

8.3. 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference - Proposed Motions

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ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To consider Motions received from Precinct Committees and Councillors for consideration at the 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2020 Local Government NSW Annual Conference will be held in the Hunter Valley from Sunday 22 November to Tuesday 24 November 2020.

Council considered a report on this matter at its meeting on 27 July 2020 and resolved:

- 1. THAT Council nominate Councillors Brodie and Keen as voting delegates to attend the 2020 LGNSW Conference in Cessnock, in addition to the Mayor (voting delegate).*
- 2. THAT the Precinct Committees and local business community be invited to submit suggested issues for Council's consideration.*
- 3. THAT a further report be submitted to Council in August 2020 regarding any proposed Motions for the LGNSW Conference.*
- 4. THAT the 2020 meeting schedule be amended to hold the November Council meeting on Monday 30 November in order to allow Councillors to attend the 2020 LGNSW Conference.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs will include delegate registration and travel costs. An amount of \$15,500.00 has been allocated in the 2020/21 budget for Mayor and Councillor attendance at conferences, seminars and training.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Precinct Committees be thanked for their submissions.
2. **THAT** Council endorse the following Motion from Lavender Bay Precinct and submit it to the LGNSW Conference:
 - *That educational institutions acquiring additional land pay Council rates on new acquisitions.*

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

The LGNSW Annual Conference is the annual policy-making event for all NSW councils and associate members. It is the pre-eminent event of the local government year where councillors come together to share ideas and debate issues that shape the way we are governed.

All NSW councils, regional, country and metropolitan, meet with an anticipated 800 attendees from across the state, inclusive of mayors, councillors, general managers and senior staff.

The Mayor has been registered to attend the 2020 Conference. Following the July Council meeting, Councillors Brodie and Keen have advised that they are not available to attend the Conference.

The draft Conference program is available [here](#).

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement was undertaken in accordance with the Council resolution regarding suggested 'issues' for Council's consideration.

DETAIL

Criteria for Motion Submission

The LGNSW Board has resolved that motions will be included in the Business Paper for the Annual Conference only where they:

1. are consistent with the objects of the Association (see Rule 4 of the Association's rules);
2. relate to local government in NSW and/or across Australia;
3. concern or are likely to concern local government as a sector;
4. seek to advance the local government policy agenda of the Association and/or improve governance of the Association;
5. have a lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its

- implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws);
6. are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature, and
 7. do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

Further details regarding the submission of Motions can be found [here](#).

As in the past, it is proposed that Precinct Committees and the local business community (via Business e-news) will be invited to submit suggested issues for Council's consideration. It is also recommended that Council consult with its delegates to NSROC (the Mayor, Councillors Barbour, Brodie and Keen) regarding any issues that could be raised by a number of members Councils that have regional significance.

LGNSW Policy Platform

When submitting motions for Conference, members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the LGNSW Policy Platform ([click here](#)). When submitting a motion, members will be asked to identify if the proposed motion conflicts or likely conflicts with the existing Fundamental Principles and this will be noted for delegates in the Business Paper.

The purpose of this Policy Platform is to consolidate the numerous policies and positions of LGNSW - as determined by members - into a single document for ease of reference for members and stakeholders.

LGNSW will update the Policy Platform document after each Annual Conference and present it to Conference the following year, for members to endorse its Fundamental Principles. This will occur prior to voting on motions.

Four (4) suggested Motions were received from Precinct Committees. A Council Officer's comment has been included under each Motion:

1. Economic

Lavender Bay

That educational institutions acquiring additional land pay Council rates on new acquisitions. (also supported by Edward Precinct)

Comment - Council has consistently raised this issue to State Government, including in response to the Local Government Review Panel's final recommendations (2013) and most recently in response to the Review of the Local Government Rating System (2019). It is noted that rating exemptions regarding land use are currently being explored by the State Government. In June 2020, in response to the Review's recommendations, the State Government has advised that it will continue to examine exemptions over time to address clear anomalies and inequities.

Neutral

That the State Government requires all Councils to inform ratepayers, through multiple channels, of their expenditure categories, and the basis for them in each fiscal year.

Comment –Local Government financial reporting already includes provision of substantial information and public exhibition thorough the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. Council quarterly budget and Operational Plan review reports are also publicly available through the Council agenda. The Annual Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and independently audited prior to inclusion in the published Annual Report.

Willoughby Bay

That the LGA urges NSW Government to amend the Local Government Act 1993 to permit Councils to include all four Rate Instalment payment slips in Council’s annual Rates Notice, rather than (as under present law) obliging Councils to dispatch separate payment slips for instalments following the first.

Comment - Section 562(5) of the Local Government Act 1993 states:

“On or before 31 October, 31 January and 30 April, a council must send reminder notices (to be sent separately from the rates and charges notice) to each person whose rates and charges are being paid by quarterly instalments.”

While section 562(5) is the normal dates for service of rate notices there has been an amendment to the regulations for the due date of the first instalment due to COVID-19 for the 2020/2021 financial year.

2. Infrastructure

Edward

That improved public transport is assessed as an alternative to the Western Harbour Tunnel. In particular a metro from Chatswood or maybe North Sydney to at least Mona Vale should be assessed.

Comment – this proposed Motion is not in accordance with the LGNSW Criteria for Motion submission.

3. Planning

Nil

4. Environment

Nil

5. Social and Community

Nil

6. Governance

Nil

7. Accountability

Nil

Further motions could be proposed by Councillors at the Council meeting for consideration.

Deadlines

Members are asked to submit their motions by midnight on Monday 28 September 2020 to allow for assessment of motions and distribution of the Business Paper before the Conference.