



The Hon Kevin Hogan MP
Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister
Assistant Minister for Local Government
Federal Member for Page

Senator Hollie Hughes
Patron Senator for the Hunter Region

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNCIL IN SHORTLAND TO BENEFIT FROM \$2.1 BILLION COMMONWEALTH CASH BOOST

Lake Macquarie City Council in the Shortland electorate will benefit from the Australian Government's \$2.1 billion pre-payment on next year's Financial Assistance Grant to all councils across Australia.

Patron Senator for the Hunter Region, Hollie Hughes, said this early payment will give Lake Macquarie City Council access to funds to help manage the cumulative impacts of the floods and COVID-19.

"The funding will target councils' top priorities and will ensure the needs of our local communities are met," Senator Hughes said.

"This will provide a vital boost for our local communities, backing local jobs and economic growth while delivering lasting upgrades that will benefit residents for years to come.

Lake Macquarie City Council in the Shortland electorate will receive **\$13,402,343** bought forward from Year 2022/23 to Year 2021/22.

Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister and Assistant Minister for Local Government Kevin Hogan said pre-paying the Financial Assistance Grant means the Government is backing local councils when they need it most.

"The Government is committed to continuing its support to local governments, given their important role in delivering vital services and ensuring quality of life for Australian communities," Mr Hogan said.

"These grants are untied in the hands of local government, allowing councils to spend the grants according to local priorities – a real shot in the arm for councils and local decision-making in these challenging times.

“I want to acknowledge the hard work of local officials – with support from our Government – in dealing with natural disasters and their aftermath at a community level.

The Commonwealth has committed \$2.8 billion in funding to local government in 2022–23, 75 per cent being brought forward to be paid early to local governments for rebuilding after floods and the transition and planning of living with COVID-19.

More information is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/local-government/financial-assistance-grant-local-government.

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