

ITEM 20 COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

Council has received requests from Councillors to attend conferences in March 2026. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and authorise Councillor attendance at those conferences.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Cr Thomas Quinn be authorised to attend the Australian Governance Summit in Darling Harbour between 10 and 11 March 2026.
- 2 That the Lord Mayor, Cr Tania Brown, Cr Jess Whittaker, and Cr Ann Martin be authorised to attend the ALGWA Annual Conference in Blacktown between 26 and 28 March 2026.
- 3 The General Manager be delegated authority to determine requests from any other Councillor to attend the 2026 ALGWA Conference.

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
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AICD	Australian Institute of Company Directors
ALGWA	Australian Local Government Women's Association
Council	Wollongong City Council
GST	Goods and Services Tax

BACKGROUND

The Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities policy requires Council to determine attendance at conferences and seminars, including within NSW and interstate.

Australian Governance Summit

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) is hosting its tenth Governance Summit. The 2026 summit will explore technological advances, geopolitical instability, regulatory reforms in the age of AI and address issues experienced in boardrooms and organisations across Australia.

Attendance will provide opportunities to strengthen governance and councillor expertise, with proven strategies for thought leadership for Cr Quinn in his role as a Councillor and Audit Risk and Improvement Committee member.

ALWGA Annual Conference

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) is the peak body for women in local government. A voluntary-run organisation, ALGWA supports both local government employees and elected representatives.

Attendance at this conference provides an opportunity for additional training and support for councillors. In addition, it is an opportunity for our elected members to further their professional development, gaining valuable insights from guest speakers, along with networking with other local government professionals from across NSW.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council encourages Councillors to utilise digital copies of business papers for conferences rather than printed copies, and to travel by the most economical means.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet associated costs and sufficient funds are available for the costs outlined in this report. Estimated costs shown below are inclusive of GST.

Australian Governance Summit

Registration: \$1,860 (member price)

Accommodation: estimated at \$300-\$350 per night for two nights' accommodation

Other expenses: estimated at \$200-\$250 for Parking, travel, meals and refreshments over two days

ALGWA Conference

Registration: \$1,100 (early bird)

Accommodation: estimated at \$200-\$250 per night for three nights' accommodation

Other expenses: estimated at \$100 for parking and travel over three days, noting all meals are included in the registration costs.

CONCLUSION

This report meets compliance obligations under the approval requirements for Councillor attendance at conferences under the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities policy.