

Our ref: R09/0012 Out-30415
Further contact: [Lillian Tiddy](#)

1 April 2020

Graeme Kelly OAM
General Secretary
United Services Union
Level 7
321 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: gkelly@usu.org.au

Dear Mr Kelly

Federal Government Wage Subsidy

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March 2020 on seeking the inclusion of Local Government in the Federal Government's Wage Keeper Program. I am writing to confirm that LGNSW has today, written to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP urging that he support our call to do so.

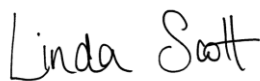
Further, given the Program's current eligibility criteria, we are advocating through ALGA that councils be given earlier access to the wage subsidies.

LGNSW sees it as critical that the local government sector receives adequate funding and resources to coordinate and deliver the goods and services needed as we navigate through, and recover from, natural disasters and the new challenges presented by COVID-19 and its massive impacts on our communities, customers, staff and our local economies. We will explore what arrangements are necessary to support extension of this Program's benefits to councils and how we can ensure the ongoing financial viability of local government more broadly.

In the interim, we are preparing Mayoral minutes and other campaign materials to advocate for state and federal local government stimulus packages as well as arranging a series of meetings with General Managers to discuss COVID related issues, practical and emerging initiatives and to ensure they understand what their legal obligations.

I would be pleased to discuss what we can do, in a coordinated manner, to ensure local government continues to provide essential services and stable and secure employment and thank you for your offer to do so.

Yours sincerely



Cr Linda Scott
President