

ITEM 10 COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ELEVATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT - 4 APRIL 2025

This report seeks approval for Councillor attendance at the ELEVATE Local Government Communications Summit, to be held in Narre Warren (Greater Melbourne area), Victoria on 4 April 2025 as requested by Cr Thomas Quinn under the requirements of the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve attendance at the ELEVATE Local Government Communications Summit in Narre Warren, Victoria on 4 April 2025 for Councillor Thomas Quinn.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Nikki Romanczukiewicz, Manager Customer and Business Integrity [Acting]
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Communications Summit is aimed at leaders and communications professionals across the local government sector.

The summit is held over two days, with day one of the event aimed at communications professionals and day two at local government leaders, including elected members. This report is specifically seeking approval to attend the second day of the summit.

The conference theme is 'Elevating the skills and impact of local government communication professionals and leaders to build trust and connection in times of change and crisis'. The summit website states –

Building trust and connection between local councils and their myriad stakeholders has never been more important amid a perfect storm of a trust crisis in government, a communication revolution, unprecedented economic, social and environmental challenges, and rising community expectations.

As the key conduits between councils and their stakeholders, local government communication professionals and leaders are pivotal to their organisation successfully navigating these challenges, including bringing all internal and external stakeholders along on the journey.

The ELEVATE Local Government Communication Summit will bring together some of Australia's top experts in strategic communication, crisis management, artificial intelligence, leadership communication and other relevant fields. The speakers will share new perspectives, deep insights and practical skills needed to communicate with impact and build trust with stakeholders in this dynamic, disruptive and evolving landscape.

The specific topics within the conference providing additional relevance include:

- Lessons for building Trust
- Challenging assumptions and achieving enduring outcomes through authentic community engagement.
- Delivering exceptional outcomes for communities

Cr Thomas Quinn has requested approval to attend this conference as per the requirements of the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal "We are a connected and engaged community". It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Customer and Business Integrity Divisional Plan 2024-25.

This report complies with the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy requirements for attendance at interstate events.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Councillors are encouraged to utilise digital conference papers where available, to minimise the use of paper.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated total cost of attendance at the Summit by participants is \$1,570.

Travel must be undertaken and expenses reimbursed in accordance with the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities policy. The breakdown of estimated costs is shown below:

Estimated Expenses	Amount (incl GST)
Conference registration	\$750
Flights (approx.)	\$460
Airport transfers (Sydney/Melbourne)	\$360
TOTAL	\$1,570

All costs are estimates based on costs at the time the report was written. The costs for airfares and/or transfers may change at the time of booking, after approval of attendance.

CONCLUSION

The Local Government Communications Summit is directly related to the business of Council and this report presents the anticipated costs for Councillor attendance.