

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

## FACT SHEET 3      ROADS TO RECOVERY (R2R)

*Nationally, local government seeks permanent funding of the R2R program at current levels in real terms.*

Local government welcomes the legislation to extend the R2R program to 2014, at \$350m per annum. Local government also strongly supports the \$550m for AusLink Strategic Regional and the extension, including increased funding to \$60 million per annum, of the Blackspots Program.

Local government is responsible for around 84 per cent of Australia's roads (by length) and provides and maintains road and related infrastructure worth some \$103 billion.

Local government currently spends in excess of \$3.5 billion (2003 – 04) per annum of its own source revenue as well as R2R funding on roads.

The R2R program is a flagship partnership between local government and the Federal Government and it has proven invaluable in helping to address the substantial backlog in local road needs. Since the introduction of the Roads to Recovery program in March 2001, in excess of 15,000 projects have been completed<sup>1</sup>, helping provide for the safe travel of community members.

Despite this substantial investment, a permanent solution to the chronic under-funding of local roads is needed. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government estimates a continuing national local road deficit of about \$400 million per annum.

As the transport task continues to grow, so too will the road maintenance and renewal task faced by local government. ALGA seeks permanent funding of the R2R program at announced levels in real terms.<sup>2</sup>

Local government also seeks greater flexibility in the use of funds to allow funding of all types of transport related infrastructure at the discretion of the individual council.

---

<sup>1</sup> DOTARS 2006, *Roads to Recovery Programme Annual Report 2004/2005* p15

<sup>2</sup> Local government seeks all financial transfers from the Commonwealth to local government to be maintained in real terms – indexed using a local government cost index, to be developed based on real cost increases being experienced in the local government sector.