

## **10.10.2023 Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference (National General Assembly)**

**AUTHOR:** Ian Curry, Manager Council & Committee Services

**ENDORSED BY:** Shane Sullivan, Executive Manager Governance

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

### **PURPOSE:**

To consider the appointment of delegates to attend the 2023 National General Assembly and any proposed Motions.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The 2023 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) will be held in Canberra from 13 to 16 June 2023.

The [theme](#) for this year's NGA will be "Our Communities, Our Future". ALGA is seeking [motions](#) that align with this theme and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build stronger communities. Motions are due by 24 March 2023.

In addition, Council may resolve the appointment of delegates to attend the 2023 National General Assembly. The early bird deadline for registrations is 18 May 2023.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The standard registration cost for each delegate is \$895 to attend in person and \$689 to attend virtually. Funding for attendance is provided for in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1.THAT** Council considers any proposed Motions for submission to the Conference, noting the deadline of 24 March 2023.

## LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

### 5. Our Civic Leadership

#### 5.1 Council leads the strategic direction of North Sydney

## BACKGROUND

Council's Mayor and Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy states:

*7.32 Approval to attend a conference or seminar is subject to a written request to the General Manager. In assessing a councillor request, the General Manager must consider factors including the:*

- a) relevance of the topics and presenters to current Council priorities and business and the exercise of the councillor's civic duties;*
- b) cost of the conference or seminar in relation to the total remaining budget.*

## CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

## DETAIL

This year's NGA will be held in Canberra from 13 to 16 June 2023 and will be an opportunity for Local Government to clearly set and articulate an agenda to a new or returning Federal Government.

The [theme](#) for this year's NGA will be "Our Communities, Our Future". ALGA is seeking [motions](#) that align with this theme and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build stronger communities.

### Motions

The motions passed at the NGA inform ALGA's strategic direction and national advocacy objectives. ALGA takes the resolutions to Ministers, MPs and decision-makers in Canberra and around the country through Ministerial meetings, forums, budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

A notice of motion to this year's NGA should either focus on:

- practical and deliverable programs and policies that the Australian Government can support and work directly with the local government sector to build our communities; or
- new program ideas that would help the local government sector to deliver national objectives.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording: *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ...*

On 16 February 2023, Councillors were asked to provide any proposed Motions by Friday 3 March 2023 for inclusion in this report. At the date of finalising this report (3 March 2023), no proposed Motions were received.

All Motions must be lodged online by Friday 24 March 2023 and all Motions must be supported by way of a Council resolution.

## **Delegates**

The standard registration cost for each delegate is \$895 to attend in person and \$689 to attend virtually. The Mayor and Councillors MaryAnn Beregi and Shannon Welch have advised that they would like to attend the NGA.

Early bird registration closes 19 May 2023 and it is intended that Council take advantage of this discounted price.

Any other Councillor wishing to attend would need to advise the General Manager in writing of this intention, in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy by 9am Thursday 18 May 2023.