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*Please attribute the information below to Shire President, Cr David Roe.*

## MEDIA RELEASE

### State Road Funding Cuts Detrimental to Gingin Shire

The Shire of Gingin is extremely disappointed in the State Government's recent announcement to cut \$10 million in road funding and believes it will have a significant impact on the Shire's ability to maintain sections of its road network to safe standards.

This decision has come as a shock given the Shire has only recently adopted its 2017-18 budget with a 1.75% rate increase, and this recent announcement could amount to \$83,000 or 1.1% of this rate increase.

"\$83,000 may not be a lot of money on a State level, but it is a significant amount for a country local government with considerable rural road networks to maintain," said Gingin Shire President, Cr David Roe.

"We find it disappointing that the State Government chooses to announce this now, after most local councils have adopted their budgets and who rely on every cent of this funding to keep their roads maintained to safe standards."

For the Shire of Gingin, and for the purposes of an example, the funding cut of \$83,000 means either:

- A reduction of 2.6km of resealing works on the Shire's current road network. For 2017-18 the Shire had budgeted for 10.08km of resealing across the Shire - this will now be reduced to 7.45km, a decrease of 26%;
- or
- A reduction in contract verge clearing of 20km. In 2017-18 the Shire had listed Cowalla Road requiring verge clearing of up to 30km in length. This could now be reduced to 10km, a decrease of 67%. This reduction will greatly impact road safety for motorists on this road.

"Both examples provide clear reductions in service for our community and it appears that we have to wear the costs," Cr Roe said. "First it was the vehicle concessions which were blocked by an Upper House disallowance motion, and now it's a direct reduction in road funding."

Cr Roe also stated that he supported WALGA President Lynne Craigie's view that this would place additional financial pain to communities or defer road maintenance works.

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