

10.1. 2024 Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference (National General Assembly)

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ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	5. Our Civic Leadership 5.1 Lead North Sydney's strategic direction

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to consider the appointment of delegates for attendance at the 2024 National General Assembly, and any proposed Motions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The 2024 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) will be held in Canberra, from 2 to 4 July 2024.
- The theme for this year's NGA will be "Building Community Trust." ALGA is seeking motions that align with this theme, and which identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build stronger communities. Motions are due by 30 April 2024.
- In addition, Council may resolve the appointment of delegates to attend the 2024 NGA. The early bird deadline for registrations is 7 June 2024.

This matter was previously considered by Council at its meeting on 26 February 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

1.THAT Council consider any proposed Motions for submission to the Conference, noting the deadline of 30 April 2024.

2.THAT any Councillor wishing to attend the Conference advise the Chief Executive Officer before 7 June 2024.

Background

Council's Mayor and Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy state the following (note, reference to the General Manager relates to the Chief Executive Officer):

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.*

At its meeting on 26 February 2024, Council considered this report and resolved:

- 1. THAT Council considers any proposed Motions for submission to the Conference at the 22 April 2024 Council meeting.*
- 2. THAT any Councillor wishing to attend the Conference advise the General Manager before 7 June 2024.*

Report

This year's NGA will be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024 and will be an opportunity for Local Government to clearly set and articulate an agenda to the Federal Government.

The theme for this year's NGA is "Building Community Trust". The ALGA is seeking motions that align with this theme and which identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build stronger communities. Motions are due by 30 April 2024.

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 the council's state or territory local government association;
5. be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state territory's 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; and
10. be substantiated 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 ..'*

All Motions must be lodged online by Tuesday 30 April 2024, and all Motions must be supported by way of a Council resolution.

Delegates

The standard registration cost for each delegate to attend is \$945.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

Early bird registration closes 7 June 2024, and it is intended that Council take advantage of this discounted price. Accommodation has been pre-booked in anticipation of Councillor attendance.

Legislation

ALGA was founded in 1947 and, in 1976, established a secretariat in Canberra reflecting growing links with the Australian Government and an awareness of local government's emerging national role.