

ITEM 9 COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

Council has received requests from Councillors to attend conferences and seminars in the second half of the current year. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and authorise Councillor attendance at upcoming conferences in the second half of the year.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council approve the attendance of Lord Mayor Cr Tania Brown, Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Linda Campbell, Cr Ann Martin, Cr Dan Hayes, Cr David Brown, Cr Deidre Stuart, Cr Jess Whittaker, Cr Richard Martin and Cr Thomas Quinn at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference, to be held in Penrith between 23 and 25 November 2025.
- 2 Council nominate the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, and an additional five Councillors to be voting delegates to the 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference.
- 3 Council delegate to the General Manager authority to approve attendance of any additional Councillors requesting to attend the Local Government NSW Annual Conference.
- 4 Council approve the attendance of Cr Ryan Morris at the 2025 Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism from 3 to 5 September 2025 on the Gold Coast Queensland.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Customer + Business Integrity
 Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

ACRONYMS USED IN REPORT

| Abbreviation | Meaning |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Council | Wollongong City Council |
| GST | Goods and Services Tax |
| LGNSW | Local Government NSW |
| NSW | New South Wales |

BACKGROUND

The Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities policy requires Council to determine attendance at conferences and seminars, including within NSW and interstate. This report puts forward for consideration, those upcoming conferences where councillors have requested attendance.

PROPOSAL

Local Government NSW Annual Conference

The LGNSW Conference presents a valuable opportunity for Councillors to engage with peers from across the state, exchange ideas, and debate key issues shaping and informing the development of future NSW Local Government policies. Participation in this event supports informed decision-making, strengthens advocacy efforts, and fosters collaboration across councils.

Voting entitlements

Wollongong City Council (Council) is entitled to nominate up to seven voting delegates, all Councillors are entitled to attend and benefit from the networking, learning, and strategic discussions the conference offers. Council's representation at this event will ensure our community's voice is heard and our interests are well represented.

Normal Council practice is to nominate the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and five other Councillors as voting delegates.

Program

The 2025 conference will be held between 23 and 25 November 2025 at the Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre.

2025 Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism

Cr Ryan Morris has requested to attend the 2025 Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism. The Summit will showcase the role of local government in confronting antisemitism, fostering social cohesion, and strengthening inclusive, resilient communities.

Program

The 2025 Summit will be held between 3 and 5 September 2025 on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Council encourages Councillors to utilise digital copies of business papers for conferences rather than printed copies, and to travel by the most economical means.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet associated costs and sufficient funds are available for the costs outlined in this report.

Local Government NSW Annual Conference

Registration: Early-bird registration for the conference is approximately \$1,385 (incl. GST) per Councillor. The fees include online business papers, the President's Welcome Reception, Conference dinner, two-day business sessions including morning and afternoon tea, lunch, and name badge.

Accommodation: will cost approximately \$260 per Councillor, per night as required. Councillors may stay up to three nights depending on their individual circumstances and attendance at various sessions and associated conference events.

Other expenses: Councillors may claim for reimbursement of incidental expenses, supported by itemised tax invoices or receipts in accordance with the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities policy.

2025 Australian Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism

Registration, accommodation and air travel are coordinated and funded by the Combat Antisemitism Movement who are the organisers of the Summit.

Reimbursement of other costs, including travel/transfers and meals not included in registration would be provided for under the Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities Policy.

CONCLUSION

The Councillor Expenses, Support and Facilities policy requires Council to determine attendance at conferences and seminars, including within NSW and interstate. This report ensure compliance with these requirements where councillors have requested attendance at conferences.