



SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

MC25-002018

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

via: jaimee.bell@alga.asn.au

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 August 2025 regarding resolutions from the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government, held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025.

My department has prepared a response to motions that fall within my areas of policy responsibility (see [Attachment A](#)). These include the Albanese Government's Future Made in Australia industrial policy initiatives, supporting advanced manufacturing, the National Reconstruction Fund - which supports 7 priority areas of the Australian economy, enhancing supply chain resilience, strengthening anti-dumping policy, digital transformation technologies and support for Australian Made products.

Several motions raise issues that fall outside my portfolio responsibilities. I have referred these matters to my ministerial colleagues.

- The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Cyber Security, and Minister for Immigration and Citizenship is responsible for cyber security matters.
- Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Women, Minister for Government Services, Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service is responsible for government procurement.
- The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training is responsible for workforce development.
- The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is responsible for regional logistics.
- The Hon Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, and Minister for Cities is responsible for building and construction industry matters.

Local governments are a trusted delivery partner for services communities rely on. The Government's priorities for economic development; cleaner, cheaper energy; more affordable housing; skills and training; as well as smart infrastructure cannot be achieved without the vital role of councils.

I appreciate the time you have taken to bring these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ayres', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TIM AYRES

4/12/2025

CC: The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Cyber Security, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Minister for Cyber Security
Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, Minister for Women, Minister for Government Services, Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service
The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training
The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
The Hon Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, and Minister for Cities

ATTACHMENT A

Future Made in Australia, Net Zero, and Clean Energy Technology

The Australian Government is committed to securing and strengthening Australia's industrial resilience and prosperity through its Future Made in Australia agenda. This national initiative aims to maximise the economic and industrial benefits of the transition to net zero, positioning Australia as a renewable energy superpower while enhancing economic security and value-adding to our resources.

To advance this agenda, the Net Zero Economy Authority (NZEa) plays an essential role in facilitating the transition. The NZEA is actively engaging with regional communities in identified priority regions to evaluate their needs and strengthen resilience. By collaborating with investors and all levels of government, the NZEA supports the Future Made in Australia agenda, driving investment into new decarbonised industries within its priority regions. The development of these industries will create stable, well-paid employment opportunities and provide measurable benefits to communities nationwide.

The Government has developed a Net Zero Plan to guide Australia's broader economic transition. Together with its six sector plans, the Net Zero Plan sets out government priorities, policies and measures to drive down emissions and support investment in low-emissions and renewable activities. These plans will guide Australia's transition to the legislated target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Clean energy technologies are central to achieving net zero goals and strengthening domestic manufacturing capability. The Government is making targeted investments in clean energy technology manufacturing capabilities, focusing on key segments of strategically important energy supply chains. The \$1 billion Solar Sunshot program is boosting domestic solar manufacturing, with \$45.5 million in funding awarded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to support upgrades to solar PV production and undertake feasibility studies for new manufacturing facilities. A further \$500 million has been invested in the Future Made in Australia Innovation Fund, supporting technologies such as battery and storage systems, hydrogen electrolyzers, and energy efficiency and electrification.

Advanced Manufacturing Support

The Australian Government recognises the important role of State Governments in leading regional economic development and transition planning. The Government is committed to supporting local communities and regions to share the economic benefit of Australian industrial prosperity. Coordination of local manufacturing initiatives is most appropriately led by State Governments in partnership with local councils and the Commonwealth will continue to engage constructively with jurisdictions to ensure communities can access the support they need to strengthen local manufacturing.

Building on this collaborative approach, growing and expanding the nation's advanced manufacturing capabilities will create jobs, help revitalise Australia's industrial base, and drive sustainable economic growth. The Government provides a range of initiatives to support businesses to become globally competitive, build scale and improve resilience. These include the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF) and the Industry Growth Program (IGP).

The Government established the NRF to facilitate targeted investments aimed at diversifying and transforming Australian industry.

The National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC) has been established to deliver the NRF as an independent financier. The NRFC is governed by an independent board and makes independent investment decisions in accordance with its legislative framework. The NRFC will provide finance to Australia-based investments in seven priority areas of the economy. These include; renewables and low-emissions technologies, medical science, transport, value-add in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, value-add in resources, defence capability, and enabling capabilities (including advanced manufacturing technologies, autonomous systems, robotics and advanced information and communication technologies).

The IGP provides an advisory service for startups and small to medium enterprises undertaking innovative commercialisation or growth projects that are in the NRF priority areas and that will help build Australia's future manufacturing capabilities. Eligible businesses are connected with an IGP adviser who provides specialised advice to support commercialisation and growth opportunities. Once this advice is provided, the applicants may then choose to apply for matched cash grants of:

- \$50,000 to \$250,000 to support early-stage commercialisation projects.
- \$100,000 to \$5 million for commercialisation and growth projects.

In 2024, the Government commissioned an independent expert panel to undertake the Strategic Examination of Research and Development (SERD). The review will examine opportunities to better align research and development (R&D) with national priorities, improve coordination and impact of funding and programs, drive better research collaboration and increase industry adoption of innovation. The panel is expected to provide its advice to government by December 2025.

Enhancing Supply Chain Resilience

The Government is committed to ensuring Australians maintain reliable access to essential goods and services. Through my portfolio, the Government works directly with targeted sectors to identify and assess supply chain risks. These sector-specific insights provide early warning of potential disruptions to critical supply chains and inform targeted actions to reinforce resilience across all levels of government.

Building on this national approach, the Government recognises the important role that local governments play in strengthening supply chain resilience and enabling sustainable regional development. Effective engagement across all levels of government is essential for delivering coordinated initiatives that support and protect strong economic outcomes. To ensure Australia continues to benefit from the development of critical technologies that support more efficient and sustainable manufacturing operations the Government is taking action by:

- Promoting Australia's research, innovation, industrial capabilities, and encouraging Australian industry to integrate advanced technologies into their operations; and
- Protecting access to technology through trusted supply chains and safeguarding against potential risks such as unauthorised knowledge transfer and intellectual property theft.

Strengthening Anti-dumping and Trade Protections

The Australian Government is taking action to strengthen the trade remedies system and to safeguard Australian businesses against unfair trade practices. The Government announced an additional \$5 million in funding for the Anti-Dumping Commission during the election campaign. This will help reduce investigation timeframes and strengthen future capacity. The Government (including the Anti-Dumping Commission) engages with stakeholders through several mechanisms. One way is through the International Trade Remedies Forum, comprising representatives from Australian manufacturers and producers, importers, unions and government agencies.

To further strengthen the trade remedies system, the Government announced on 28 August 2025 that it will also move responsibility for safeguards inquiries from the Productivity Commission to the Anti-Dumping Commission. This change will consolidate responsibility for all trade remedy measures within the Anti-Dumping Commission as Australia's single trade remedies authority, which has specialist knowledge and experience required to handle trade remedies matters.

A new Statement of Expectations was delivered to the Anti-Dumping Commissioner later this year outlining expectations for the Commissioner and the Anti-Dumping Commission to deliver for local industries being affected by unfair trade practices. These reforms are part of a broader effort to ensure the trade remedies system remains fit-for-purpose. The Government will continue to consider what further reforms may be necessary to Australia's trade remedies system to ensure it remains fit-for-purpose, effective and efficient in safeguarding local jobs and Australia's manufacturing sector from unfair trade.

Digital Transformation Technologies

The Government acknowledges the importance of digital transformation in enhancing service delivery and governance at all levels of government. A key priority is driving the adoption and integration of digital technologies throughout the economy. This includes removing barriers to ensure all Australians can benefit, particularly in sectors where digital adoption may affect workforce roles and employment pathways. While broader digital integration remains a priority, the Government does not currently hold a formal position on the adoption of blockchain technology.

Supporting Australian Made Products

To further support domestic manufacturing visibility and competitiveness, the Government is delivering two grants to Australian Made Campaign Limited (AMCL) to promote Australian-made goods across domestic and international markets. The Government has provided \$20 million to AMCL for its 'Australian Made Makes Australia' project, designed to expand the reach of locally produced goods among Australian consumers and boost the reputation, awareness and uptake of the Australian Made/Australian Grown (AMAG) logo among Australian manufacturers.

Building on domestic efforts, the Government is investing \$5 million in AMCL's 'Australian Made Export Initiative' project. Over three years, AMCL will promote and protect the AMAG logo in Australia's key export markets. The project includes registering the AMAG logo as a trademark in export markets, enforcing its proper use, delivering export education to unlock new overseas opportunities, and assessing the logo's impact in international markets.