

National General Assembly of Local Government 2025

Tuesday, 28 January 2025
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

Program Contact:
Chief Executive Officer

Public

Approving Officer:
Michael Sedgman, Chief
Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called for motions for consideration at its National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA). Motions need to be submitted to ALGA via an online portal by Monday 31 March 2025.

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

Proposed motions are requested to be submitted to the Administration by close of business on Monday 24 February 2025. All proposed motions will be provided to Council for consideration at the Council meeting on 11 March 2025.

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 24 - 27 June 2025. The theme is 'National Priorities Need Local Solutions'.

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 11 March 2025 meeting outlining proposed motions for consideration.
2. Appoints _____ to represent Council as a voting delegate at the 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra from 24–27 June 2025.
3. Appoints _____ as a proxy.
4. Approves the delegate to attend as a virtual delegate.
OR
Approves the delegate to travel and attend in person.

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 nominated representative 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 11 March 2025. Council Members are offered Administration support in preparing any proposed items.
Resource	Support for 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
24/25 Budget Allocation	Costs associated with attending the 2025 ALGA NGA, including administrative support, can be met from within existing budget allocations. Estimated expenses, excluding registration costs, of attending in person are \$3,300 comprising flights (from \$400 - \$700 each way), four nights' accommodation (from \$220 - \$320 per night), optional social dinner (\$175), and sundry expenses, meals, and taxi costs (\$450). Registration costs for the 2025 NGA are to be advised. The registration costs for in-person attendance at the 2024 NGA was \$1,045, and \$739 for a virtual delegate registration.
Proposed 25/26 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.
24/25 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 2025 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) will be held in Canberra from 24 - 27 June 2025.
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 'National Priorities Need Local Solutions'.
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 2024 - Councillor Janet Giles (Councillor Carmel Noon as proxy).
 - 7.1.2 2023 - Councillor Janet Giles (Councillor Carmel Noon as proxy).
 - 7.1.3 2022 - Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor.
8. Registrations for the NGA 2025 will open in late January, along with the release of the full program.
9. Registration fees for the NGA in 2024 were \$1,045 for in person attendance or \$739 for a virtual delegate. Registration fees for the 2025 NGA are pending confirmation once the program is released.
10. There are no further costs for a virtual delegate, however estimated costs of attending in person are \$3,300 per voting delegate or representative which includes the following approximate additional costs:
 - 10.1 Economy flights range from \$400 - \$700 each way.
 - 10.2 Four 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, noting the cost in 2024 was \$175 per person.
 - 10.4 Sundry expenses including meals and taxi costs of \$450.

Motions

11. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called for motions to be submitted for the 2025 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. Administration can support Council Members in preparing the proposed motions.
13. Proposed motions are requested to be submitted to the Administration by close of business on Monday 24 February 2025.
14. All proposed motions will be provided to Council for consideration at the Council meeting on 11 March 2025.
15. The submission deadline for Motions to be included in the 2024 ALGA NGA is 31 March 2025. Motions will be submitted via an online portal.
16. Motions for this year's NGA should consider:
 - 16.1. Any new practical programs or policy changes that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and/or
 - 16.2. New program ideas that would help the local government sector to deliver place-based solutions to national priorities.
17. Motions should be concise, practical and implementable and meet the guidelines for motions set out in the discussion paper.

18. This year's call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:
 - 18.1. Intergovernmental relations;
 - 18.2. Financial sustainability;
 - 18.3. Roads and infrastructure;
 - 18.4. Emergency management;
 - 18.5. Housing and homelessness;
 - 18.6. Jobs and skills;
 - 18.7. Community services;
 - 18.8. Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
 - 18.9. Data, digital technology and cyber security;
 - 18.10. Climate change and renewable energy;
 - 18.11. Environment; and
 - 18.12. Circular economy.

Past Submissions

19. The City of Adelaide submitted one motion in 2024 that was considered by the National General Assembly who subsequently resolved:
 - 19.1 *"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:
Work with ALGA in leading a process to identify minimum climate disclosure reporting standards that could apply to local government entities for consideration by respective State Governments, delivering these standards by 30 November 2024, noting the drafting of recent legislation by the Federal Government and the drafting of a new Australian Sustainability Reporting Standard by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, both of which are due for implementation as of 30 June 2024 and which are already informing climate disclosure reporting approaches within Federal and some State agencies."*
20. The City of Adelaide did not submit any motions in 2023, 2022, or 2021.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – 2025 NGA Discussion Paper

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -