



MEDIA RELEASE

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD CALLS PARTIES
TO ACCOUNT**

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW today released a summary of the policy promises of the major parties in the lead up to the NSW State Election.

Based on the Associations General Policy Platform as well as separate policy papers, the card lists 16 actions required by the incoming State Government to address the main challenges facing Local Government.

The signing of an IGA, a guarantee of no forced amalgamations and the establishment of an independent planning commission are just some of the big ticket items.

“It is no secret that there are significant challenges facing Local Government which are impacting on communities, and as such require urgent and committed attention from the incoming State Government,” President of the Local Government Association of NSW, Cr Genia McCaffery said.

“The report card will help councils and their communities’ interpret the policy promises of the major parties and how each commitment will impact on them before they vote on 24 March.

“We are encouraged that each party has committed to no forced amalgamations, but as yet the Greens are the only party willing to return planning powers to councils and take the reduction of waste seriously by introducing container deposit legislation and returning a majority of the waste levy.”

President of the Shires Association of NSW, Cr Col Sullivan OAM, said he was pleased that the Opposition had formally responded to the LGSA’s policy platform and that their response represented a good deal for Local Government. He added that while the Government’s recognition of Local Government in the State Plan is a good start, we are still waiting for a more detailed response to our policy platform.

“Local Government affects every resident in NSW from the moment they wake up until they go to sleep at night – and the Government can demonstrate its commitment to Local Government by signing an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA),” Cr Sullivan said.

“We are also disappointed that the Government has said outright it will not review rate pegging, when it’s clear that it is one of the reasons councils are struggling to provide for their communities.”

Cr Sullivan said he was pleased that both the Government and Opposition had committed funding to the Timber Bridges Program and the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program (CTWSSP).

To view the Associations General Policy platform or separate policy papers go to <http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/1315-election-policy-platform.asp?intSiteID=1>.

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