

FOL/19/69



30 January 2019

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP  
The Treasurer  
Parliament House  
House of Representatives  
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Dear Treasurer

**Bayside City Council 2019-20 Budget Submission**

I write to provide this submission to highlight Bayside City Council's priorities for consideration in the lead up to the 2019-20 Federal Budget.

***Funding for local government***

Bayside City Council supports the Australian Local Government Association's submission to repair federal funding to local government. The relative decline in federal funding to local government has reduced the capacity of councils to develop and maintain services and infrastructure in their communities. Financial Assistance Grants have declined by around 43% in relative terms over the past 20 years, and now amount to approximately 0.55% of Commonwealth tax revenue as compared with 1 per cent in 1996.

***Assistance for community infrastructure***

Bayside's population is forecast to increase by 10 per cent over the next decade. A growing population and increasing density puts pressure on community infrastructure including open space and recreation facilities.

Specifically, Bayside City Council is seeking federal financial assistance to address two key projects which respond to these challenges:

**Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve**

- A contribution of \$3 million to transform a former golf course into a nature reserve, achieving significant environmental, economic, health and social benefits in an area of major urban growth and increasing population density.



**Netball**

- A contribution of \$9 million to complement \$11 million investment from Council for a new regional netball facility to overcome a lack of appropriate facilities and increase participation by a population group that is underrepresented in sport and physical activity.

Further detail on the benefits of both projects and how these align with federal policy priorities has been supplied in attachments to this submission.

***Funding for kindergarten***

Bayside City Council also supports the Municipal Association of Victoria's campaign for a long term federal funding commitment that guarantees 15 hours of four-year-old kindergarten per week, per child.

There is irrefutable evidence linking preschool attendance to improved student results in numeracy, reading and spelling yet Australia spends less on preschool education than most other developed countries.

In recognition of the benefits of preschool, since 2013 Australia's federal, state and territory governments have jointly funded 15 hours of kindergarten per week for all children in the year before they attend school.

Federal funding is only secured until December 2019. If federal funding is discontinued it is estimated families will pay an extra \$2000 per child per year. Our more vulnerable families will simply miss out on valuable early childhood education.

I commend this Budget Submission to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Heffernan', written in a cursive style.

Cr Michael Heffernan  
**Mayor**