

ITEM 3

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 14 TO 16 OCTOBER 2019

The Local Government NSW Conference is an annual event which provides opportunities for Councillors to network and participate in local government debate at a state level. This report seeks to authorise Councillors to attend the conference on 14 to 16 October 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors Figliomeni, Kershaw, King, Martin and Walters be authorised as the voting delegates to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference and associated functions at Warwick Farm from 14 to 16 October 2019.

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

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference provides an opportunity for Councillors to meet, discuss and debate issues facing local government, and develop agreed positions which can inform the development of future NSW Local Government policies.

Wollongong City Council is entitled to send 7 voting delegates to the 2019 Conference. As per the policy on *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors*, two of these delegate positions are allocated to the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor. Five other Councillors have indicated they would like to attend the 2019 Conference.

This year the delegates will be asked to vote on motions and in the election for the Officer Bearers and the Board of LGNSW.

All LGNSW members are able to submit motions for inclusion in the Conference business paper. The deadline for submitting motions is 16 September 2019. As in previous years, the Executive Officer to the Lord Mayor will liaise with Councillors on possible motions for submission.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

All Councillors were asked about their interest in attending the conference. Councillors Bradbery, David Brown, Figliomeni, Kershaw, King, Martin and Walters have confirmed they can attend.

Councillors Blakey, Tania Brown, Colacino, Cox, Dorahy and Rimmer are unable to attend.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal "We are a connected and engaged community"

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet associated costs.

Under the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors, Council will cover the following costs for each Councillor at the 2019 Conference –

- Registration (including associated Conference Dinner): \$950.00.
- Accommodation for three nights: \$810.00.
- Incidental expenses incurred: approximately \$100.00 per day.
- Travel: cost of a Councillor travelling to Warwick Farm in their own vehicle is approximately \$125 (based on 160 kms at 78 cents per/km).

The total estimated cost for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and five Councillors to attend the 2019 LGNSW Conference is \$13,895.

CONCLUSION

The Local Government NSW Conference provides an opportunity for Councillors to network and participate in local government debate at a state level. Wollongong City Council is entitled to send 7 voting delegates to the 2019 Conference at Warwick Farm. This report seeks agreement for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor and five other Councillors to attend the Conference.