

ITEM 12

2022 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOTIONS

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government. The report also requests Councillors to liaise with the Office of the Lord Mayor in relation to submission of any motions to the conference.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council approve the attendance of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM, Cr Janice Kershaw and Cr Cameron Walters to attend the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 19 and 22 June 2021.
- 2 The Lord Mayor be appointed as Council's voting delegate at the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government.
- 3 Councillors to liaise with the Lord Mayor's Office on submitting Motions for consideration at the Conference.
- 4 The General Manager be delegated the authority to determine any requests by any other Councillor to attend the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

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

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

BACKGROUND

Convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) attracts more than 800 attendees each year.

The 2022 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 theme of the 2022 NGA is *Partners in Progress*.

ALGA has released a Discussion Paper to provide guidance to Councils for the development of Motions for debate at the NGA. The paper provides 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.

Motions are to be lodged online with ALGA by Friday 25 March 2022.

Motions for debate

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, Council's motions must meet the following criteria:

- 1 be relevant to the work of local government nationally
- 2 not be focussed on a specific location or region – unless the project has national implications
- 3 be consistent with the themes of the NGA
- 4 complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and 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 do something
- 7 be a new motion that has not already been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years, and
- 8 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.

Motions should be submitted to the General Assembly no later than Friday 25 March 2022.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation with Councillors will be undertaken to develop and submit any motions for the conference.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 Goal 4 “We are a connected and engaged community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the 2021-22 Business Plan of the Governance and Customer Service Division.

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 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

Virtual attendance

If delegates wish to attend virtually, registration is \$689. No other incidental expenses will be met for virtual attendance by Councillors.

In person attendance

The estimated total cost of attendance in person at the 2022 NGA and Regional Forum for each delegate, if participating in all available sessions, functions and events is \$3,099.

Travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy.

A breakdown of estimated costs is shown below, all costs shown are inclusive of GST:

Expense	Amount
Regional Forum registration 19 June 2022	\$225
NGA registration 20-22 June 2022	*\$989
Networking dinner 20 June 2022	\$150
General Assembly Dinner 21 June 2022	\$175
Accommodation (4 nights)	**\$1,560
TOTAL	\$3,099

* Early bird rate.

**Accommodation at the conference venue will be booked where available, in accordance with the *Councillors Expenses and Facilities* policy.

Other reasonable expenses within the limits applied by the *Councillor Expenses and Facilities* policy include the cost of meals for the Councillor, where not otherwise provided in conference, function or event registration costs. These include –

Breakfast: Monday 20 June to Wednesday 22 June 2022.

Lunch: Sunday 19 June 2022 if attending the Regional Forum and lunch is not provided.

Dinner:

- Sunday, 19 June 2022
- Monday, 20 June 2022 if not registered for the Networking dinner, and
- Tuesday, 21 June 2022 if not registered for the GA dinner.

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the 2022 NGA conference and details the benefits of Council representation. The report also details the costs associated with sending delegates and presents the request for the Lord Mayor and other councillors to attend.