



Dear Chief Executive Officers,

### **2010-11 Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant**

On 4 June 2010, councils were advised via fax of their Indicative grant allocation. As detailed in the Federal Budget of 11 May 2010, an early payment was made to councils on 24 June 2010. As directed by the Commonwealth this allocation to councils was based on the percentage of the entitlement pool each council received in 2009/10.

In July each year the Commonwealth advises of the final total state pool for the upcoming year. This includes the adjustments required for the previous year based on population and CPI figures and is referred to as the cash allocation. The Commission then finalises the allocation and forwards for approval from the State and Commonwealth Ministers for Local Government. The first quarterly payment is made around the 15th of August of each year.

***Please note: The interstate allocations of the 2010-11 grants pool is yet to be finalised by the Commonwealth. At this stage, we are uncertain as to when this will be finalised the likely extent of the delay for the first quarter payment. However, the Queensland Grants Commission will provide immediate notification of the approval and subsequent first quarter payment date as soon as it is received.***

If you have any enquiries regarding your grant allocation please contact Lynn Sawtell from the Commission on 3225 8693 or by email [lynn.sawtell@dip.qld.gov.au](mailto:lynn.sawtell@dip.qld.gov.au)

### **Council Road Data Audit Process**

A letter was sent to all councils last year advising of the Grants Commission's ongoing research program which involves a review of the accuracy of local government road length and traffic volume data. To date there has been eight council road data audits completed throughout this past financial year with further audits planned for 2010/11. The Commission would like to thank all councils for their participation in the audit process.

The audit is not only valuable for ensuring that each council receives their correct allocation, but the Commission feels that the integrity of the data is being enhanced.

### **Annual Consolidated Data Collection**

The Commission is due to send out in September the Consolidated Data Collection Form for the year ending 30 June 2010. One of the primary sources of data for the Commission is information as provided by councils in this form. Therefore it is important that the data is as accurate as possible for each council and is received by the due date. As this form also collects information for the Australian Bureau of Statistics which is required soon after the due date, it is imperative that the collection form is returned on time.

It is important to note that the following section that relates to data collection is part of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

(4) If—

(a) the grants commission requires a local governing body to provide information to help the grants commission make a decision about funding under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act; and

(b) the local governing body does not make a submission by the date reasonably specified by the grants commission;  
the grants commission can recommend that no funding be allocated to the local governing body.

## **Review of Methodology for Allocation of General Purpose Grant**

The review of the methodology is nearing completion. Currently the Commission is conducting individual meetings with some councils. The Information Paper to be released to the local government sector and other stakeholders will first need to be forwarded to the Commonwealth Minister for Local Government prior to distribution to Queensland councils. Naturally this will need to occur after the Federal election.

The Commission still intends to conduct regional information sessions on the new methodology after the release of the Information Paper.

## **Grants Commission Support Staff**

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