

15 DECEMBER 2015

LATE ITEMS

**Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting No. 21/15
TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2015**

**Council Chambers, Level 6, Civic Centre,
1 Devlin Street, Ryde - 8.00pm**

Meeting Date: Tuesday 15 December 2015
Location: Council Chambers, Level 6, Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde
Time: 8.00pm

NOTICE OF BUSINESS

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LATE ITEM – PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

2 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMME

Report prepared by: Executive Assistant – Corporate and Community Services
File No.: CSG/14/3/22 - BP15/1852

CORRESPONDENCE:

Submitting correspondence from Paul Fletcher MP, Federal Member for Bradfield Minister for Territories, Local Government, and Major Projects dated 10 November 2015 in relation to Financial Assistance Grant Programme.

It is also advised that there are limited opportunities for Council to make application to a number of the Government's competitive grant programmes. This is due to the criteria of the grant programmes as outlined in the letter, not being focused on the Sydney metropolitan area. However, the National Stronger Regions fund could be applicable given its focus on supporting major regional infrastructure such as, transport hubs and enhancing the efficient movement of freight. Therefore, this information has been referred to the Connect Macquarie Park + North Ryde for their consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the correspondence be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Letter from Paul Fletcher MP regarding Financial Assistance Grants

Report Prepared By:

Lorraine Abboud-Safi
Executive Assistant - Corporate and Community Services

Report Approved By:

Roy Newsome
Acting Director - Corporate and Community Services

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 2 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PAUL FLETCHER MP

Federal Member for Bradfield
Minister for Territories, Local
Government, and Major Projects

PDR ID: MC15-005168

Clr Jerome Laxale
Mayor
City of Ryde
Locked Bag 2069
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670

Dear Mayor

Financial Assistance Grant programme

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October 2015 to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon Warren Truss MP, concerning the Financial Assistance Grant programme for local government. As the matter raised falls within my portfolio responsibility, your letter has been forwarded to me for reply.

The Deputy Prime Minister wrote to all Mayors on 30 June 2015 outlining the Australian Government's commitment to working with local government and providing an overview of the Government's investment in infrastructure. A copy of his letter is attached for your reference.

The Government's decision to temporarily pause indexation under the programme was an unpopular one and not one the Government wanted to take. The indexation pause has contributed to the important task of budget repair. Local governments will continue to receive their legal entitlement under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, with \$9.45 billion to be provided across the forward estimates.

To ensure councils have immediate access to untied funding to spend according to their local priorities, the first two quarterly instalments of the 2015-16 Financial Assistance Grant entitlement were brought forward, with the City of Ryde receiving \$1,591,676. In 2015-16, the City of Ryde will receive four quarterly instalments totalling \$1,602,062 under the Financial Assistance Grant programme. The first quarterly payment was made to jurisdictions on 17 August 2015.

Additionally, the Government has boosted the Roads to Recovery Programme by \$1.45 billion to a record \$3.2 billion. This will deliver the City of Ryde a further \$3,787,928 over five years - \$1,669,510 more than the former government provided under their programme. The City of Ryde's new 2015-16 allocation is \$1,181,900 and \$1,364,897 in 2016-17.

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PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 2 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

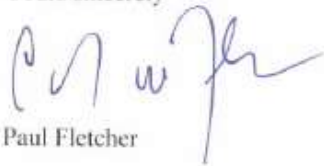
The extra funding under the Roads to Recovery Programme will be distributed to the City of Ryde with no requirement for your city to match the extra money. This Government has also made the programme permanent – something Labor failed to do when they were in Government. In addition, the Government has allocated \$867,000 under the Black Spot Programme in the Ryde region since 2013.

I note that the City of Ryde is yet to make an application to a number of the Government's competitive grant programmes. I encourage your City to consider applying for future rounds of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity and Bridges Renewal Programmes as well as the National Stronger Regions Fund.

Further, the Government has refocussed the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees to work closely with local government and industry to develop robust proposals that will support economic development in their region. I encourage your city to work with your RDA Committee to optimise the quality of the RDA's funding proposals.

I hope the information in this letter is of some help.

Yours sincerely



Paul Fletcher

10 / 11 / 2015

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