

ITEM 8

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT 2017 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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 4 - 6 December 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor be authorised to attend the 2017 Local Government NSW Annual Conference and associated functions.
- 2 Councillors nominate at this meeting to attend the 2017 Local Government NSW Annual Conference and associated functions.
- 3 A report be provided to the first Ordinary meeting of Council seeking nominations for voting delegates.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Clare Phelan, Manager Governance and Information (Acting)
Authorised by: David Farmer, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference is an annual event held for local Councillors to come together to share ideas and debate issues. It provides a significant opportunity for Councillors to meet and discuss issues facing local government and develop agreed positions which can inform the development of NSW Local Government policies in the coming year.

PROPOSAL

The 2017 Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Conference is being held from 4-6 December 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Sydney. This report is seeking agreement for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor to attend the annual conference and associated functions. Other Councillors who are interested in attending are asked to nominate their interest.

Motions to be raised at the conference

As part of the conference, all members are able to submit motions for inclusion in the business paper.

The LGNSW Board seeks to ensure that the motions debated advance the sector wide policy agenda. Proposed motions should be strategic, affect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. Motions need to fall in the following categories: Industrial Relations, Economic Policy, Infrastructure and Planning Policy, Social Policy, Environmental Policy or Governance/Civic Leadership. Motions for inclusion in the conference business paper are due Monday 6 October 2017 (with a latest date of 6 November 2017).

In order to submit motions for consideration at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference, members must provide accompanying evidence of the Council's support for the motion, including Council minutes. Councillors will have an opportunity at the next Ordinary meeting of Council to nominate any additional motions to put forward for the conference.

Voting Delegates

Each member council is entitled to have a number of voting delegates at the 2017 Annual Conference for voting on motions and voting in the LGNSW Board election. Council will be informed on the number

of voting delegates on Friday 13 October 2017. At the next Ordinary meeting of Council, Council will be asked to nominate its voting delegates (due to LGNSW by 1 November 2017).

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Consultation was undertaken with the Lord Mayor and Councillors, seeking Councillors interest in attending the Conference.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2022 goal “Goal 4: We are a connected and engaged community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Administration Service Plan 2017-18.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has provided budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet costs associated with such attendance.

2017/18 Councillor Conference Attendance and Travel Budget			
Description	Budget	Expended	Funds Available
Training, Seminars & Travel	\$35,000	\$765	\$34,235

Under the current Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Lord Mayor and Councillors policy, Council will cover the following costs for councillors attending the conference:

- Registration to attend the conference (including associated functions): \$899;
- Accommodation for three nights (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday): \$960;
- Incidental expenses incurred (limits are set at up to \$150 per day on meals and up to \$100 per day for other incidental expenses), including:
 - Costs for parking per day/night of the conference (\$70 per vehicle/day);
 - Costs for meals not included the conference registration or associated functions;
 - Refreshments; and
 - Taxi fares between accommodation and conference venue (if required).

The costs for a Councillor’s partner to attend the President’s Opening Reception (\$77) and the Conference Gala Dinner (\$154) will be covered by Council. All other expenses incurred by a partner or accompanying person are to be met by the Councillor.

CONCLUSION

This report seeks agreement for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor to attend the 2017 Local Government NSW Annual Conference. Councillors may also nominate their interest in attending. It is estimated that attendance at the conference will be around \$2,069 per Councillor (plus incidental expenses).