

Motion for consideration for ALGA National General Assembly

Tuesday, 25 March 2025
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

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](#)).

Council at its meeting on 11 March 2025 approved two proposed motions to be submitted for consideration at the ALGA National General Assembly. A further proposed motion has 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 motion 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, in the context of Scope 3 of the Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards – Disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information, to amend its mandate requiring tenancy only in 6-star rated new builds, so that, subject to conversion, existing building stock could qualify for being leased as office space for Commonwealth agencies, to serve the dual purpose of:

2.2.1. incentivising inner city property owners to invest in renovation and conversion of existing building stock, and

2.2.2 avoiding the continued and increasing loss of carbon embodied in existing buildings.

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 a motion 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.
12. Council at its meeting on 11 March 2025 considered two proposed motions to be presented to the NGA and resolved:

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'. ([Link 3](#))

Proposed motion

13. A further proposed motion has been received for consideration for submission to the ALGA NGA:
 - 13.1 "This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in the context of Scope 3 of the Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards – Disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information, to amend its mandate requiring tenancy only in 6-star rated new builds, so that, subject to conversion, existing building stock could qualify for being leased as office space for Commonwealth agencies, to serve the dual purpose of:
 - 13.1.1. incentivising inner city property owners to invest in renovation and conversion of existing building stock, and
 - 13.2.2. avoiding the continued and increasing loss of carbon embodied in existing buildings."
14. The proposed motion supports the following outcomes from the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028:
 - 14.1. Our Environment – Lead as a Low Carbon Emission City
 - 14.2. Our Places – Encourage bold, interesting and purposeful development that supports the changing needs of our community and city.
15. Should Council support the proposed motion to be submitted to ALGA for the NGA, it 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

Link 3 – Council report dated 11 March 2025 seeking approval for two proposed motions to present to NGA

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -