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28 April 2021

**Our reference: 1040912**

Honourable Mark Coulton MP  
Suite M1 52  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: [mark.coulton.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:mark.coulton.mp@aph.gov.au)

## ***Office of the Mayor – Cr Rachel Chambers***

Dear Honourable Mark Coulton MP

### ***Re: What does 0.45% look like in the North Burnett?***

On behalf of the Australians who live in Queensland's North Burnett region, in the federal electorate of Flynn, I am writing to illustrate to you what restoring the Federal Assistant Grant to 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue would mean to my community.

As the former Mayor of a regional shire, I know you will understand my community's plight. The area you oversaw as Mayor was nearly 10,000km<sup>2</sup>; ours is 20,000km<sup>2</sup>. Yours has a population of 6,000; ours has 10,500. Yours included three former local government areas; ours included six.

The North Burnett region has the 12<sup>th</sup> longest road network out of all councils in Australia but only 6,287 ratepayers. 1% would mean a region where our council could adequately maintain our road network to allow us to safely get our kids to get to school, our product to market and give safe passage to our tourists and travellers.

1% would mean we could plan for asset maintenance. As it stands, without adequate funding we are continually reacting to critical conditions and delaying maintenance activities resulting in increasing risk.

1% means a council who can deliver on business as usual whilst making our region a liveable community for the future. I ask you to reflect on your inaugural speech in 2008, where you said:

*"In regional areas local government is under increasing pressure. It has become the primary vehicle for the delivery of services. .... They are doing a magnificent job but are grossly underfunded. I firmly support a more equitable method of funding regional local government".*

As one of Australia's decision makers, there has never been a more impactful time for you and your colleagues to make a decision that would have a profound impact for generations to come.

The Labor party recently amended its policy platform to restore the Federal Assistance Grants and I am respectfully asking that the Liberal and National Parties include it in their policy platforms too. The futures of this great country's regional areas, like the North Burnett, depend on it.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Chambers', written in a cursive style.

Cr Rachel Chambers  
**Mayor**

