committed to working with our members to build stronger, more resilient local communities through focused and determined advocacy.

Should you wish to discuss any of the AAP points contained within this document, or have any further feedback, please contact:

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# Advocacy Priorities

The LGAQ advocacy priorities highlight the top policy positions and funding priorities that councils have identified as critical and are calling on the Federal and State governments to deliver, ensuring Queensland flourishes and our local communities thrive.

# Reducing THE COST OF LIVING

Australia is in the grips of a cost-of-living crisis – and Queenslanders everywhere are feeling the pinch. Councils are doing what they can to alleviate the burden, but they are also using their limited resources to fund services that are not their responsibility to fund. The LGAQ calls for strategic economic partnerships between all levels of government that support Queensland local communities to grow and thrive and ensure no one is left behind.



## Federal priorities

- ➔ Enhance community liveability by increasing untied funding to all councils to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, indexed annually and with payment timing certainty.

## State priorities

- ➔ Undertake a Parliamentary Inquiry into local government cost-shifting – an unfair burden impacting ratepayers – with a focus on supply chain pressures and delivering infrastructure and services in local communities.
- ➔ Provide certainty for ratepayers through legislative changes to the *Land Valuations Act 2010* that would include a reduction to the maximum number of years between valuations of land for local governments to three years.



## Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Implement measures to ensure greater transparency, availability and affordability of insurance premiums, to alleviate the financial burden on households, small businesses and strata titled developments statewide.
- ➔ Investigate and establish a freight equalisation scheme for Queensland's remote communities to help address unsustainable costs of living.
- ➔ Guarantee regional airline networks and increase funding and subsidies for regulated long-distance air services in regional, rural, remote and First Nations communities to improve access to essential services such as health, education and employment.



# Energy and COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



Communities across Queensland are transforming because our economy is transitioning towards a clean energy future. The energy transition means opportunities and challenges for Queenslanders and locally led and driven solutions are needed to help ensure Queensland communities have a positive future.

## Federal priorities

- Enable place-based economic and community transition planning by working closely with councils and providing direct funding to support councils to manage the impact of large-scale renewable, critical minerals, mining and energy projects on local host communities.
- Appoint a local government representative to the Net Zero Economy Authority board to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of local communities are incorporated into national policy-making, promoting more effective, equitable and regionally sensitive solutions as Australia advances towards its net zero goals.

## State priorities

- Enhance the economic and social sustainability of resource communities through a transformation policy framework, including the establishment of a Regional Transformation Authority in Queensland, working closely with the National Net Zero Authority.

- Overhaul the major project approval process to reform the way major projects are assessed, how social impacts are mitigated and the enforcement of conditions to ensure current and cumulative impacts are regulated for all stages of the project lifecycle.
- Develop, in partnership with local government, a mandatory code-of-practice for renewable energy projects, ensuring developments do not detrimentally effect communities or council infrastructure and leave a lasting benefit in hosting regions.
- Ensure host communities benefit from the development of large-scale industry by establishing a consistent social licence framework for new and existing resource and energy projects, including but not limited to, a financial contribution for ongoing community benefits.
- Establish a dedicated regional transition fund to invest in critical infrastructure and to develop the workforce needed to enable the transitioning energy sector.
- Review and amend regulatory frameworks, in consultation with local government, to establish statewide assessment pathways, public notification and council referral requirements, including submitter appeal rights, for all large-scale renewable energy projects.
- Investigate and support the repurposing of existing and decommissioned mines for energy production and storage, including funding for projects and infrastructure development to support the mine conversion and diversification process.





## Federal and State priorities

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- Ensure baseload production of energy is sufficient to meet current and future energy needs of all Queensland residents and businesses, considering all available technologies.
- Support the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions through targeted operational and capital grants programs for councils to establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories, invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses.

# Better LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Across Queensland, local governments own, operate and maintain approximately \$160 billion worth of assets, including over 150,000 km of roads, 444 water and wastewater treatment plants and 88,000 km of water mains. From the clean drinking water in your tap to the safe, driveable roads in your community – local infrastructure is a vital issue requiring collaboration and partnership between all the levels of government.

## Federal priorities

- Provide funding certainty for all Queensland councils to support the provision of job-creating projects across every local community, by restoring the highly successful Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) to \$500 million per year nationwide, or establishing a new allocative, permanent funding program for councils to build and maintain essential community infrastructure.
- Increase funding for the design, construction and/or upgrade of new or existing bicycle and walking pathways by allocating \$150 million per year ongoing to the national Active Transport Fund.
- Enhance road safety and support 1,000 jobs by increasing the road Black Spot Program to \$200 million over four years and maintaining Roads to Recovery at \$1 billion per year.
- Ensure supplies can get to our communities by addressing first and last mile regional freight capacity through an additional \$300 million per year for the Local Roads Investment Program.
- Guarantee Queensland's fair share of the \$3.5 billion National Water Grid Fund to deliver critical water security and drought relief projects across the state.

- Improve telecommunications and address Queensland's 3,000 mobile phone blackspots by mandating mobile roaming in rural and remote communities and giving Queensland its fair share of Regional Connectivity and Mobile Black Spot funding.

## State priorities

- Ensure funding certainty for local community infrastructure with the implementation of permanent \$100 million per year funding for Works for Queensland and continuing to advocate for \$50 million per year for SEQ infrastructure, indexed by CPI.
- Improve road safety and upgrade regional roads with a permanent funding boost for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) to \$100 million per year and increased funding and indexing for Road Maintenance Performance Contracts (RMPC).
- An independent and comprehensive review to better support councils and communities with the requirements and costs associated with temporary traffic management.
- Enhance project delivery by reintroducing a standalone infrastructure pipeline planning program for local governments.

- ➔ Progress long-term solutions that modernise Queensland's trunk infrastructure funding framework, including permanent funding solutions.
- ➔ Fund councils to undertake upgrades to culvert crossings and high priority fish passage barrier remediation works to improve waterway connectivity and native fish movements, with \$30 million a year.
- ➔ Partner with local governments and review Queensland's stock route network program to ensure that the integrity of the network and its values are maintained, whilst ensuring that rural and remote councils and their communities are not further burdened.
- ➔ Provide long-term, ongoing capital investment in water and sewerage infrastructure and reintroduce a subsidy program, such as the former Water and Sewerage Program (WASP), to assist councils to maintain, renew, upgrade and replace ageing water and sewerage infrastructure assets and develop a pipeline of projects that provides safe, sustainable service levels to all Queensland communities.
- ➔ Provide funding for dam safety improvement projects and upgrade works to referable dams throughout Queensland.

## Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Work in collaboration and partnership with Queensland councils to ensure a new National Water Agreement recognises the critical role and concerns of local government in the provision of water and wastewater services and does not result in any water reforms that adversely impact on local communities.



# Addressing THE HOUSING CRISIS

Crippling housing shortages have been felt in all communities, with each part of the state facing its own unique challenges. All levels of government need to work together to ensure Queenslanders have access to safe, affordable and reliable housing – no matter where they live.



## Federal priorities

- ➔ Invest, unlock, activate and implement solutions to the housing crisis, as identified by Queensland councils, in support of the LGAQ's Local Government Housing Strategy. Specific Federal priorities include:
  - + Commit to ongoing funding of \$1 billion per year for the Housing Support Program (HSP), following a review of Stream 1 and 2 in consultation with Queensland councils, to support councils to deliver enabling infrastructure and community amenity projects as well as planning improvement and capability projects.
  - + Address 'post code discrimination' in regional, rural and remote Queensland by supporting regional home ownership in communities where banks currently require inflated deposits.
  - + Establish industry incentives to activate existing development approvals already issued by councils.
  - + Support councils' calls for a National Housing Summit and a national housing strategy, developed in partnership with all levels of government, industry and the community.
  - + Ensure the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is permanently represented on the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.

## State priorities

- ➔ Invest, unlock, activate and implement solutions to the housing crisis, as identified by Queensland councils, in support of the Local Government Housing Strategy. Specific State priorities include:
  - + Continue to invest in social and affordable housing, as well as increases in crisis and temporary accommodation and homelessness support services in areas of need.
  - + Provide funding for councils to implement local housing plans, action plans and strategies.
  - + Collaborate with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to develop guidelines and eligibility criteria to develop, administer and disseminate the State Government's commitment of \$2 billion in infrastructure funding.
  - + Work with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to progress long-term solutions that modernise Queensland's trunk infrastructure funding framework.
  - + Streamline the process for a local government to amend its planning scheme, and fast-tracking State Interest Reviews.

- + Investigate incentives for industry to activate existing housing approvals already issued by councils.
- + Expand eligibility criteria for the First Home Owner Grant to allow for the purchase of properties in need of renovation.
- + Amend the *Titles Act 1994* to remove barriers to councils conditioning affordability covenants when approving affordable housing proposals.
- + Manage the growth and impacts of short stay accommodation (SSA), including through a data sharing agreement with SSA providers and a code of conduct with SSA users.
- + Establish a dedicated Local Government Housing Investment Program, including support for business case preparation and access to interest-free loans for councils wanting to undertake housing construction projects in their local government area for on-sale or rental.
- + Review existing State Government property fees, taxes and duties to ensure these are fit for purpose.



Building safe,

# RESILIENT AND LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



Every Queensland community deserves to be a liveable one. Building safe, resilient and liveable communities means ensuring all Queensland communities can stand strong, stay connected and thrive, no matter what challenges arise. Councils step in to provide extra services to ensure our communities prosper and often assume the responsibility of other levels of government when they fail to fulfill their obligations.

## Federal priorities

- Provide \$200 million per year for four years for targeted disaster mitigation and to future-proof community infrastructure.
- Build a reliable Flood Warning Network by providing critical funding for the upgrades to the rain gauge network across the entire state and engage with local government regarding the maintenance arrangements and data access for councils following the transfer of assets to the Bureau of Meteorology.
- Improve the liveability and productivity of Australia's cities, towns and regions by providing \$100 million per year for a Smart Communities Program to deliver innovative technology-based solutions to urban challenges.
- Improve regional banking services by preventing the further closures of banks and take immediate action to address discriminatory lending practices that unfairly target regional and remote areas based on postcode.
- Commit to sustainable provision of Aged Care and NDIS services in remote and regional communities.

- Review how the Community Child Care Fund can better support childcare services operated by local governments in rural and remote Australia with a view to providing allocative funding to support councils having to step in due to market failure, and create incentives to attract and train qualified childcare staff that work regionally and remotely.

- Reduce the reliance on water buy-backs in the Murray-Darling Basin and deliver targeted funding programs to support the liveability and economic transition of communities affected by the implementation of targets under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

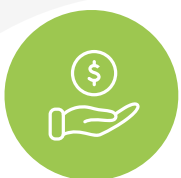
## State priorities

- Close the digital divide by boosting access and infrastructure in a new formal partnership approach across all three levels of government to get infrastructure to where connectivity is needed.
- Support the LGAQ's nine-point [Juvenile Crime Action Plan](#) to help directly address the concerns of Queensland communities and preserve our state's unrivalled reputation as a safe place to live, work and visit.
- Improve rural, regional and remote health services with a summit that generates a standalone health plan, developed with benchmarked service outcomes that are regularly monitored and measured.

- ➔ Introduce statewide statutory disclosure provisions, similar to the approach taken in other jurisdictions, requiring detailed property sale disclosure statements which include flood and other natural hazard information.
- ➔ Make changes to the Blue Card system to not preclude people who have historic offences that would not endanger children or put anyone at risk. This would allow people to take up jobs at council, volunteer for emergency services or take on mentoring roles in their communities.
- ➔ Progress further reviews of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs Act) 2008* and make changes to the regulatory framework that addresses the broader issues experienced by local governments in managing domestic animals.

## Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Ensure disaster management preparedness, response and recovery works effectively for councils and communities by:
  - + Improving delivery of disaster operations, including community funding packages.
  - + Restoring essential public assets in a timely manner post-emergency event with funding certainty.
  - + Simplifying claims processes under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to reduce red tape and make substantiation processes fairer for essential public assets like roads and drainage, including photographic evidence.
  - + Supporting enhanced access to recovery capabilities (personal and equipment) when local and district capacity has been exceeded, including additional support for Council to Council (C2C) arrangements.
- ➔ Commit to expanding the joint Federal and State government Resilient Homes Fund by allocating an additional \$741 million to support improved housing resilience across Queensland, including house raising, retrofits and a statewide voluntary home buy-back program.
- ➔ Ensure ongoing protection of the Great Artesian Basin, including from carbon capture and storage projects, to support the long-term sustainability of this vital water resource for regional communities across inland Australia.
- ➔ Collaborate on innovative solutions to urgently address healthcare shortages in regional, rural and remote Queensland.





# Empowering FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES



Queensland's 17 First Nations councils – and the remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities they represent – are a crucial part of the cultural, social and economic fabric of our state. This is why it is critical for all levels of government to join forces in providing the support and resources needed.



## Federal priorities

- Increase housing supply in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, allocating \$100 million per year for five years to reduce overcrowding and help Close the Gap across education, health, incarceration and employment.
- Guarantee digital connectivity levels across Queensland's remote and discrete communities that are comparable to the rest of Australia, by ensuring these communities receive their fair share of digital connectivity funding.
- Reestablish funding for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Native Title Respondents Scheme under the *Native Title Act 1993*, until all claims within Queensland are determined.

## State priorities

- Establish a strategic partnership and formalised agreement (the Indigenous Council Leaders Accord) with Queensland's 17 discrete First Nations councils to provide improved access to government decision-makers to better influence the priorities, design and implementation of public policy with respect to discrete First Nations communities and Closing the Gap.
- Permanently extend the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program to deliver and manage water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, contributing to water security and long-term environmental and public health outcomes.
- Empower First Nations communities by providing a permanent, guaranteed increase in State Government Financial Aid funding.
- Provide increased resourcing of the First Nations Recruit Preparation Program to increase the numbers of fully sworn First Nations police officers on-country, and implement a community policing model in all remote and discrete communities.





## Federal and State priorities

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- ➔ Address overcrowding and support economic development in remote and discrete communities by establishing a new bilateral funding agreement between both levels of government to substantially increase investment in First Nations housing.
- ➔ Establish and periodically release to councils, specific local government area data and reporting against each of the Closing the Gap targets.
- ➔ Improve the coordination and delivery of health services to meet local needs in remote and discrete First Nations communities, including through better engagement with First Nations councils.



# Stronger COUNCILS

From the outback to our capital cities and coastlines – over 42,000 Queenslanders work in councils supporting local communities. Councils work daily to shape and influence the liveability of every single Queensland community, providing vital services. Stronger councils mean stronger communities.



## Federal priorities

- ➔ Give councils a fairer funding deal by increasing untied funding to all councils to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, indexed annually and with payment timing certainty.
- ➔ Recognise local government as equal partners that can deliver outcomes in every local community by:
  - + Permanently extending National Cabinet membership, including on all Ministerial forums, to the local government sector.
  - + Mandating Cabinet consideration on local government impact and cost-shifting analysis for every government policy decision under a revised Cabinet Handbook.
  - + Updating the National Skills Agreement, recognising the role of local government as a key employer nationally and the need to address the skills gaps and recruitment constraints.

## State priorities

- ➔ Reinforce the autonomy of local governments by ruling out a State-imposed rate capping policy for Queensland councils and any changes to the current voting system (including Compulsory Preferential Voting).

- ➔ Ensure regular and ongoing scrutiny of the councillor conduct system and the impact of Conflict of Interest (COI) laws by supporting further changes as needed.
- ➔ Undertake a review of new expenditure cap laws as soon as possible.
- ➔ Increase training and apprenticeship opportunities with local governments by maintaining and enhancing existing partnership projects.
- ➔ Support the development of more Regional University Study Hubs to enable opportunities to improve liveability and address workforce challenges in rural and remote communities.
- ➔ Reinforce the planning authority of local governments and local land use decision-making through a new planning partnership enforced through a specific codicil to the Partners-in-Government Agreement, signed by the Local Government Minister and LGAQ within six months of the State Election.
- ➔ Implement all legislative reforms recommended by the PCCC Logan Inquiry and Crime and Corruption Commission – Commission of Inquiry, within 12 months of the State Election.

→ Expedite solutions for the renewal of quarry sales permits or the granting of new permits that comply with the *Native Title Act 1993* and ensure there is continued access to existing quarries whilst any Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) are being negotiated, at no cost to councils.

→ Provide ongoing funding support for Queensland councils through programs such as the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (QCRC) to build capacity, strengthen local decision-making and deliver initiatives that focus on emissions reduction, risk and resilience and climate adaptation.



## Federal and State priorities

- Develop and resource an expert Security Operations Centre as a shared services concept to improve security management for local government authorities.
- Address land tenure issues that are impeding councils' capacity to deliver vital infrastructure for the wellbeing of their communities and to facilitate greater revenue opportunities.
- Provide funding for councils to negotiate or review ILUAs to ensure they meet the ongoing needs of the community, Traditional Owners and local governments to support housing, economic and social development outcomes.

# Protecting the ENVIRONMENT

Queensland's natural assets must be protected to be enjoyed by today's generation – and generations to come. Councils care for their communities, and that includes the iconic species and landscapes their residents, and visitors, value most. The State and Federal governments must partner with councils and communities to protect our natural assets and environment.



## Federal priorities

- Protect Queensland's coastal communities and regional economies by investing \$50 million per year for four years for councils to implement coastal hazard adaptation initiatives.
- Fund local governments to manage Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) to protect Queensland's natural resources, and their communities, from their impacts.
- Fund the delivery of pest animal National Action Plans, so Queensland's environment and communities are protected from the impacts that they cause.
- Ensure that local governments are empowered and supported to protect and enhance locally significant koala habitat through increased funding.
- Work with local governments and industry representatives to establish mandatory product stewardship schemes for priority materials including e-waste, solar panels and tyres, ensuring all products are captured, including in remote and sparsely populated areas.
- Establish a nationally consistent approach to the management of PFAS-affected land and development related PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances group of chemicals) risks, and ban the importation and use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals by the end of 2026.

## State priorities

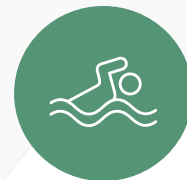
- Boost biosecurity on-ground actions with regionalised funding to support the delivery of priority pest animal and weed management, with \$14 million over the next four years.
- Fully fund the Wild Dog Barrier Fence and Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board Fence as a biosecurity barrier that protects local communities from threats, with \$6 million a year.
- Fully fund the delivery of local government's stock route management plans to ensure that Queensland's stock route network is managed for travelling stock, whilst also supporting inherent natural and cultural values present on the network, with \$5 million a year.
- Support the delivery of local and regional initiatives that safeguard Queensland's iconic species and landscapes from current and future threats, including the delivery of koala threat abatement activities and the management of urban flying fox roosts, with \$50 million over three years.
- Fund Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce councils to assist the National Fire Ant Eradication Program in eradicating fire ants from Queensland, providing \$4 million over four years.



## Federal and State priorities

- Protect the Great Barrier Reef and support the Reef 2050 Plan by providing \$165 million over the next five years for Queensland's Reef councils to deliver actions under the LGAQ's Reef Councils Rescue Plan 2024-2030.

- Provide funding for implementation of Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMPs) and First Nation RWMPs, including for resource recovery infrastructure through a dedicated council funding program.
- Review and align the waste levy, waste levy zones and advance payment schedule to regional resource recovery capabilities, using data from RWMPs.
- Re-introduce the highly successful Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package (RRTAP) to support and enable recycling and resource recovery in regional Queensland.
- Review environmental regulations for waste management to ensure captured material can be economically and environmentally sustainably re-introduced into a circular economy.
- Introduce a statewide Household Chemical Collection Program to provide domestic residents with a free and accessible service for the disposal of unwanted household chemicals.
- Take the lead in resolving any known PFAS contamination arising from the historical operations of fire stations, ports, airports and other infrastructure.





# 2024 LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions

The resolutions passed at the 2024 LGAQ Annual Conference demonstrate both the extent of our sector's advocacy challenge and the critical role local government plays in every aspect of community life.

# Reducing THE COST OF LIVING



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:



## The State Government to:

- Amend the Local Government Regulation 2012 to grant local government greater autonomy for the granting of general rates concessions, e.g. for the purpose of cost-of-living relief.

Resolution 73 ▶

## Both levels of Government to:

- Consider Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, which may include an increase to the overall percentage rate, legislating that at least 2.5 per cent of all GST revenue is to be allocated to local governments through existing untied grant funding schemes, such as the Financial Assistance Grant scheme, reducing the financial burden of local government services on ratepayers, and noting that all community members benefit from the services of local government.

Resolution 39 ▶

- Require insurance companies to provide greater transparency in the setting of insurance premiums relating to natural hazard risk and taking into account resilience and natural hazard mitigation measures when setting insurance premiums. Additionally, continue to introduce and invest in measures that increase the affordability and availability of insurance statewide, such as an extension of the eligibility criteria for the Household Resilience Program and reducing duties and levies on insurance premiums.

Resolution 50 ▶



FOR ALL LGAQ RESOLUTIONS VISIT [CONGRUENT.LGAQ.ASN.AU](http://CONGRUENT.LGAQ.ASN.AU)



Energy and

# COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:

## The Federal Government to:

- Appoint local government to the Net Zero Economy Authority board.

**Resolution 66** ▶

## The State Government to:

- Allocate adequate funding and resources to Coexistence Queensland to provide enhanced information, engagement and education services to the community and industry on land access and coexistence issues across the resources and renewable energy sectors.

**Resolution 61** ▶

- Undertake a comprehensive investigation, develop policy and remove impediments in legislation, and invest in the repurposing of existing and decommissioned mines for energy production and storage.

**Resolution 63** ▶

- Ensure that major renewable energy projects be required to allocate an appropriate portion of project capital cost to the construction of housing to support the needs of their proposed permanent workforce, in order to mitigate the risk of housing stress on vulnerable members of communities impacted by the development.

**Resolution 64** ▶

- Direct Energy Queensland to review and revise its Dynamic Network (Storage) Tariff as proposed in its recent Tariff Structure Statement (TSS) currently under assessment by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) for the next regulatory control period (2025–2030) to ensure the elimination of barriers to the widespread roll-out of community batteries across Queensland.

**Resolution 67** ▶

- Improve regulation for large-scale renewable energy projects by developing State Codes within the State Development Assessment Provisions for the assessment of large-scale renewable energy projects by the State Assessment and Referral Agency; and by establishing public notification and council referral requirements for all large-scale renewable energy projects for all affected councils.

**Resolution 93** ▶

- Improve regulation for large-scale renewable energy projects by developing a communication and engagement protocol (Code of Practice) to ensure renewable energy projects, including transmission projects, are planned, approved and constructed considering key social, environmental and economic regional considerations in proactive collaboration with all affected councils.

**Resolution 94** ▶





- Work in conjunction with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to create a dedicated funding program, using collected mining royalties, that will support Queensland's local resource reliant communities' economic transition and potential diversification opportunities when a mine closes.

Resolution 95 ▶

## Both levels of Government to:

- Fund positions in councils to manage the impact of large-scale renewable, critical minerals, mining and energy projects.

Resolution 62 ▶

- Ensure baseload production of energy is sufficient to meet current and future energy needs of all Queensland residents and businesses, considering all available technologies including nuclear and gas.

Resolution 92 ▶

# Better LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:



## The Federal Government to:

- Establish a new allocative, permanent funding program for local governments to build and maintain essential community infrastructure, following the cessation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program on 30 June 2026.

[Resolution 13 ▶](#)

## The State Government to:

- Establish a dedicated funding pipeline/program to support the implementation of initiatives (including planning studies, asset condition assessments and capital and maintenance infrastructure works) identified through the Urban Water Risk Assessment Project and Queensland Water Regional Alliance Programs, which form a critical component of Queensland's Water Strategy.

[Resolution 22 ▶](#)

- Amend relevant water legislation, regulation, plans and protocols to allow allocation of high-priority groundwater entitlements (licences and allocations) to registered water service providers for town water supply.

[Resolution 23 ▶](#)

- Adopt Infrastructure Australia's Assessment Framework, to align with the expected economic or design life and incorporate long-term modelling, to ensure accurate benefit projections over the asset life, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of costs and benefits.

[Resolution 96 ▶](#)

- Promote and encourage the adoption of wastewater recycling and diversion initiatives statewide, allocate necessary funding to local governments and wastewater service providers for wastewater recycling and alternative treatment option trials to inform future policies and initiatives, and explore what other states are doing to address wastewater recycling to leverage collective knowledge and experience to support and guide local governments and wastewater service providers to transition to a circular economy.

[Resolution 97 ▶](#)

- Provide full cost recovery to Queensland local governments to deliver priority stock route network operational activities.

[Resolution 99 ▶](#)

- Prioritise the management of railway corridor fencing along the Queensland stock route network for stock and public safety purposes.

[Resolution 100 ▶](#)

- Exempt councils with limited own-source revenue or smaller capital programs from mandatory upgrades of culverts, replaced like-for-like following disaster recovery works, and establish a State-funded program to assist councils in funding the necessary upgrades to culvert crossings, particularly those identified as non-compliant for red/purple streams.

**Resolution 101 ▶**

- Improve the safety of the State-controlled network through increased funding for renewals and upgrades based on best practice asset management principles.

**Resolution 102 ▶**

- Review the *Local Government Act 2009* and the Local Government Regulation 2012 to give councils greater ability to implement a special rate on properties that operate in a manner that affects the local road network, such that maintenance costs associated with heavy vehicle use can be recovered.

**Resolution 103 ▶**

- Formally investigate the financial and resource impacts on Queensland councils as a result of the changes to traffic management standards being the Queensland Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (QGTMM).

**Resolution 105 ▶**

- Amend section 3138 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Road Rules) Regulation 2009 (the Regulation), to provide an additional exemption for motor breakdown service vehicles engaged in repairing a disabled vehicle on a yellow line.

**Resolution 107 ▶**

## Both levels of Government to:

- Provide support through recurrent operational grants on a square metre basis, and regular one-off capital renewal grants, to secure the future of public pools in regional and remote Queensland.

**Resolution 111 ▶**



# Addressing THE HOUSING CRISIS



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:



## The Federal Government to:

- Ensure the Australian Local Government Association is permanently represented on the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.

Resolution 108 ▶

## The State Government to:

- Amend the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* to allow bodies corporate to pass by-laws to regulate short-term accommodation in their buildings.

Resolution 20 ▶

- Introduce a registration system and statewide data sharing agreement that requires platforms and providers of short-term accommodation to share their validated booking data, inclusive of real property addresses.

Resolution 21 ▶

- Review and implement, as a matter of urgency, local council boundary realignments agreed between local governments to facilitate land availability for smaller councils.

Resolution 35 ▶

- Expedite the work outlined in Recommendations 11 and 12 made by the Queensland Heritage Advisory Panel and included in the Queensland Heritage Implementation Strategy (October 2022), in relation to revising the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* provisions relating to essential repair and maintenance work, to meaningfully and effectively allow for the protection of at-risk local heritage places by local governments.

Additionally grant local governments power when assessing development applications involving local heritage places to refuse demolition if the local government forms the view that structural inadequacy is a result of the place not being properly maintained and provide appropriate funding support for councils to undertake actions to further protect local heritage places within their region.

For the purposes of this motion, “local heritage places” is limited to those places listed on a local government heritage register or schedule in their planning scheme.

Resolution 42 ▶

- Introduce a funding program that will provide multi-year funding to assist with the implementation of actions arising from adopted Local Housing Action Plans (LHAPs).

Resolution 80 ▶

- That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to review the State Facilitated Development (SFD) process, to ensure representatives from local councils are actively involved in decision-making.

Resolution 115 ▶

- Provide a financial incentive scheme for State Government employees to build and/or purchase homes in regional communities where they are working, in lieu of the provision of rental subsidy.

**Resolution 81** ▶

- Consider tax reforms, financial industry reform or other financial levers to disincentivise the abandonment of houses at a statewide level, and to consider including abandoned and derelict houses in state housing policy research and reforms, as these types of houses represent an opportunity for addressing housing shortages by bringing them back into the housing market.

**Resolution 82** ▶

- Consult with local government to adopt a consistent definition for 'affordable housing', to be included in all State planning instruments.

**Resolution 83** ▶

- Amend the Queensland Development Code MP (Mandatory Part) 1.1, MP1.2 and MP1.3 to update and modernise the parts of the code that are 14 years old, ensure consistency in references to duplexes, clarify the assessment of secondary dwellings, and allow class 10a buildings or parts to be located within boundary clearances.

**Resolution 84** ▶

- Initiate an independent cost-benefit analysis of current building legislation requirements and publish findings, particularly relating to accessibility and energy efficiency requirements, with a view to support housing affordability.

**Resolution 85** ▶

- Review the Queensland planning system to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability, and to clarify roles and responsibilities in collaboration with local governments.

**Resolution 86** ▶

- Amend the Minister's Guidelines and Rules and/or *Planning Act 2016* to identify what occurs when a planning scheme amendment timeframe is not met by the State Government.

**Resolution 87** ▶

- Clarify the criteria and process proposed for State-facilitated development applications, including how local governments will be funded for their role in assessment.

**Resolution 88** ▶

- Allow for the cost of increased demand on council services to be recovered by removing the ability for Ministerial Infrastructure Designations to not pay infrastructure charges.

**Resolution 90** ▶

- Review the *Planning Act 2016* and subordinate legislation to address the ongoing cost impacts facing high-growth councils, particularly from significant increases in developer entitlements (e.g. refunds), that have been imposed through changes to legislation over the past decade.

**Resolution 91** ▶



Building safe,

# RESILIENT AND LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:



## The Federal Government to:

- Undertake a holistic review and make changes to the Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation's (ARPCs) Cyclone Reinsurance Pool to extend the claims period for cyclone and cyclone-related flood damage under the Cyclone Reinsurance Pool by extending the cyclone event period from 48 hours to 168 hours (seven days) in line with standard reinsurance contracts, include insurance coverage for other natural hazards, and ensure it is effective in reducing insurance premiums for households, strata-developments and small businesses statewide.

Resolution 51

- Introduce mandatory device limitations and standards to control the speed and capabilities of personal mobility devices.

Resolution 106

- Through the Australian Classification Board, urgently review and enhance and modernise systems and processes including an education campaign so community members can engage with the classification processes where they have concerns about particular publications and to support local governments to develop and deliver public library collections that comply with classifications.

Resolution 113

## The State Government to:

- Amend the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* to require the Minister to undertake State-led public consultation prior to deciding to transfer land under the Act, and that local governments not be constrained by State-imposed confidentiality to consult with their community in respect of any proposal to transfer land under the Act.

Resolution 36

- Increase funding for regulated long-distance air services for rural, remote and First Nations communities.

Resolution 41

- Review and strengthen bushfire management practices to ensure Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QNPWS) notify local government, the local disaster management group (LDMG) and neighbouring properties for any planned burns, enable local government consideration as part of the total fire ban declaration by the Queensland Fire Department and include education and training for all landowners (including QNPWS) on bushfire mitigation practices.

Resolution 52

- Prepare a State code and policy for risk-based flood hazard planning to be used by all local governments.

Resolution 56

- Clarify and streamline the process to make, amend and adopt natural hazard mapping by integrating updated bushfire prone area mapping, that adopts the latest data, science and methodology, into the State Planning Policy.

Furthermore, to provide a consistent methodology for bushfire-prone area mapping and risk mitigation that is fit for urban areas, with housing supply targets and to provide a more time-responsive amendment process for updating bushfire hazard mapping in planning schemes. And to remove the requirement for a Feasible Alternatives Assessment Report when integrating State Planning Policy natural hazard mapping.

**Resolution 57 ▶**

- Reinstate Queensland Youth Week grant funding to local governments, increased to an appropriate level for 2025 and provided as a non-competitive grant process.

**Resolution 114 ▶**

## Both levels of Government to:

- Work with local councils to develop a scheme to better manage end-of-life and abandoned vehicles, allowing for the cost of their removal to be recouped, including in rural, remote and First Nations communities.

**Resolution 47 ▶**

- Undertake a review of financial and other disaster assistance made available to local government authorities and local communities to ensure improved delivery of counter disaster operations (CDO), including community recovery initiatives, the restoration of essential public assets can commence in a timely manner post-emergency event with funding certainty, the eligibility criteria is sufficiently flexible to enable immediate assistance to be provided, where it is needed most, and any indirect losses and consequences resulting from a disaster event, are also considered as eligible criteria for disaster assistance.

**Resolution 53 ▶**

- Simplify claims processes under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to reduce the enormous administrative burden on councils and make the substantiation processes fairer. Furthermore, to implement reasonable and fair assessment criteria for essential public assets like roads and drainage including photographic evidence.

**Resolution 54 ▶**

- Initiate an extension of funding for the Voluntary Home Buy-Back Program.

**Resolution 55 ▶**





# Empowering FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:

## The Federal Government to:

- Facilitate a bilateral funding agreement with the Queensland State Government to substantially increase investment in First Nations housing to address overcrowding and support economic development in remote and discrete communities.

Resolution 14 ▶

## The State Government to:

- Partner with our First Nations leaders on addressing key Closing the Gap measures, through the establishment of a formalised agreement (the First Nations Councils Accord) with Queensland's 17 discrete First Nations councils.

Resolution 8 ▶



# Stronger COUNCILS



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:



## The Federal Government to:

- ➔ Remove the \$1,000 cap for income tax deductions of expenses incurred by candidates running for local government, in light of the electoral expenditure caps scheme now in place in Queensland.

**Resolution 9** ▶

- ➔ Implement a new tripartite agreement between all three levels of government that ends the cost-shifting onto local governments.

**Resolution 10** ▶

- ➔ Have greater ambition and confidence in funding local government directly through existing Constitutional heads of power.

**Resolution 11** ▶

- ➔ Increase untied funding for local government to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, indexed annually and with timing certainty for when it is paid, to provide long-term financial certainty and security for local governments.

**Resolution 12** ▶

- ➔ Extend local government's role on National Cabinet to permanent membership, including on all Ministerial forums as well.

**Resolution 15** ▶

- ➔ Recognise the essential role of local government in achieving national priorities across productivity, improved community wellbeing, reduced inequality, environmental protection, circular economy, emissions reduction, emergency management, increasing secure well-paid jobs and building a skilled workforce, with mandated Cabinet consideration on local government impact and cost-shifting analysis for every government policy decision under a revised Cabinet Handbook.

**Resolution 16** ▶

- ➔ Ensure local government is included as a key partner in the achievement of the national priorities under the National Skills Agreement (the Agreement), recognising the role of local government as a key employer nationally and the need to address the skills gaps and recruitment constraints experienced by local government in Queensland.

**Resolution 17** ▶

- ➔ Provide notice on the payment timing and quantum for Financial Assistance Grants as soon as possible after the Federal Budget is handed down, and by no later than 31 May each year, to enable councils to complete their statutory budgets for the upcoming financial year.

**Resolution 37** ▶

- ➔ Prioritise genuine consultation and to ensure suitable consultation and submission timeframes.

**Resolution 109** ▶

# The State Government to:

- Implement all the sector-wide commitments outlined in the 2024 Queensland State Election platform to improve community liveability and ensure Queensland councils can deliver the services and infrastructure their local communities expect and deserve.

**Resolution 5 ▶**

- Undertake a Parliamentary Inquiry into cost and responsibility shifting onto local government.

**Resolution 6 ▶**

- Ensure the local government portfolio is held by a senior Cabinet Minister, not only reflecting the important partnership between our two levels of government but providing a strong voice for our sector around the Cabinet table.

**Resolution 7 ▶**

- Amend the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* and ensure that the Electoral Commission of Queensland consults on the timeframe and preferred location of local government election pre-polling with each council and provides council with the option for a one-week pre-poll period.

**Resolution 24 ▶**

- Amend the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* to include provisions that would allow online voting as an option for local government elections in Queensland.

**Resolution 25 ▶**

- Amend the *Queensland Electoral Act 1992*, *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* and any other relevant legislation to ensure how-to-vote (HTV) cards issued at local government elections by third parties are fact-checked and properly authorised, with the same requirements as HTV cards for registered local government candidates.

**Resolution 27 ▶**

- Develop a targeted strategy in conjunction with stakeholders to improve the attraction and retention of council chief executive officers.

**Resolution 28 ▶**

- Request that the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) and Queensland Audit Office (QAO) recognise that the composition of an Audit Committee that is consistent with S210 of the Local Government Regulations 2012 does not require compliance with the Audit Committee Guidelines: Improving Accountability and Performance prepared by the QTC October 2023.

**Resolution 30 ▶**

- Undertake a legislation review of gifts and benefits and conflicts of interest to allow for consistent application of these provisions across the three levels of government.

**Resolution 31 ▶**

- For the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) to commit to work with the LGAQ to design and implement a framework that can be utilised by councils to report a level of depreciation that is reflective of the utilisation of assets that a council maintains.

**Resolution 32 ▶**

- Identify within the financial management or financial sustainability guidelines where and how asset management practices can be utilised to identify and not replace assets and choose not to fund these replacements.

**Resolution 33 ▶**

- Amend Section 92 of the *Ombudsman Act 2001* to enable a party to “correct the record” and defend their reputation once a matter has been finalised, where such matters have already been publicised beyond the affected parties.

**Resolution 34 ▶**

- Review the impact of the most recent methodology distribution change implemented by the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission on the overall financial sustainability of the local government sector and develop options to remedy any adverse financial and liveability outcomes.

**Resolution 38 ▶**

- Undertake a comprehensive review to establish a fair and transparent formula for the fixed allocation of grants, taking into account factors such as population size, geographic area and specific needs of each local government and that long-term funding stability be prioritised to enable local governments to plan for and undertake long-term projects and services.

**Resolution 40 ▶**

- Amend the Local Government Regulation 2012 to make clear the ability of councils to levy a separate rate or a separate charge using the rateable value of land in the local government area.

**Resolution 74 ▶**

- Review and simplify the provisions of the Local Government Regulation 2012 relating to selling of property for overdue rates.

**Resolution 75 ▶**

- Review Queensland's rating system and provide additional mechanisms by which rates can be levied.

**Resolution 76 ▶**

- Remove or revise Chapter 2, Part 2, Division 5, Subdivision 3 of the *Land Valuation Act 2010*.

**Resolution 78 ▶**

## Both levels of Government to:

- Ensure that the conversion of land tenure to charitable trust status does not have a detrimental impact upon local government's own source funding capability.

**Resolution 79 ▶**

- Improve the current building trade apprenticeships funding program by increasing the level of pay for apprentices and cover all costs including uniforms, tools and travel to and from the training provider.

**Resolution 110 ▶**



# Protecting the ENVIRONMENT



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:

## The State Government to:

- Provide full cost recovery to each council to support the shift of red imported fire ant suppression, management and treatment responsibilities under the Queensland Government's Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce Plan 2022-23 to 2025-26.  
**Resolution 18 ▶**
- Match the Federal Government's Reef Guardian Councils Program – Activating Local Councils' Reef Action Plans grant funding, to support implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.  
**Resolution 19 ▶**
- Review the methodology for the calculation of waste levy rebate payments to local governments used for forward payments.  
**Resolution 43 ▶**
- Provide recurrent operational grants to low-rate base councils, subsidising 100 per cent of the operational costs of kerbside recycling collection, paid in arrears on a fixed price, per bin lift basis.  
**Resolution 44 ▶**
- Restore the waste levy rebate payments to southeast Queensland local governments at a rate of 100 per cent for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.  
**Resolution 45 ▶**

- Undertake an urgent investigation into the current state of play of kerbside commingled recycling within regional Queensland, including an Options Assessment and a Funded Regional Commingled Recycling Infrastructure Plan based on the preferred option, and invest in long-term, sustainable recovery and recycling processing solutions to service regional areas.  
**Resolution 46 ▶**

- Provide clarity on the pathway to statewide food organics and garden organics (FOGO) implementation, by addressing local government questions relating to end markets, PFAS data and limits, regulations, costs and viability of services.  
**Resolution 48 ▶**

- Implement a Household Chemical Collection Program at no additional cost to councils.  
**Resolution 58 ▶**

- Provide a flexible policy schedule for compost end product use.  
**Resolution 59 ▶**

- Undertake a comprehensive review into the end-of-waste criteria for resource recovery products against the specification for materials used in Federal, State and local infrastructure projects.  
**Resolution 60 ▶**

- Implement a voluntary approach to the adoption of climate sustainability reporting by councils and to provide appropriate guidelines and resources to assist those councils wishing to proceed with climate sustainability reporting.  
**Resolution 65 ▶**

- Recognise the importance of significant trees and vegetation on State Government land in urban areas and recognise the important role that trees and vegetation play as community assets.

Resolution 68 ▶

- Review the regulatory approval process for tree clearing on existing roads where road safety improvements impact upon endangered, vulnerable or near threatened plants as defined by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*.

Resolution 69 ▶

- Review the regulatory approval process for coastal protection works where Shoreline Erosion Management Plans (SEMP) have been prepared adjacent to a State Marine Park.

Resolution 70 ▶

- Conduct a review into the effectiveness of the *Soil Conservation Act 1986* with a focus on;

- + how effective is the Act in supporting soil conservation outcomes for local governments in the context of managing road infrastructure
- + whether there are gaps between the Act and other legislation and regulations associated with planning and development that can lead to detrimental soil conservation outcomes/increased cost burdens for local governments in the context of managing road infrastructure
- + a cost benefit analysis of proactive versus reactive management of soil conservation and the damage caused to environment and infrastructure by runoff and erosion
- + whether the resourcing provided to implement the Act is sufficient to support local governments management of current, and minimise the impact of future, soil conservation issues.

Resolution 71 ▶

- Review provisions for Environmentally Relevant Activity and trade waste discharge with the focus of enforcement, to be the original point of entry into sewerage networks, rather than at point of discharge at the treatment plants.

Resolution 98 ▶

## Both levels of Government to:

- Ban the importation and use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals by the end of 2026, including products not covered by the Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management Standard (cosmetics, personal care products, food packaging, clothing) rather than requiring local government water service providers to upgrade treatment technology, to protect community health and the environment from these chemicals.

Resolution 49 ▶

- Reinstate monitoring programs of flying fox roosts to address conservation, management, and compliance matters. To commit resources to the development and maintenance of a centralised database of flying fox roosts that is publicly available. And finally, to commit resources to the investigation of non-compliant actions and activities associated with flying fox roosts.

Resolution 72 ▶



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF QUEENSLAND



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