

9.4. 2026 Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference (National General Assembly)

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ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	Outcome 8 – An effective, accountable and sustainable Council that serves the community G3. Make it easy for our community to engage and participate in decision-making

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors the opportunity to submit any proposed Motions for the 2026 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- This year's Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) will be held in Canberra from 23 to 26 June 2026.
- The theme for this year's NGA will be *Stronger together: resilient. productive. united.* 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.
- The motions passed at the NGA inform ALGA's strategic direction and national advocacy objectives. ALGA takes resolutions to Ministers, MPs, and decision-makers in Canberra and around the country through Ministerial meetings, forums, budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1.THAT** Council propose Motions for submission to the National General Assembly, noting the need to be approved by Council before the deadline of 27 February 2026.
- 2.THAT** the Motion from Councillor Welch entitled Long-term funding for the CSIRO, be submitted to National General Assembly.

Background

This year's NGA will be held in Canberra from 23 to 26 June 2026 and will be an opportunity for Local Government to clearly set and articulate an agenda to the Federal Government.

Report

The theme for this year's NGA will be *Stronger together: resilient.productive.united*. 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 27 February 2026.

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 ...*

All Motions must be lodged online by Friday 27 February 2026 and must be supported by way of a Council resolution.

Councillor Welch has lodged the following Motion for consideration by Council:

Notice of Motion - long-term funding for the CSIRO

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reinstate and secure long-term funding for the CSIRO to ensure it can continue to support local governments to prepare for and adapt to coastal hazards, particularly those driven by climate change.

Background:

Australia is a coastal nation, with most of its population, infrastructure and economic activity located on or near the shoreline. As climate change accelerates coastal erosion, inundation, storm impacts, and water quality pressures, local governments are increasingly required to manage complex risks that have national significance. Yet in November, the CSIRO announced that up to 350 research positions would be cut due to funding pressures, including roles in climate and adaptation science, water security, and oceans research.

Federal agencies such as the CSIRO play an essential role in this work. Their capacity to coordinate national research programs, maintain national datasets, and create and test emerging technologies is beyond the scope and resources of individual councils. Without sustained federal investment, Councils risk losing access to the scientific expertise and national-scale data required to make evidence-based decisions.

The CSIRO has a strong track record of delivering practical, high-value projects in partnership with local governments. In the Sydney region alone, this includes the Cleaner Sydney Harbour Project, which trialled innovative technologies to reduce marine debris and improve stormwater asset performance. The CSIRO also maintains nationally significant datasets such as the Probabilistic Coastal Inundation Dataset, which provides consistent, future-focused inundation mapping for the entire Australian coastline and is widely used in coastal hazard assessments and Coastal

Management Programs. Reinstating CSIRO funding will ensure councils across Australia continue to have access to the science, data, and innovation needed to protect communities, infrastructure, and coastal environments from escalating climate-related risks.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource impacts arising from this report.

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.