

**ITEM 9 2026 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE**

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1 That the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown and Councillors Linda Campbell, Jess Whittaker and Thomas Quinn be authorised to attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 23 and 25 June 2026.
- 2 That the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown is appointed as Council’s voting delegate.
- 3 That the General Manager is delegated the authority to determine requests by any other Councillor to attend.

**REPORT AUTHORISATIONS**

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer + Business Integrity  
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

**ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT**

Abbreviation	Meaning
ALGA	Australia Local Government Association
NGA	National General Assembly of Local Government

**BACKGROUND**

Convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is the largest annual gathering of local government leaders in Australia, attracting more than 1,000 attendees each year. The 2026 NGA is an opportunity for attending Councillors to deliver the views and concerns of Council as well as contribute their own experiences and knowledge to debate on a broad set of national issues, influencing the national policy agenda. The conference’s theme this year is Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.

**PROPOSAL**

It is proposed that Council support the attendance of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown, and Councillors Linda Campbell, Jess Whittaker and Thomas Quinn at the 2026 NGA, with the Lord Mayor as the authorised voting delegate.

**CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Councillors were invited to express an interest in attending the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.

In addition, Councillors were provided with an opportunity to consider and provide feedback to the Office of the General Manager on the ALGA Discussion Paper, which provides guidance to councils for the development of Motions for debate at the NGA.

The paper provided an overview of policy areas in which the NGA has well established positions and identifies potential new and emerging policy areas which are being developed by ALGA and require detailed consideration. Acceptance of motions closed on 27 February 2026.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong Our Future 2035 Goal 4 – ‘*We have a healthy, respectful, and inclusive community*’. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2035	Delivery Program 2025-2029
Strategy	Service
4.14 Council demonstrates responsible leadership that is customer focused, demonstrates respect and inclusion and uses resources that are managed effectively to ensure long-term sustainability.	Governance and Administration

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Councillors are encouraged to utilise the digital conference papers available, to minimise the use of paper.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available within the relevant budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet costs associated with attendance at the NGA.

### Estimated expenses per Councillor

Registration:

- \$1,245 for the National General Assembly and associated functions and
- \$350 to attend the Regional Forum (special NGA delegate rate)

Accommodation: \$300 to \$345 per night for up to four nights.

Other expenses: estimated at \$500 for parking, travel, meals and refreshments over four days.

All costs are estimates based on costs at the time the report was written and assumes early bird registration is met. The costs for accommodation and travel expenses may change at the time of booking, after approval of attendance. Accommodation will be booked and travel undertaken in accordance with the Councillors Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.

## CONCLUSION

Representation at the National General Assembly of Local Government presents an opportunity for Council to submit and vote on motions relevant to local government issues at a national level.