



Joint Communiqué: Local Government Ministerial Forum #15 28 November 2025

Local Government Ministers from across Australia met virtually on Friday 28 November 2025 for the Local Government Ministers' Forum (LGMF) to advance inter-governmental cooperation on issues affecting local governments across Australia.

Examining Financial Sustainability

Ministers received an update on the adoption of a Federal House of Representatives Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability which will build upon the 2024 Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability to examine the systems of funding available to local governments in relation to their service obligations and costs.

Accounting for Asset Depreciation

Ministers welcomed a presentation from the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) regarding asset depreciation and the application of accounting standards in local government operations. Ministers were advised of the AASB Staff FAQs on local governments and accounting depreciation; and that the accounting standards are intended for financial reporting purposes, and do not require funds to be set aside to offset depreciation expenses. Ministers acknowledged the concerns of local governments on these issues and agreed to examine the application of accounting standards within systems of assessing local government performance and sustainability. Ministers agreed to revisit the issue in 2026 and produce a report for consideration by treasurers through the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

Disaster Preparedness and Response

Ministers welcomed a presentation from the National Emergency Management Agency which provided an update on the agency's work and arrangements for responding to major weather events ahead of the 2025-26 peak weather season. Ministers acknowledged the critical role of local government in disaster preparedness and response. Ministers discussed mechanisms to ensure that the work undertaken by local governments to mitigate the impact of weather events is appropriately recognised and agreed to work with the National Emergency Management Ministers on the issue.

Next Meeting

Ministers will meet again in the first half of 2026.

Attendance

The 15th meeting of the LGMF was attended by:

The Hon Kristy McBain MP (Commonwealth)	Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories; Emergency Management
Andrew Barr MLA (ACT)	Chief Minister; Minister for Economic Development; Tourism and Trade
The Hon Steven (Steve) Edgington MLA (Northern Territory)	Minister for Health; Mental Health; Alcohol Policy; Aboriginal Affairs; Housing, Local Government and Community Development; Essential Services
The Hon Kerry Vincent MLC (Tasmania)	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Local Government; Housing and Planning
The Hon Joe Szakacs MP (South Australia)	Minister for Trade and Investment; Industry, Innovation and Science; Local Government; Veterans Affairs
The Hon Ann Leahy MP (Queensland)	Minister for Local Government and Water; Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers
The Hon Nick Staikos MP (Victoria)	Minister for Consumer Affairs; Local Government
The Hon Hannah Beazley MLA (Western Australia)	Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth
Mayor Matt Burnett	President of the Australian Local Government Association Mayor of Gladstone Regional Council
Mr Brett Whitworth PSM representing the Hon Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government (given his absence to deal with urgent parliamentary duties) (New South Wales)	Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government