

ITEM 8

2025 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS AND COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 For Councillor attendance at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Forum in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025 -
 - a the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown is authorised to attend as Council's voting delegate
 - b Councillors Linda Campbell, Jess Whittaker, Richard Martin and Thomas Quinn are authorised to attend, and
 - c The General Manager is delegated the authority to determine requests by any other Councillor to attend.
- 2 Councillors to liaise with the Lord Mayor's Office on submitting Motions for consideration at the conference.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer and Business Integrity
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 2025 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 conference's theme this year is National Priorities Need Local Solutions.

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. Acceptance of motions closes on 31 March 2025.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that Council support the attendance of the Lord Mayor and Councillors Linda Campbell, Jess Whittaker, Richard Martin and Thomas Quinn at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government, with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Tania Brown as the authorised voting delegate.

It is proposed that Councillors liaise with the Lord Mayor on submissions to the 2025 National General Assembly, including a motion suggested by Cr Whittaker for the Federal Government to significantly increase funding allocated to the newly established National Active Transport Fund.

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 Customer and Business Integrity Divisional Plan 2024-2025.

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 NGA.

The estimated total cost of attendance at the 2025 NGA and Regional Forum for each delegate, if participating in all available sessions, functions and events is \$3,000 (includes registration, travel and accommodation).

All costs are estimates based on costs at the time the report was written. The costs for travel and accommodation may change at the time of booking after approval of attendance.

Accommodation will be booked, and travel is to be undertaken in accordance with the Councillors Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.

CONCLUSION

Representation at the National General Assembly presents an opportunity for Council to submit and vote on motions relevant to local government issues at a national level.