



Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

Media Release

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Kingston Local Councils Share Large Slice of the \$300 Million Local Infrastructure Fund

The City of Onkaparinga and the Marion Council will share \$1,670,000 this financial year as part of the Rudd Labor Government's \$300 million community infrastructure stimulus package to help local communities respond to the global financial crisis.

- \$1,345,000 offered to City of Onkaparinga Council
- \$325,000 offered to Marion Council

Both Councils will also be eligible to apply on a competitive basis for larger projects seeking a minimum Commonwealth contribution of \$2 million or more.

The funding was announced by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as part of the new regional and local **Community Infrastructure Program** at the Australian Council of Local Government in Canberra this week.

"This is some welcome relief for our communities who are feeling the pinch of the global financial crisis," Ms Amanda Rishworth MP said today.

This is an initial down-payment on the Australian Government's plans to meet urgent needs in communities and create long-term infrastructure. Ongoing funding will be delivered in the May 2009 Budget following consultation with local government.

This down payment will be delivered in record time – by June 30, 2009.

The \$300 million will be delivered – in two parts – a **\$250 million fund offered to all councils and shires as well as a competitive \$50 million fund for projects seeking \$2 million or more.**

Preference will be given to local projects that can start immediately to stimulate economic development and improve the quality of life in local communities.

"This is our opportunity to get moving on those important local projects – things like our community centres, libraries and sports grounds," Ms Rishworth said.

“We want to projects that stimulate local economies in the short-term; support jobs in local communities; and provide practical community infrastructure for the long-term.”

Local councils need to begin preparatory work quickly to secure funding as soon as possible. Guidelines for applications and timetables would be released shortly by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

“We’re supporting local economies with the Community Infrastructure Program, to help communities through the global financial crisis, which started in the United States and has affected economies across the world,” Ms Rishworth said.

“The Rudd Government is taking early and decisive action – at the local level – through the Community Infrastructure Program.”

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