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28 January 2021


Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
Member for Kooyong
PO Box 6022
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer,

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL 2021-22 FEDERAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

Logan City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide comment ahead of the 2021-22 Federal Budget. Council supports the Federal Government's economic recovery plan to create jobs and secure Australia's future moving forward.

We would like to acknowledge the Federal Government's 2020-21 Budget, which outlined the extensive economic support measures put in place to kick-start the national economy and create jobs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific to the City of Logan, we welcome the boost to grant funding for programs such as the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and Building Better Regions Fund, in addition to infrastructure projects including:

- \$42.4 million for the Mt Lindesay Highway (Johanna St to South St)
- \$250 million to modernise recycling infrastructure
- \$750 million for Stage 1 of the Coomera Connector (Coomera to Nerang)
- \$4.5 million additional investment for NBN rollout and a further \$29.2 million will support the accelerated rollout of 5G
- \$4.2 million brought forward to accelerate the Brisbane to Gold Coast Faster Rail business case

The City of Logan is experiencing strong and sustained population growth which has led to challenges in ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with demand. Below, Council has identified the extension of a Federal Government grant program and two catalytic infrastructure projects that would boost the economy and cater for growth in the city.

Extension of Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

As outlined in the last budget, the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are forecast to continue into the coming years with persistently high unemployment rates. Recovery efforts at every level of government are imperative to sustain and protect the livelihood of Australians. The Australian Government's commitment to deliver a \$110 billion, 10-year infrastructure pipeline is a welcome investment as part of economic recovery and a task local government is well-appointed to deliver and identify additional opportunities.

A two-year extension of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program as a complementary measure has allowed Logan City Council to significantly accelerate nine projects delivered across the city, creating and supporting almost 100 employment opportunities.

In particular, the recent inclusion of community infrastructure in this program will provide immense benefits to our city. Council also has a pipeline of future community infrastructure projects which cannot be independently delivered by Council which would benefit from the fund, if ongoing.

The allocation-based approach of this program provides certainty to Council and the community enabling a sustained pipeline of infrastructure to be delivered. Furthermore, funding guidelines set out by the department for this program are more agile in nature, resulting in greater flexibility for Councils to select the most suitable projects for their local community.

Council requests the Federal Government include the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program in the budget on an ongoing basis using the allocation based approach to distribute funds among Local Governments.

Salisbury to Beaudesert Passenger Rail

The City of Logan acknowledges the \$10 million contribution made by the Federal Government in 2019 towards a business case for Salisbury to Beaudesert Passenger Rail. It is our understanding that the business case, which is jointly funded with the Queensland Government as a part of the Inland Rail Bilateral Agreement, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

Passenger rail between Salisbury and Beaudesert would help ease congestion on the Mt Lindesay Highway and provide an important link for Logan's fast-growing south west region, including the major growth centres of Flagstone and Yarrabilba. As the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications website summary for the project recognises, regular passenger rail services have the potential to not only improve access to jobs, health services and affordable housing, but also to boost tourism and increase development throughout the region. Other benefits include:

- improved travel reliability
- efficient and reliable travel options, and
- improved connectivity.

As the proposed line shares the same corridor as the Inland Rail project, Council requests that the Salisbury to Beaudesert Passenger Rail be brought forward to counteract the impacts of the Inland Rail project. Council considers there would be great economic and community benefit to deliver both projects simultaneously such as minimising construction-related disruption, boosting work efficiencies and delivering a tangible benefit to the community through access to affordable and efficient public transport options. Construction of Inland Rail through the City of Logan is expected between 2023-25.

Council requests that the Federal Government allocates funding to bring forward planning and construction on the Salisbury to Beaudesert Passenger Rail project as a matter of urgency.

Park Ridge Connector

The Logan suburb of Park Ridge is one of the last remaining greenfield industrial areas in South East Queensland. Utilising this greenfield land is strategically significant, not only for Logan, but also for the wider SEQ region. A recent Council study of employment land in the City of Logan found an undersupply of 'market ready' medium-impact industrial land to accommodate future industrial jobs and business expansion, with Park Ridge identified as the only feasible location for future supply.

However lack of road access in the area is hindering expansion and future development. If construction on the proposed Park Ridge Connector road is brought forward, it would unlock this employment land and create a significant number of jobs. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, such job creation would greatly help our region's economic recovery.

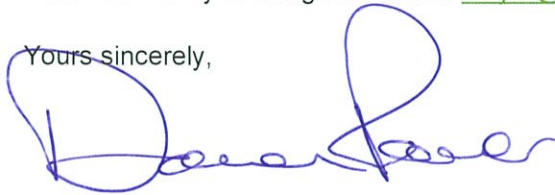
The proposed Park Ridge Connector would provide connectivity to the Logan Motorway and the Gateway Motorway. The present lack of road access and connectivity to the Logan Motorway is likely to deter a number of industrial operators, particularly those that have a freight, logistics or distribution requirement.

While the corridor has been preserved and funding for planning has been allocated by the Queensland Government, the state currently has no plans to construct the Park Ridge Connector in the near future. Council believes the job creation benefits of the Park Ridge Connector, both in construction and through future industrial jobs, makes it a strong candidate for federal funding.

Council requests that the Federal Government allocates funding to bring forward planning and construction on the Park Ridge Connector project as a matter of urgency.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact my office by calling (07) 3412 5218 or by sending an email to mayor@logan.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor Darren Power

Logan City Council