

Attachment C

**United Services Union Letter Relating to
Proposed Parliamentary Inquiries into
Local Government Funding**

21 February 2024

By your side



Sydney City Council
Ms Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Barone,

I take this opportunity to advise Council that after a concerted campaign undertaken by the United Services union (USU) & LGNSW over the past 5 years, agreement has been reached with the Minns Labor Government on an Upper House Parliamentary Inquiry with terms of reference including but not limited to;

- How Councils are funded
- Cost Shifting
- Impacts of rate capping

As we understand the process, arrangements are now being made as to the makeup of the Inquiry positions, including the agreed detailed terms of reference that apply to the Inquiry.

The USU have insisted that every council across NSW must have an opportunity to appear before this Inquiry prosecuting the arguments around the debilitating effects of rate capping, cost shifting and all other cost implications effecting councils' ability to deliver the services that local communities require.

The USU strongly believes that the current funding model for NSW councils is seriously out of touch with council & community needs, this Inquiry will finally shine a spotlight upon this.

Secondly, I advise that for the past six years at a National level the USU/ASU/ALGA have been prosecuting arguments for change and improvements to federal funding of Local Government.

There are 527 Councils across the nation all dependant in some form on additional funding from the Federal Government (federal assistance grants, and others) the allocation methodology of these grants as we understand it are outdated, unfair, inconsistent and need a complete overhaul, again cost shifting, inconsistency and priorities are concerns.

As a result of this campaign I confirm that a Federal Standing Committee Inquiry has been agreed to with the Federal Labor Government and the terms of reference were agreed to last week and will soon be released publicly.

The USU seeks the support of your council in both Inquiries and can assure you that we will be supportive of councils across NSW to ensure that an appropriate modern financial funding model for all councils is achieved.

UNITED SERVICES UNION

**NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CLERICAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE, ENERGY, AIRLINES
AND UTILITIES UNION**

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Dubbo, Grafton, Hay, Port
Macquarie, Wagga Wagga

Communities deserve sustainable jobs and modern facilities in a modern Local Government sector, and you can't have those facilities without appropriate funding.

I am always available to discuss these issues as outlined above, should you wish to do so on mobile no. 0417 420 919.

Please email any written correspondence to dpapps@usu.org.au

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Kelly OAM
GENERAL SECRETARY

cc. Lord Mayor Clover Moore cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

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