

BREAKOUT SESSION PAPER GLOBAL ECONOMIC RECESSION

Local communities are experiencing the effects of the global economic recession on local economies. Although the Australian economy continues to outperform most around the world, Australians are feeling the effects of the global recession through increased unemployment, slowed growth, and additional demand on local community services and facilities.

Local governments have also been directly affected through a fall in own-source income, particularly resulting from under-performing investments, defaults in rate payments, and slowed growth in the property market.

Australians are expecting all levels of government to provide leadership and support during these tough times.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN IS SUPPORTING JOBS AND DELIVERING RECORD INVESTMENTS IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE. IT INCLUDES:

- \$14.7 billion for the Building the Education Revolution program;
- \$6.4 billion to build and improve social and defence housing;
- \$1.2 billion equity injection for the Australian Rail Track Corporation;
- \$711 million brought forward to accelerate 14 road projects under the Nation Building Program;
- \$300 million to improve safety at road black spots and rail crossings;
- \$4 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package;
- \$650 million Jobs Fund; and
- \$800 million through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

In addition, this year's Budget secured a \$36 billion investment in the Nation Building Program for highways, railways and local roads, including a new investment of \$8.5 billion for 15 nation-building projects.

The Australian Government believes that local government is in a strong position to lead local economic recovery and build resilience at the community level through identifying and supporting local community priorities.

That is why the \$800 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program is being delivered exclusively through local government, and local governments are benefitting from other aspects of the Economic Stimulus Plan.

As we work in partnership to help local economies rebuild and recover, federal and local governments need to continue their dialogue about how we can make our communities stronger, more resilient and prosperous into the future.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

- What are the characteristics of a resilient local government and community in the current economic climate?
- What strategies and actions have you taken, alone or in conjunction with councils in your region, to build economic resilience?
- What kinds of innovative partnerships between the local and federal spheres of government will assist in achieving resilience in local, and through them the national, economies?



An Australian Government Initiative

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