

ITEM 4

2021 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOTIONS

This report provides details of Councillor attendance at the 2021 National General Assembly of Local Government for endorsement. The report also proposes Council consider changing the date of the 21 June 2021 Ordinary Council meeting, given the absence of the Lord Mayor and other Councillors to attend the conference.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The attendance of Lord Mayor, Councillor Bradbery and Councillor Kershaw at the 2021 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 19 and 23 June 2021 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 2021 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 2021 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum.
- 5 The Ordinary meeting of Council originally scheduled for Monday, 21 June 2021 now be held on Monday, 28 June 2021.

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 2021 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 2021 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 26 March 2021.

The Lord Mayor and Cr Kershaw 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 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 26 March 2021.

PROPOSAL

Given the absence of both the Lord Mayor and Councillor Kershaw, and potentially other Councillors, it is proposed that the Ordinary Council meeting date scheduled for 21 June be changed to the following week, and the meeting be held on 28 June 2021. The final Council meeting in June each year considers the Delivery and Operational plans for the following financial year, and adopts the Council budget, post-exhibition.

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 Governance and Administration Service Plan 2020-21.

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.

The estimated total cost of attendance at the 2021 NGA of Local Government in Canberra for two delegates including registration and accommodation is \$4,670. Travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the *Councillors Expenses and Facilities Policy*.

The estimated individual costs of attendance at the 2021 NGA in Canberra are as follows:

Delegate	NGA registration 20-23 June	Regional Forum registration 19 June	Accommodation (5 nights)	Travel and/or incidentals	Total (excl. GST)
Cr Bradbery	900.00	205.00	1050.00	180.00	2,335.00
Cr Kershaw	900.00	205.00	1050.00	180.00	2,335.00
				TOTAL	4,670.00

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the 2021 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 Councillor Kershaw to attend. In addition, the proposal to change the date of the June Council meeting is detailed.