

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **STRONG INVESTMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

This year's budget highlights the NSW Government's commitment to supporting local councils serve their communities, NSW Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

More than \$257 million has been committed in this year's budget to support councils deliver effective leadership, improve services and infrastructure and provide good governance.

"Our priority is to ensure the Office of Local Government can continue to ensure communities and ratepayers are getting value for money," Ms Upton said.

"This budget is about helping councils ease the cost of living pressures, provide local infrastructure and strong and stable leadership."

Budget highlights include:

- \$79 million to ease cost of living pressures for pensioners by subsidising council rates and charges through the Pensioners Rebate Scheme
- \$16 million to support councils through the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme
- \$12 million for initiatives, such as the second round of Innovation Fund Grants to improve local service provision for regional and rural councils
- \$4.3 million over four years for important capital works projects on Lord Howe Island
- \$2.1 million for the upgrade of the successful online NSW Pet Registry website which will help reunite lost pets and their owners more quickly
- Funding over three years in the budget to continue funding the successful Responsible Pet Ownership Schools Education Program

"We want the state's councils to improve the lives of their residents by focusing on the infrastructure and services they care about, such as parks, footpaths and waste services," Ms Upton said."

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