

National General Assembly of Local Government 2024

Tuesday, 30 January 2024
Council

Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation

Program Contact:
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Public

Approving Officer:
Michael Sedgman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called for motions for consideration at its National General Assembly (NGA). Motions need to be submitted to ALGA via an online portal by Friday 29 March 2024.

Proposed motions will be provided to Council for consideration at the Council meeting 12 March 2024.

Consistent with previous practice to garner motions on notice for LGA and ALGA forums, the Administration is inviting input from Council Members in developing proposed motions.

Council approval is also sought to appoint a Council representative (and proxy) as a voting delegate for the NGA.

The NGA of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will be held in Canberra from 2 - 4 July 2024. The theme is 'Building Community Trust'.

By participating in the NGA the Council can contribute to the national debate on matters that require Federal intervention or support that will directly advance Council's Strategic Plan objectives.

Voting on motions by Council's representative will be in-line with any endorsed position of Council. The voting delegate will be briefed on City of Adelaide policy and decision positions relevant to each voting item on the ALGA NGA Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that input from Council Members is sought in developing proposed motions, with a report to come back to Council at its 12 March 2024 meeting outlining proposed motions for consideration.
 2. Appoints _____ to represent Council as a voting delegate at the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra from 2 – 4 July 2024.
 3. Appoints _____ as proxy.
 4. Approves the delegate to attend as a virtual delegate.
- OR
- Approves the delegate to travel and attend in person.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation High performing, customer-centric and bold Effective Leadership and Governance
Policy	The voting delegate will be briefed on City of Adelaide policy and decision positions relevant to each voting item on the ALGA NGA Agenda.
Consultation	This report invites Council Members to submit motions for inclusion in a subsequent report for Council at its meeting on 12 March 2024. Council Members are offered Administration support in preparing any proposed items.
Resource	Support briefing on Agenda items will be met within existing resources.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	If attending in person, the voting delegate will receive a benefit of travel to the ALGA NGA and the networking opportunities afforded by attendance. As such a Council Member who nominates as a delegate must declare a Material Conflict of Interest and leave the room.
Opportunities	Attendance at the NGA provides Council with the opportunity to shape the future of local government nationally and further the South Australian perspective
23/24 Budget Allocation	Costs associated with attending the 2024 ALGA NGA, including administrative support, can be met from within existing budget allocations. Estimated expenses of attending in person a maximum of approximately \$2,500 per voting delegate or representative comprising flights (from \$300 - \$600 each way), three nights' accommodation (from \$220 - \$320 per night), optional social dinner (\$175), and sundry expenses, meals, and taxi costs (\$300). Estimated in-person registration cost is \$1,045, and for attending as a virtual delegate is \$500.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report.
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report.

DISCUSSION

1. The 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) will be held in Canberra from 2 - 4 July 2024.
2. The NGA represents an important opportunity for Council to influence the national policy agenda.
3. The NGA also provides opportunities for attendees to hear from leaders across government and to have one on one access to some of the country's most influential decision makers.
4. The theme for this year's NGA is 'Building Community Trust'.
5. The NGA discussion paper can be viewed here [[Link 1](#)], the program is yet to be announced.
6. Costs associated with attending the 2024 ALGA NGA, including administrative support, can be met from within existing budget allocations.

Appointment of Council's Voting Delegate & Cost of Attendance

7. Council's consideration of appointing a voting delegate is sought.
 - 7.1. In the past, nominated delegates have been:
 - 7.1.1. 2023 – Councillor Janet Giles (Councillor Carmel Noon as proxy).
 - 7.1.2. 2022 – Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor.
 - 7.1.3. 2021 – Councillor Helen Donovan.
8. Registrations for NGA 2024 will open in late January, along with release of the full program.
9. Registration fees are approximately \$1,045 for in person attendance, or approximately \$500 for a virtual delegate. Please note these prices are approximate pending confirmation once the program is released.
10. There are no further costs for a virtual delegate, however the cost of attending in person is a maximum of approximately \$2,500 per voting delegate or representative which includes the following approximate additional costs:
 - 10.1. Economy flights range from \$300 - \$600 each way.
 - 10.2. Three nights' accommodation from \$220 - \$320 per night.
 - 10.3. There is typically a General Assembly Dinner available in addition to the registration cost. Ticket price is to be confirmed, last year the cost was \$175 per attendee.
 - 10.4. Sundry expenses including meals and taxi costs of \$300.

Motions

11. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called for motions to be submitted to the 2024 NGA.
12. Consistent with previous practice to garner motions on notice for LGA and ALGA forums, the Administration is inviting input from Council Members in developing proposed motions.
13. Council Members are encouraged to work with the Administration to develop any proposed motions for inclusion in a subsequent report to Council on 12 March 2024, outlining proposed motions for consideration.
14. The submission deadline for Motions to be included in the 2024 ALGA NGA is 29 March 2024. Motions will be submitted via an online portal.
15. Motions for this year's NGA should consider:
 - 15.1. How all levels of government in Australia can build trust in each other and earn greater trust from the community;
 - 15.2. Practical opportunities for the Australian Government to leverage the trust that local communities have in their local council;
 - 15.3. Focus on practical programs that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and
 - 15.4. New program ideas that that would help the local government sector to deliver the Australian Government's objectives.
 - 15.5. Motions should be concise, practical and implementable and meet the guidelines for motions set out in the discussion paper.

16. This year's call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:
 - 16.1. Intergovernmental relations;
 - 16.2. Financial sustainability;
 - 16.3. Roads and infrastructure;
 - 16.4. Emergency management;
 - 16.5. Housing and homelessness;
 - 16.6. Jobs and skills;
 - 16.7. Community services;
 - 16.8. Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
 - 16.9. Data, digital technology and cyber security;
 - 16.10. Climate change and renewable energy;
 - 16.11. Environment; and
 - 16.12. Circular economy.

Past Submissions

17. The City of Adelaide did not submit any motions in 2023, 2022, or 2021.
18. The City of Adelaide submitted three motions in 2020, and two motions in 2019.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – 2024 NGA Discussion Paper

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT