



THE HON CLARE O'NEIL MP
MINISTER FOR HOUSING
MINISTER FOR HOMELESSNESS
MINISTER FOR CITIES

Ref: MC25-025205

Mayor Matt Burnett
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor Burnett

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Matt'.

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 August 2025 concerning motions from the 2025 National General Assembly (NGA). I apologise for the delay in replying.

Firstly, I wish to thank ALGA for hosting its Local Government Housing Forum at Parliament House on 27 November 2025. It was a pleasure to attend the Forum alongside Minister McBain and I very much enjoyed our discussion on how the Commonwealth can work more closely with local governments and ALGA to deliver our national housing priorities. It was excellent to see so many of your members and enthusiastic council leaders coming together to discuss how they can build more homes and help deliver affordable housing in their areas.

The Australian Government has a \$43 billion plan to build more homes, back first home buyers into home ownership, and support renters. As we discussed at the ALGA Forum, local councils play a vital role in helping us deliver this plan to tackle Australia's housing challenges.

This is reflected in ALGA's role as a co-signatory to our National Housing Accord and support for our aspirational target of building 1.2 million well-located homes over five years. As you know, this ambitious target is a national commitment which requires collaboration, accountability and delivery across all levels of government—federal, state and local.

Thank you for your earlier correspondence sharing the motions arising from the NGA that relate to my portfolios of housing, homelessness and cities. I note that there are several themes emerging from these motions that align with the key topics of discussion at the ALGA Forum.

One of the central themes from both these motions and from the ALGA Forum was the importance of enabling infrastructure in helping us deliver our housing targets. The Government knows that enabling infrastructure plays a critical part in boosting supply by accelerating the delivery of housing on existing development-ready land. That is why we have made several major investments in enabling infrastructure and have committed further funds to unlock infrastructure barriers.

This starts with our existing commitment to provide \$1.5 billion through the Housing Support Program to states and territories for housing infrastructure and planning improvements. This funding is delivering important infrastructure projects around the country, with a particular focus on enabling infrastructure in regional and remote communities.

We are also investing \$10 billion to partner with state developers and industry to build up to 100,000 homes reserved for sale to first home buyers. Under this new initiative, the Government is working with state and territory governments to identify and fast-track suitable projects—including funding for enabling infrastructure where it will help to unlock homes for first home buyers. As I outlined at the ALGA Forum, I encourage local councils to work with state and territory governments to bring forward projects for consideration under this program.

Some of the NGA motions called for further investment in social and affordable housing. As you know, the Government has an ambitious commitment to deliver 55,000 social and affordable homes. This includes through the \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF), the single biggest investment to support social and affordable rental housing in over a decade.

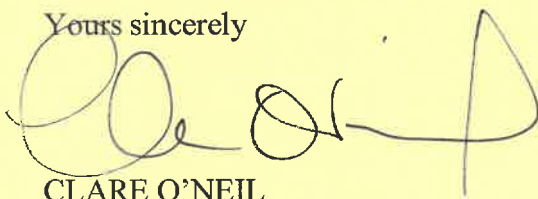
In November, we announced that the Government will deliver its largest round yet under the HAFF, with Round 3 delivering more than 21,000 new social and affordable homes across the country. The 21,000 homes delivered through Round 3 ensures we are on track to meet our commitment to deliver 55,000 social and affordable homes in full by mid-2029, with tens of thousands of homes to be delivered even earlier. And the HAFF is now supporting around 29,000 jobs each year across the economy over the period to June 2029 – which means more tradies on the tools building homes for people that need them.

Another key theme from the NGA motions is that local councils wish to get more involved in the design and development of housing and homelessness policy. In line with my communications late last year, I will engage my state and territory ministerial colleagues on ALGA's attendance at the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council and look to extend you an invitation for relevant agenda items at a future meeting. The meeting schedule for 2026 is currently under consideration. I will provide further information in due course.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and commitment to housing policy discussions, and for your close collaboration in the lead-up to the Economic Reform Roundtable. I greatly value ALGA's ongoing engagement and leadership on a range of policy issues affecting local government.

I look forward to continuing to work together to build more homes more quickly.

Yours sincerely



CLARE O'NEIL

11/12/2025