

10.3. 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference Motions

AUTHOR	Ian Curry, Manager Governance
ENDORSED BY	Olena Tulubinska, Director Corporate Services
ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	Outcome 8 – An effective, accountable and sustainable Council that serves the community G1. Develop clear goals, create a plan to achieve them, and track progress with transparency and honesty

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to endorse Motions for consideration at the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference is taking place from Sunday 23 to Tuesday 25 November 2025, at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre, and will feature a range of keynote speakers, workshops, training sessions, and more.
- As the main policy-making event for the NSW local government sector, the Annual Conference is an opportunity to help set the advocacy agenda for the year ahead. Motions passed at the Conference become Resolutions, which LGNSW actions on behalf of its members, as part of its advocacy program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council submit the following Motion for consideration by the LGNSW Annual Conference:

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW State Government to:

1. *Actively consult with local councils and the broader stormwater industry as part of its review of the stormwater management service charge announced as part of the [NSW Government's response](#) to Recommendation 4 from the report of the [NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development 2024 inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services](#)*
2. *Raise and appropriately index the Stormwater Management Services Charge.*
3. *Investigate supporting measures to improve governance, funding, and organizational capacity for sustainable stormwater management as part of this review.*

2.THAT Council consider any further Motions that may be raised by Councillors at this meeting.

Background

The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference is taking place from Sunday 23 to Tuesday 25 November 2025, at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre, and will feature a range of keynote speakers, workshops, training sessions, and more.

Council considered a previous report on this matter at its meeting on 28 July 2025 and resolved:

- 1.THAT Council nominates five voting delegates (being the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Welch, Councillor Hoy, Councillor Holding, and Councillor Beregi), with a sixth as an alternative (being the Mayor), for the 2025 LGNSW Conference at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre.*
- 2.THAT other Councillors interested in attending the conference as non-voting delegates advise the Chief Executive Officer before Monday 29 September 2025.*
- 3.THAT Councillors submit suggested issues for Council's consideration as Motions to the Conference by 10 September 2025 for inclusion in a further report to Council on 22 September 2025.*

Report

Conference delegates will discuss key local government issues and debate motions submitted by fellow councils to inform the LGNSW advocacy agenda for the year ahead.

Criteria for Motion Submission

To be included in the Business Paper, motions must:

1. Be consistent with the objects of the LGNSW Rules (Rule 4)
2. Demonstrate that the issue concerns or is likely to concern a substantial number of local governments in NSW
3. Seek to establish or change a policy position of LGNSW and/or improve governance of the association (noting that the LGNSW Board is responsible for any decisions around resourcing and campaigns or operational activities, and any necessary resource allocations will be subject to the LGNSW budgetary process)
4. Be strategic
5. Be concise, clearly worded and unambiguous
6. Not be focussed on just a small specific part of NSW
7. Not encourage violation of prevailing laws
8. Not seek to advantage one or several members at the expense of other members

Motions of a similar objective:

9. May be consolidated by LGNSW as a single item.

Motions reflecting existing LGNSW policy:

10. Remain part of LGNSW's Policy Platform but will not be included for debate as they have already been considered by Conference.

Before submitting motions for this year's Annual Conference, members are encouraged to review the [LGNSW Policy Platform](#) to ensure the proposed motion wording does not reflect existing policy positions. Members are encouraged to submit their motions by Tuesday 30 September 2025.

The following Motions have been received by Councillors for consideration and it complies with the requirements noted above.

Stormwater management service charge – Councillor Welch

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW State Government to:

4. Actively consult with local councils and the broader stormwater industry as part of its review of the stormwater management service charge announced as part of the [NSW Government's response](#) to Recommendation 4 from the report of the [NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on State Development 2024 inquiry into the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services](#)
5. Raise and appropriately index the Stormwater Management Services Charge.
6. Investigate supporting measures to improve governance, funding, and organizational capacity for sustainable stormwater management as part of this review.

Background: The Sydney Coastal Council Group has long advocated for changes to the Stormwater Management Services Charge particularly given that it has been capped at 2006 rates and not indexed to inflation and changes to delivery service costs. Many Councils have identified that they have insufficient funding to maintain stormwater infrastructure to the required standard, and an increasing number of published sources indicate that stormwater infrastructure is suffering from chronic insufficient maintenance.

Following a parliamentary review into the ability for local government to fund infrastructure and services, the NSW Government has now committed to reviewing annual charges and user fees such as the SMSC. It has advised that an audit of fees and charges will be done with the *"aim of better aligning these, where appropriate, with reasonable service costs and indexing them to CPI (Consumer Price Index) where applicable"*. However, no advice was provided on the timing of this review or commitment that this will be done in consultation with Councils and other key stakeholders such as the SCCG.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

Attendance will be funded using existing budgets.

Legislation

It is a requirement under section 252 of the Local Government Act that Council adopts a policy concerning the payment of expenses incurred or to be incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor (if there is one) and the other Councillors in relation to discharging the functions of civic office.