The issue of roads funding to unincorporated areas of the Territory would be on the agenda at the Local Government and Planning Ministerial Council meeting to be attended by Local Government and Housing Minister Elliot McAdam in Melbourne tomorrow.

“While the Australian Government has rejected the Hawker Inquiry’s recommendation to fund local government on the basis of need, they have left the way open for reform in the area of roads funding,” said Mr McAdam.

“With more than 7000 kilometres of unincorporated roads in the Territory, we have been consistently discriminated over roads funding.

“It particularly affects Territory local government through the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants.

“As someone who travels thousands of kilometres a year on our remote roads, I share with many thousands of other Territorians the frustrations of not getting a fair share from the Commonwealth in its roads funding.

“As an issue of regional development as well as community safety, the Marin Labor Government has significantly boosted its commitments to rural and remote roads—it’s up to Canberra to chip in as well.

“I will be pursuing the Australian Government over its commitment for the Commonwealth Grants Commission to urgently review the identified roads component of Financial Assistance Grants to local government.”

The Ministerial Council meeting will also be discussing long term approaches to the provision of affordable housing; a national approach to disaster mitigation; as well as issues surrounding communities affected by rapid growth.

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