

ITEM 10

2023 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That the Lord Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bradbery AM, Cr Elisha Aitken, Cr Cath Blakey, Cr Dom Figliomeni, Cr Richard Martin and Cr Cameron Walters be authorised to attend the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 13 and 16 June 2023.
- 2 The Lord Mayor be appointed as Council's voting delegate at the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.
- 3 The General Manager be delegated the authority to determine requests by any other Councillor to attend the 2023 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 2023 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 2023 NGA is Our Communities, Our Future.

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.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 4 "We are a connected and engaged city." It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Service Plan 2022-2023.

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. There are no other expenses for virtual attendance by Councillors.

In person attendance

The estimated total cost of attendance in person at the 2023 NGA and Regional Forum for each delegate, if participating in all available sessions, functions and events is \$2,875.

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 13 June 2023 | \$225 |
| National General Assembly registration 14-16 June 2023 | *\$895 |
| General Assembly Dinner 14 June 2023 | \$175 |
| Accommodation (4 nights) | **\$1,580 |
| TOTAL | \$2,875 |

* Early bird rate

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

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of the 2023 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.