



Joint Media Release

Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Minister for Local Council

Amanda Rishworth MP
Member for Kingston

RUDD GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SA COUNCILS' SHARE OF \$130 MILLION IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The Rudd Labor Government today announced the funding amount for each South Australian council from a record \$130 million in financial assistance grants.

This is an increase of nearly \$8 million since last year (2007-08).

Nearly 60 per cent – or \$77 million – of the grants are for rural and regional councils in South Australia, which deliver jobs and services in local communities.

South Australia's 74 local governing bodies will be able to spend these funds on a range of priorities including local roads, parks and pools, libraries, community centres, health and child care services.

The grant allocation is determined independently and is untied so that councils can spend them in accordance with local priorities.

The \$130 million is in addition to the \$28 million available to South Australian councils this year from the Australian Government's *Roads to Recovery* program.

South Australian councils will also receive \$14.3 million in 2008-09 through supplementary funding for local roads.

The Rudd Government is putting local government at the heart of our nation-building agenda.

Local councils are not only critical to maintaining vibrant local communities but make a vital contribution to the nation's productivity.

We also understand how important the grants are for rural and regional councils, where these funds can comprise more than half of council revenue.

Nationally, the Rudd Government will provide nearly \$1.9 billion in financial assistance grants to local government, with South Australian councils receiving 6.9 per cent of the total amount.

Grants to individual councils were recommended by the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission, a body established under South Australian legislation for the purpose of determining the distribution of the grants to councils in South Australia.

(Details of the allocations are available at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/assistance>).