

Motions for consideration for the ALGA National General Assembly

Tuesday, 11 March 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 31st National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government. 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 invited input from Council Members in developing proposed motions. Proposed motions were due to be submitted to Administration by close of Business Monday 24 February 2025 ([Link 1](#)). Two proposed motions have been received for consideration by Council.

The NGA of the 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.

Council at its meeting on 28 January 2025 Council appointed Councillor Carmel Noon as Council's representative and voting delegate for the NGA and to travel and attend in person. Councillor Janet Giles was appointed as a proxy.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly is an opportunity to contribute to the national debate on matters that require federal intervention or support that will directly advance Council's Strategic Plan.
2. Approves the following motions to be submitted to the Australian Local Government Association for discussion at the National General Assembly in Canberra 24-27 June 2025 under the priority area Roads and Infrastructure:
 - 2.1. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:
 - 2.1.1 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a toolkit for local government areas to develop or update an active transport strategy.
 - 2.1.2 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a framework and/or self-assessment tool for local government areas to audit their cycling/walking/active transport strategies.
 - 2.1.3 Providing federal funding support to develop these frameworks and tools.

2.2. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:

2.2.1 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to commit 30 per cent of journeys to school by active transport by 2030 (30 by 30).

2.2.2 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop an overarching action plan to support local government areas who also commit to '30 by 30'.

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 to approve motions proposed by Council Members for submission to the ALGA NGA.
Resource	Support for briefing on ALGA NGA 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.
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 \$3,000 comprising flights, four nights' accommodation, optional social dinner, sundry expenses, meals and taxi costs \$450. The registration cost for in person attendance at the 2025 NGA is \$979.
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

Background

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 of this year's NGA is 'National Priorities Need Local Solutions'.
5. The NGA Discussion Paper can be viewed here ([Link 2](#)). The program can be viewed online [here](#).
6. Council at its meeting on 28 January 2025 appointed Councillor Noon as Council's representative and voting delegate for the NGA and to travel and attend in person. Councillor Giles was appointed as a proxy ([Link 1](#)).

Motions

7. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called for motions to be submitted for the 2025 NGA.
8. Consistent with previous practice to garner motions on notice for ALGA forums, the Administration invited input from Council Members in developing proposed motions. Proposed motions were due to be submitted to Administration by close of Business Monday 24 February 2025.
9. The NGA Discussion Paper advises motions for this year's NGA should consider:
 - 9.1. 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
 - 9.2. New program ideas that would help the local government sector to deliver place-based solutions to national problems.
10. The NGA Discussion Paper also states motions should be concise, practical and implementable and meet the guidelines for motions set out in the paper.
11. This year's call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:
 - 11.1. Intergovernmental relations
 - 11.2. Financial sustainability
 - 11.3. Roads and Infrastructure
 - 11.4. Emergency management
 - 11.5. Housing and Homelessness
 - 11.6. Jobs and skills
 - 11.7. Community services
 - 11.8. Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation
 - 11.9. Data, digital technology and cyber security
 - 11.10. Climate change and renewable energy
 - 11.11. Environment
 - 11.12. Circular economy.

Past submissions

12. The City of Adelaide did not submit any motions in 2021, 2022 or 2023. One motion resolve submitted in 2024 was subsequently carried at the meeting:
 - 12.1. *"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 Standard 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.”

Proposed motions

13. In response to the call to Council Members seeking motions for submission to the ALGA NGA, two proposed items have been received for consideration for submission:
 - 13.1. “This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:
 - 13.1.1 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a toolkit for local government areas to develop or update an active transport strategy.
 - 13.1.2 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a framework and/or self-assessment tool for local government areas to audit their cycling/walking/active transport strategies.
 - 13.1.3 Providing federal funding support to develop these frameworks and tools.”
 - 13.2. “This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:
 - 13.2.1 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to commit 30 per cent of journeys to school by active transport by 2030 (30 by 30).
 - 13.2.2 Working with the Australian Local Government Association to developing an overarching action plan to support local government areas who also commit to '30 by 30'.”
14. The proposed motions support outcomes from the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028:
 - 13.3. Our Environment – Lead as a Low Carbon Emissions City: Be climate conscious and resilient
 - 13.4. Our Community – Support our communities to thrive
 - 13.5. Our Places – Manage assets to meet the needs of our community.
15. The proposed motions also support the City of Adelaide Integrated Climate Strategy 2030 – Resilient, Protected, Sustainable where the “City of Adelaide supports the transition to electric vehicles and decarbonisation of the transport system and acknowledges that this requires appropriate electric vehicle, cycling and walking infrastructure, and zero emissions public transport.
16. Should Council support these proposed motions to be submitted to ALGA for the NGA they will be submitted via the ALGA portal by 31 March 2025.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Council report dated 28 January 2025 seeking NGA motions

Link 2 – 2025 NGA Discussion Paper

ATTACHMENTS

Nil