

ITEM 6

2020 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOTIONS

The Lord Mayor Councillor Gordon Bradbery, and Councillors Kershaw, Colacino and Dorahy request Council's approval to attend the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra from 14 to 17 June 2020 and the associated Regional Forum (for the Lord Mayor and Councillor Kershaw) on 13 June 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The attendance of Councillors Bradbery, Kershaw, Colacino and Dorahy at the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 13 and 17 June 2020 be endorsed.
- 2 Councillors to liaise with the Lord Mayor's Office on submitting Motions for consideration at the Conference.
- 3 The Lord Mayor be appointed as Council's voting delegate at the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government.
- 4 The Lord Mayor and General Manager be delegated the authority to determine any further requests by Councillors to attend the 2020 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 in excess of 800 Councillors and Mayors each year.

The 2020 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 2020 NGA is *Working together for our communities* which focuses on the scope and importance of Local Government and its ability to influence and affect change and improvement at the community level.

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 27 March 2020.

The Lord Mayor and three Councillors are requesting approval to attend, although other Councillors who wish to attend may also nominate.

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 Local Government NSW.
- 5 Propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to do something.
- 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.

Motions should be submitted to the General Assembly no later than Friday 27 March 2020.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation was undertaken with the Lord Mayor and Councillors, asking Councillors to indicate interest in attending the conference for inclusion in the report.

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 Wollongong 2022 goal 4 “We are a connected and engaged community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Administration Service Plan 2019-20.

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.

The estimated total cost of attendance at the 2020 NGA of Local Government in Canberra for three delegates including registration and accommodation is \$11,087.30. Travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the *Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

The estimated individual costs of attendance at the 2020 NGA in Canberra are as follows:

Delegate	NGA registration 14-17 June	Regional Forum registration 13 June	Accommodation (nights)		Travel and/or incidentals	Total (excl. GST)
Cr Bradbery	\$1,140.00	\$204.55	\$1,363.64	13-17 June (4)	\$200	\$2,908.19
Cr Kershaw	\$1,140.00	\$204.55	\$1,363.64	13-17 June (4)	\$200	\$2,908.19
Cr Colacino	\$1,140.00	\$204.55	\$1,363.64	13-17 June (4)	\$200	\$2,908.19
Cr Dorahy	\$1,140.00	Nil.	\$1,022.73	14-17 June (3)	\$200	\$2,362.73
					TOTAL	\$11,087.30

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the 2020 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 three Councillors to attend.