

8.2. 2022 Australian Local Government Association Annual Conference (National General Assembly)

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ENDORSED BY: Shane Sullivan, Executive Manager Governance

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To consider the appointment of delegates to attend the 2022 National General Assembly and consider any proposed Motions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2022 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) will be held in Canberra from 19 to 21 June 2022.

As the national voice of local government, the ALGA advocates on behalf of Australia's 537 councils for funding and policy outcomes that support local governments to deliver better results for their communities.

The theme for this event will be *Partners in Progress*, focusing on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and local governments, can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities and help us confidently prepare for the future.

ALGA is calling for motions for next year's NGA, and Councils are encouraged to consider whether there is a strategic issue of national importance can be brought to this event.

In addition, Council may resolve the appointment of delegates to attend the 2022 National General Assembly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The standard registration cost for each delegate is \$989 to attend in person and \$689 to attend virtually. An amount of \$10,000 has been allocated in 2021/22 for delegates expenses, \$4,925.00 has been expended to date (LGNSW Conference).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the attendance of Deputy Mayor, Councillor William Bourke at the 2022 National General Assembly and authorise the Mayor to attend if she so chooses.

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

North Sydney Councillors did not attend the 2020 or 2021 NGA's and Council did not submit any Motions.

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

4.7.1 The Mayor and Councillors may be nominated to attend conferences, seminars and similar functions by the Council, through resolution of the Council or by the Mayor and General Manager acting under delegated authorities. If the Mayor requires approval to attend conferences, etc. outside of Council meetings it should be given jointly by the Deputy Mayor and the General Manager.

Attendance at conferences will be subject to the budget limits adopted each year.

Note: This shall not preclude the Mayor from nominating a substitute attendee for functions within the local government area or general Sydney Metropolitan Area on those occasions where the Mayor is unable to be in attendance.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

DETAIL

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.

This year's NGA will be held in Canberra from 19 to 22 June 2022 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 event will be *Partners in Progress*, focusing on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and local governments, can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities and help us confidently prepare for the future.

ALGA is calling for motions for next year's NGA, and Councils are encouraged to consider whether there is a strategic issue of national importance can be brought to this event.

ALGA's 2022 Federal Election Priorities: https://alga.asn.au/app/uploads/alga-election-priorities_web.pdf covers some of the critical national policy areas that the sector needs to consider now and into the future.

Motions should meet the following criteria:

1. *Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;*
2. *Be consistent with the themes of the NGA;*
3. *Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;*
4. *Be from a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association;*
5. *Propose a clear action and outcome; and*
6. *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.*

The 17 national priorities outlined in this document have been informed by motions passed at last year's NGA, and unanimously endorsed by ALGA's Board in conjunction with our member state and territory local government associations.

They cover key priority portfolios of economic recovery, transport, and community infrastructure, building resilience, circular economy and intergovernmental relations, and outline what local government could achieve, if formally recognised and adequately funded.

They have been assessed by independent economists, and if implemented by the next Federal Government they would create at least 42,975 new jobs and add \$6.39 billion per annum to Australia's GDP.

As Motions must be lodged online by Friday 25 March, prior to the 28 March Council meeting, it has been agreed with ALGA that Council can submit any proposed Motions from Councillors and withdraw them if Council does not adopt them.

On 3 March 2022, Councillors were asked to provide any proposed Motions by Sunday, 20 March 2022. At the date of finalising this report (24 March 2022), no proposed Motions were received.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor William Bourke, has advised that he would like to attend the NGA.