



# Council Agenda

# AGENDA

## NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of Council will be held in the

**Council Chamber – Glenelg Town Hall  
Moseley Square, Glenelg**

**Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 7.00pm**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberto Bria".

**Roberto Bria  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Please note: This agenda contains Officers' reports and recommendations that will be considered by the Council. Any confidential items listed on the agenda will be circulated to Members separately.



## Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

### 1. OPENING

*The Mayor will declare the meeting open at 7:00pm.*

### 2. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We acknowledge Kaurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.*

*We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kaurna People today.*

### 3. SERVICE TO COUNTRY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*The City of Holdfast Bay would like to acknowledge all personnel who have served in the Australian forces and services, including volunteers, for our country.*

### 4. PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we pray for your presence and guidance at our Council Meeting. Grant us your wisdom and protect our integrity as we carry out the powers and responsibilities entrusted to us on behalf of the community that we serve.*

### 5. APOLOGIES

5.1 Apologies Received

5.2 Absent

### 6. ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN CONSULTATION

Under section 123(4)(a)(i)(B) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council will provide a period of at least one hour for members of the public to ask questions and make submission in relation to the draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

### 7. ITEMS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL - Nil

### 8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

*If a Council Member has an interest (within the terms of the Local Government Act 1999) in a matter before the Council they are asked to disclose the interest to the Council and provide full and accurate details of the relevant interest. Members are reminded to declare their interest before each item.*

### 9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 24 May 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.**

**10. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

- 10.1 **Petitions** - Nil
- 10.2 **Presentations** - Nil
- 10.3 **Deputations** - Nil

**11. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

- 11.1 **Without Notice**
- 11.2 **On Notice**
  - 11.2.1 Kingston House Grounds – Councillor Lindop (Report No: 187/22)
  - 11.2.2 Trees along Coast Path and Brighton Caravan Park in Kingston Park – (Report No: 188/22)

**12. MEMBER'S ACTIVITY REPORTS – Nil****13. MOTIONS ON NOTICE – Nil****14. ADJOURNED MATTERS - Nil****15. REPORTS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARIES**

- 15.1 Draft Minutes – Alwyndor Management Committee – 31 March 2022 (Report No: 192/22)
- 15.2 Minutes - Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee – 1 June 2022 (Report No: 193/22)
- 15.3 Minutes - Audit Committee – 1 June 2022 (Report No: 194/22)
- 15.4 Minutes – Executive Committee – 17 May 2022 (Report No: 169/22)  
Refer to Item 19 Items in Confidence.

**16. REPORTS BY OFFICERS**

- 16.1 Items in Brief (Report No: 186/22)
- 16.2 Draft 2022-2023 Annual Business Plan Consultation Outcomes (Report No: 195/22)
- 16.3 Grant Application – Tarlton Street Somerton Park Stormwater Drainage (Report No: 190/22)
- 16.4 Proposed Area 40km/h Speed Limit (Report No: 189/22)
- 16.5 Kauri Sporting Complex – Exeloo Installation (Report No: 191/22)
- 16.6 Policy Updates as a Result of the Cessation of the Major Emergency Declaration (Report No: 196/22)
- 16.7 Australian Local Government Association – National General Assembly (Report No: 200/22)
- 16.8 Caretaker Policy - Amendment (Report No: 197/22)

**17. RESOLUTIONS SUBJECT TO FORMAL MOTIONS**

*Presented for the information of Members is a listing of resolutions subject to formal resolutions, for Council and all Standing Committees, to adjourn or lay on the table items of Council business, for the current term of Council.*

**18. URGENT BUSINESS – Subject to the Leave of the Meeting****19. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

- 19.1 Kauri Community and Sporting Complex – Management Agreement and Lease to Seacliff Sports Club (Report No: 198/22)

Pursuant to Section 83(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Report attached to this agenda and the accompanying documentation is delivered to the Council Members upon the basis that the Council consider the Report and the documents in confidence under Part 3 of the Act, specifically on the basis that Council will receive, discuss or consider:

- b. **Information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.**
- d. **commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.**

- 19.2 Legal Claim (Report No: 199/22)

Pursuant to Section 83(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Report attached to this agenda and the accompanying documentation is delivered to the Council Members upon the basis that the Council consider the Report and the documents in confidence under Part 3 of the Act, specifically on the basis that Council will receive, discuss or consider:

- i. **information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council.**



19.3 Confidential Minutes – Audit Committee – 1 June 2022 (Report No: 207/22)

Pursuant to Section 83(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Report attached to this agenda and the accompanying documentation is delivered to the Council Members upon the basis that the Council consider the Report and the documents in confidence under Part 3 of the Act, specifically on the basis that Council will receive, discuss or consider:

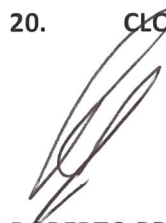
- d. **commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.**

15.4 Minutes – Executive Committee – 17 May 2022 (Report No: 169/22)

Pursuant to Section 83(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Report attached to this agenda and the accompanying documentation is delivered to the Council Members upon the basis that the Council consider the Report and the documents in confidence under Part 3 of the Act, specifically on the basis that Council will receive, discuss or consider:

- e. **matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person.**

20. CLOSURE



**ROBERTO BRIA**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Item No: 11.2.1

Subject: **QUESTION ON NOTICE – KINGSTON HOUSE GROUNDS – COUNCILLOR LINDOP**

Date: 14 June 2022

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## **QUESTION**

Councillor Lindop asked the following question:

***“Can I please ask what plans the Council Administration has to help protect from erosion and rejuvenate the plantings on the Southern side of the Kingston House Grounds along Burnham Road/Strickland Road?”***

***Is the watering system in the area been checked and repaired?***

***Is there any current plans to do more planting or a succession plan for the trees and plants in the whole of Kingston House Grounds?”***

## **Background**

Kingston House grounds is under the care and control of City of Holdfast Bay. The grounds are enjoyed by all of the community with picnics, playground and larger functions. Keeping the grounds in great order also enables the “Friends and Volunteers at Kingston House” to host functions and raise money to enable them to look after the Historic Home.

There has also been reports of litter/rubbish dumping along the Southern Side where the bushes died off, and looked unkempt for a while. Keeping our grounds well cared for, encourages everyone to look after our beautiful spaces.

## **ANSWER – General Manager Assets and Delivery**

The irrigation at Kingston House Grounds has recently been extended on the southern side and the lawn will rejuvenate in spring when the watering resumes. The irrigation was extended to the full extent possible considering the cultural significance of the area. The irrigation has been checked and is fully operational across the whole reserve.

Trees will be planted along the roadway on the southern side, within the gaps between the existing vegetation. The species and number of trees are yet to be determined however will be native. These new trees will be watered during the warmer months for the first two years by Council’s watering truck.

In the area adjacent to 4 Strickland Road (south eastern end), this area will be thinned out and the density reduced. The exotic species will be removed, and native plants and ground covers will be planted in its place to improve biodiversity. These works will occur over the next few months via Council staff and volunteers. This area will be more aesthetically pleasing for those living adjacent to the reserve and visitors that attend this open space. Additionally, the removal of density should help prevent rubbish dumping in the area.

Kingston House Grounds is attended frequently by Council's Open Space Team. The lawns are mowed every week and the gardens are attended to every 14 days to maintain the area to standard with the existing vegetation.

The local planting will reduce site erosion due to uncontrolled access and water runoff.

Council is currently undertaking a tree audit and this will help inform future succession planning in reserves including around Kingston Park House. In addition, Council does have an active program to add over 100 young trees to reserves each year to ensure both diversity and canopy coverage.

Item No: 11.2.2

Subject: **QUESTION ON NOTICE – TREES ALONG COAST PATH AND BRIGHTON CARAVAN PARK IN KINGSTON PARK – COUNCILLOR LINDOP**

Date: 14 June 2022

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## **QUESTION**

Councillor Lindop asked the following question:

***“Could Council Administration please advise of any plans to remove and replant the trees along the Coast Path and the Brighton Caravan Park in Kingston Park during this coming 2022 planting season please?”***

***How many new trees are proposes to be planted?***

***Will there be any discussion with Brighton Caravan Park Managers about helping with the “Adopt-a-Tree” watering scheme to help them survive the tough summer months?”***

## **Background**

Walking along the Coast Path there are a number of dead trees along this area. This was brought up in a Council Workshop regarding the Brighton Caravan Park Redevelopment and also with the Council Senior Urban Forest Officer during a workshop.

I believe that there is some plans in place, but as I have been contacted by some residents, it would be great to have some more information please.

## **ANSWER – General Manager Assets and Delivery**

Council has six trees scheduled to go in the ground this planting season that front the caravan park. There are two trees that have already been planted (total of eight new trees). The locations have been determined with the Caravan Park Manager, Commercial Lead, Senior Urban Forest Officer and Urban Greening Officer. The Caravan Park staff will water the trees as they are located on Caravan Park land. The location of the new planting will not affect views.



Item No: 15.1

Subject: **DRAFT MINUTES - ALWYNDOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 31 MARCH 2022**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: General Manager, Alwyndor

General Manager: Alwyndor, Ms B Davidson-Park

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### **SUMMARY**

The draft minutes of the Alwyndor Management Committee meeting held on 31 March 2022 are provided for information.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **That the draft minutes of the Alwyndor Management Committee meeting held on 31 March 2022 be noted.**

### **RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

2. **That having considered Attachment 2 to Report No: 192/22 Draft Minutes - Alwyndor Management Committee – 31 March 2022 in confidence under section 90(2) and (3) (b) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council, pursuant to section 91(7) of the Act orders that Attachment 2 be retained in confidence for a period of 24 months and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.**
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### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Enabling the people in our communities to live healthy, engaged and fulfilling lives.

### **COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

Not applicable

### **BACKGROUND**

This report is presented following the Alwyndor Management Committee Meetings.

The Alwyndor Management Committee was established to manage the affairs of Alwyndor Aged Care. The Council has endorsed the Committee's Terms of Reference and given the Committee delegated authority to manage the business of Alwyndor Aged Care.

**REPORT**

The draft minutes of the meeting are attached for Members' information.

*Refer Attachment 1 and 2*

**BUDGET**

Nil

**LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

Not applicable

# Attachment 1



## **CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Alwyndor Management Committee of the City of Holdfast Bay held in the Alwyndor Boardroom, 52 Dunrobin Road, Hove on Thursday 31 March 2022 at 6.30pm.**

### **PRESENT**

#### **Elected Members**

Councillor Susan Lonie  
Councillor Robert Snewin

#### **Independent Members**

Mr Kim Cheater- Chair  
Ms Julie Bonnici  
Ms Joanne Cottle  
Prof Judy Searle  
Prof Lorraine Sheppard  
Ms Trudy Sutton  
Mr Kevin Whitford

#### **Staff**

Chief Executive Officer – Mr Roberto Bria  
General Manager Alwyndor – Ms Beth Davidson-Park  
Manager, Community Connections – Ms Molly Salt  
Manager, Residential Services – Ms Natasha Stone  
Manager, Finance – Mr Damian Capurro  
Manager, People and Culture, Ms Lisa Hall  
Personal Assistant – Ms Marisa Dinham

#### **Guests**

Kathleen Hayward, Provider Asist  
Matthew Brincott, Provider Assist

### **1. OPENING**

The Chairperson declared the meeting opened at 6.35pm.

### **2. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

With the opening of the meeting the Chair stated:

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.



We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kurna People today.

### 3. APOLOGIES

- 3.1 For Absence
- 3.2 Leave of Absence Nil

### 4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Committee members were reminded to declare any interest before each item.

*The Chair sought leave of the meeting to bring forward Item 8.3 Presentation, with the remainder of the meeting to progress as scheduled after the presentation.*

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### Motion

**That the Public and Confidential minutes of the Alwyndor Management Committee held on 24 February 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.**

Moved by Cr S Lonie, Seconded by Cr R Snewin

**Carried**

**That the Public and Confidential minutes of the Alwyndor Management Committee held on 21 March 2022 be held over to the April meeting for confirmation.**

- 8.3 Presentation – Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC)**  
*(Presented by Ms Kathleen Hayward and Mr Matthew Bincatt, Provider Assist)*

#### **Recommendation – Exclusion of the Public-Section 90(3):**

- 1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 Alwyndor Management Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the General Manager and Staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Report No 10/22 in confidence.**
- 2. Pursuant to Section 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 Alwyndor Management Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in the presentation by Provider Assist regarding Australian National Aged Care Classifications (AN-ACC) on the following grounds:**

- d. pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

**RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

1. That having considered Agenda Item 8.1 General Manager's Report (Report No: 10/22) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Alwyndor Management Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Attachments and Minutes be retained in confidence for a period of 3 years and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

Moved by Ms J Bonnici, Seconded by Ms S Lonie

**Carried**

**6. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

**6.1 Action Items**

Item 1 – Recruitment to form a part of the General Manager report in April 2022.

Item 2 – Major Projects; the General Manager to follow up with the Manager, Quality and Projects regarding AlayaCare and to update the AMC accordingly.

Item 8 –KPI's / targets for the quarterly performance report will be included in the April 2022 agenda.

**6.2 Annual Work Plan**

Noted.

**7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**7.1 General Manager Report (Report No: 09/2022)**

**7.1.1 COVID-19 Update**

Alwyndor currently in lockdown with three residents, eight care staff and one kitchen staff member testing positive. Continued staff shortages are challenging. Potential for families and volunteers to assist with feeding and personal laundry.

**7.1.2 Employee survey**

A solid response rate by staff given the current circumstances with it being agreed that the outcomes to be forwarded to AMC in entirety as a part of the May 2022 agenda.

**7.1.3 Recruitment**

Item noted.

**Motion:**

**That the Alwyndor Management Committee:**

- 1. Notes the update regarding COVID-19 impacts and responses.**
- 2. Notes the update and progress regarding the Employee Survey.**
- 3. Notes the update regarding Recruitment.**

Moved by Prof L Sheppard, Seconded by Cr S Lonie

**Carried**

**8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT – CONFIDENTIAL****8.1 General Manager Report – Confidential (Report No: 10/22)****Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d) Order**

- 1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Alwyndor Management Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the General Manager and Staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Reports and Attachments to Report No: 10/2022 in confidence.**
- 2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Alwyndor Management Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 10/22 on the following grounds:**
  - d. pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party of Alwyndor, in addition Alwyndor's financial position is reported as part of Council's regular budget updates.**

**In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The**

benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

3. The Alwyndor Management Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.

Moved by Prof L Sheppard, Seconded by Ms J Bonnici

Carried

**RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

2. That having considered Agenda Item 8.1 General Manager's Report (Report No: 10/22) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Alwyndor Management Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Attachments and Minutes be retained in confidence for a period of 3 years and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

Moved by Prof L Sheppard, Seconded by Cr S Lonie

Carried

**8.2 Alwyndor Draft Budget 2022/23 – Confidential (Report No: 11/22)**

**Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d) Order**

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Alwyndor Management Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the General Manager and Staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Reports and Attachments to Report No: 11/2022 in confidence.
2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Alwyndor Management Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 11/22 on the following grounds:
  - d. pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party of Alwyndor, in addition Alwyndor's financial position is reported as part of Council's regular budget updates.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public



interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

3. The Alwyndor Management Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.

Moved by Prof L Sheppard, Seconded by Ms J Bonnici

Carried

**RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

1. That having considered Agenda Item 8.2 Alwyndor Draft Budget 2022/23 - Confidential (Report No: 11/22) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Alwyndor Management Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Attachments and Minutes be retained in confidence for a period of 3 years and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

Moved by Cr S Lonie, Seconded by Ms J Bonnici

Carried

**9. OTHER BUSINESS – Subject to the leave of the meeting**

**9.1 Catering project update:**

The General Manager noted that Vision Food Services advised Alwyndor on 29 March 2022 that they were not seeking renewal of the Contract following 30 June 2022. The project is proceeding as planned.

**9.2 Personal Assistant resignation**

It was noted that it was the final meeting for the Personal Assistant and the AMC thanked her for her work and efforts over the past two years.

**10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Alwyndor Management Committee will be held on **Thursday 28 April 2022** in the Boardroom Alwyndor, 52 Dunrobin Road, Hove or via Audio-visual telecommunications (to be advised).

**11. CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**CONFIRMED 28 April 2022**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Item No: 15.2

Subject: **MINUTES – JETTY ROAD MAINSTREET COMMITTEE – 1 JUNE 2022**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: General Manager, Community and Business

General Manager: Community and Business, Ms M Lock

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### **SUMMARY**

The Minutes of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee meeting held on 1 June 2022 are attached and presented for Council's information.

Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee Agenda, Reports and Minutes are all available on Council's website and the meetings are open to the public.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council notes the minutes of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee of 1 June 2022.**

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### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Building an economy and community that is inclusive, diverse, sustainable and resilient.

### **COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

Not applicable

### **BACKGROUND**

The Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee (JRMC) has been established to undertake work to benefit the traders on Jetty Road Glenelg, using the separate rate raised for this purpose. Council has endorsed the Committee's Terms of Reference and given the Committee delegated authority to manage the business of the Committee.

Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee Agendas, Reports, and Minutes are all available on Council's website and the meetings are open to the public.

**REPORT**

Minutes of the meetings of JRMCM held on 1 June 2022 are attached for member's information.  
*Refer Attachment 1*

**BUDGET**

Not applicable

**LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

Not applicable

# Attachment 1





## CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

### Minutes of the meeting of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee of the City of Holdfast Bay held in the Mayor's Parlour Glenelg Town Hall on Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 6:00pm

#### PRESENT

##### Elected Members:

Councillor R Abley  
Councillor W Miller

##### Community Representatives:

Attitudes Boutique, Ms G Martin  
Daisy and Hen, Ms G Britton  
Cibo Espresso, Mr T Beatrice  
Beach Burrito, Mr A Warren  
Ikos Holdings Trust, Mr A Fotopoulos  
Terra & Sol, Mr B Meuris  
Echelon Studio – Architecture and Design, Mr C Morley  
Glenelg Finance, Mr D Murphy  
Smart Hearing Solutions, Mr J Rayment

##### Staff:

General Manager, Community & Business, Ms M Lock  
Manager, City Activation, Ms R Forrest  
Jetty Road Development Coordinator, Ms A Klingberg

#### 1. OPENING

The Interim Chair, Ms G Martin, declared the meeting open at 6.04pm.

#### 2. KAURNA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge Kaurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kaurna People today.

#### 3. APOLOGIES

3.1 Apologies Received:

3.2 Absent:

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare any interest before each item.

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****Motion**

**That the minutes of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee held on 4 May to be taken as read and confirmed.**

Moved A Warren, Seconded G Britton

**Carried**

T Beatrice joined the meeting at 6.05pm

**6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS****6.1 Without Notice:**

- Mr A Warren asked a question about the JRMC Assistant role. Administration provided a response.
- Councillor Miller asked would the Committee be provided a map of the precinct? Administration responded yes, as new committee members received this as part of an induction pack.

**6.2 With Notice: Nil****7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE: Nil****8. PRESENTATION:****9. REPORTS/ITEMS OF BUSINESS****Leave of the Meeting**

The Interim Chair Person sought leave of the meeting to move Item 9.1 in the Agenda to be considered at the end of the meeting.

Leave of the meeting was granted.

9.2 Monthly Finance Report (Report No: 183/22)

The Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee April 2022 variance report is presented for information of the members of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee.

**Motion**

**That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee note this report.**

Moved G Britton, Seconded T Beatrice

**Carried**

A Fotopoulos joined the meeting at 6.26pm

9.3 Marketing Update (Report No: 184/22)

The report provides an update on the marketing initiatives undertaken by the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee 2021 Marketing Plan and initiatives aligned to the delivery of the Jetty Road Glenelg Retail Strategy 2018-2022.

**Motion**

**That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee note this report.**

Moved J Rayment, Seconded C Morley

**Carried**

9.4 Jetty Road Events Update (Report No: 185/22)

JRMC in partnership with the City of Holdfast Bay are responsible for implementing and managing a variety of major events to support economic stimulus in the precinct in accordance with the annual marketing and business plan. This report provides an overview of upcoming events.

**Motion**

**That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee note this report.**

Moved A Warren, Seconded T Beatrice

**Carried**

Item 9.1 on the Agenda was considered after Item 9.4, as per leave of the meeting granted.

9.1 New Committee Member Welcome (Report No: 182/22)

Following the resignation of four committee members, nominations were sought to fill the vacant positions and assessed against a skills matrix by the determined Selection Committee.

The Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee (JRMC) comprises 11 members who are a mix of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Precinct (the Precinct) business owners who contribute

to the separate rate levy, commercial property owners and Elected Members of Council. Four (4) resignations were received from existing Committee Members in March and April 2022. Business owners and owners of commercial property within the boundaries of the Precinct, who contribute to the separate rate levy were invited to nominate for one (1) of the vacant positions on the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee. Nominations were open from 11 - 22 April 2022. The selection panel met in May and this report provides their recommendations for the appointment of the committee members to fill the four (4) vacancies until the end of the current term, 31 March 2023.

### **Motion**

#### **That the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee:**

- 1. Note this report.**
- 2. Elect Ms G Martin as Chairperson for the remainder of the current term.**
- 3. Elect Ms G Britton as Deputy Chairperson for the remainder of the current term.**

Moved Councillor Miller, Seconded A Warren

**Carried**

#### **10. URGENT BUSINESS – Subject to the Leave of the Meeting**

- Mr A Warren asked a question in relation to the Colley Tce Development, is there a contact person for traders? If so, can they engage traders as a priority since the project has started. Administration responded with whom the council contact is and will follow up for action.
- Councillor Miller asked what was the outcome of the discussion between the JRDC and Glenelg Bowls Club in relation to opportunities to partner the JRMC. The JRDC provided a response.
- Councillor Abley asked for an update on the Rotary Youth Photographic Exhibition sponsorship following last month's JRMC meeting. Administration provided an update.
- Mr T Beatrice asked a question around the Tour Down Under in Glenelg. Administration provided an update.
- Mr A Warren asked a question in relation to the letter of recognition for the outgoing Chair. Administration provided an update.
- Mr A Fotopoulos asked a question around the code blue instated across the state, could the contact details be shared with traders and the public on how to assist. Administration provided an update.

**REPORTS/ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee will be held on Wednesday 6 July 22 at the Glenelg Town Hall.

**12. CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 7.08pm

**CONFIRMED:** Wednesday 6 July 2022

**CHAIR PERSON**

Item No: 15.3

Subject: **MINUTES – AUDIT COMMITTEE – 1 JUNE 2022**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: Personal Assistant, Strategy and Corporate

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

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### **SUMMARY**

The public minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held 1 June 2022 are presented to Council for information and endorsement.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council notes the public minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee of 1 June 2022, namely that the Audit Committee:**

- 1. advises Council it has received and considered a Standing Items Report addressing:**
    - **Monthly Financial Statements**
    - **Risk Management and Internal Control**
    - **External Audit**
    - **Public Interest Disclosures – previously Whistle-Blowing**
    - **Economy and Efficiency Audits**
    - **Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2022**
  - 2. endorsed the proposed new Risk Management Policy for Council’s consideration;**
  - 3. endorsed the revised Procurement Policy for Council’s consideration; and**
  - 4. advises Council it has received and noted Alwyndor’s draft 2022/2023 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan.**
- 

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Statutory requirement

**COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

**STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

*Local Government Act 1999*, Sections 41 and 126

**BACKGROUND**

The Audit Committee is established under Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, and Section 126 of the *Local Government Act 1999* defines the functions of the Audit Committee to include:

- reviewing annual financial statements to ensure that they present fairly the state of affairs of the council;
- proposing, and providing information relevant to, a review of the council's strategic management plans or annual business plan;
- proposing, and reviewing, the exercise of powers under section 130 A;
- if the council has exempted a subsidiary from the requirement to have an audit committee, the functions that would, apart from the exemption, have been performed by the subsidiary's audit committee;
- liaising with the council's auditor; and
- reviewing the adequacy of the accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the council on a regular basis.

**REPORT**

The public minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 1 June 2022 are attached for Members' information.

*Refer Attachment 1*

The Audit Committee endorsed the revised Risk and Procurement policies. These policies will be presented to Council for consideration at its meeting on 28 June 2022.

**BUDGET**

Not applicable

**LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

Not applicable



# Attachment 1



**Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee of the City of Holdfast Bay held in the Kingston Room, Civic Centre, 24 Jetty Road, Brighton on Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 6:00pm.**

**PRESENT**

**Members**

Councillor R Snewin  
Mr D Powell  
Mr S Tu  
Ms P Davies

**Staff**

Chief Executive Officer – R Bria  
General Manager Alwyndor – B Davidson-Park  
Manager Finance – J Newton  
Manager Strategy and Governance – A Karzek  
Manager Finance, Alwyndor – D Capurro

**Guest**

Ms Janna Burnham, Director of Internal Audit, Galpins

**1. OPENING**

The Chief Executive Officer declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

In the absence of the Presiding Member, the Audit Committee determined an acting presiding member for the meeting.

**Motion**

**That the Audit Committee appoints Councillor Snewin as presiding member for this meeting.**

Moved P Davies, Seconded D Powell

**Carried**

Councillor Snewin took over the meeting as the acting presiding member.

**2. APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 Apologies Received
- 2.2 Absent – Cr Smedley (Leave of Absence)

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded to declare their interest before each item.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Motion**

**That the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 16 March 2022 be taken as read and confirmed.**

Moved D Powell, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

The Action Items were tabled and discussed.

The Chief Executive Officer provided a verbal response on the governance structure of SRWRA closing off that action.

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Nil

## 7. REPORTS BY OFFICERS

7.1 **Standing Items** (Report No: 179/22)

The Audit Committee was provided with a report on standing items at the meeting.

### **Motion**

1. **That the Audit Committee advises Council it has received and considered a Standing Items Report addressing:**

- **Monthly Financial Statements**
- **Risk Management and Internal control**
- **External Audit**
- **Public Interest Disclosures – previously Whistle-Blowing**
- **Economy and Efficiency Audits**
- **Audit Committee Meeting Schedule 2022**

Moved S Tu, Seconded D Powell

**Carried**

7.2 **Draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget** (Report No: 172/22)

### **Motion** – Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d)

1. **That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the staff in attendance at the meeting in order to receive a presentation on the Alwyndor Draft Budget and LTFP 2022/23 in confidence.**

2. **That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public**

**be excluded in order to receive a presentation on the Alwyndor Draft Budget and LTFP 2022/23 Confidential on the following grounds:**

- d. **pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.**

**In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.**

3. **The Audit Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.**

Moved P Davies, Seconded D Powell

**Carried**

The draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP&B) was developed on the assumptions and parameters discussed at Council workshops held in March and April 2022. The draft budget satisfies Council's financial sustainability and performance measures.

The Audit Committee at its meeting on 16 March 2022, received an update on the draft 2022-23 ABP&B and Municipal Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). Subsequent to this meeting a draft ABP&B document was prepared for Council consideration, and this was distributed electronically to members of the Audit Committee on 22 April 2022.

Council approved the ABP&B for community consultation on 26 April 2022 and will receive a formal report covering the outcomes on 14 June 2022.

The draft 2022-23 ABP&B including summary consultation outcomes and an updated Municipal LTFP is presented to Audit Committee for further comment and support noting that it satisfies Council's financial sustainability and performance measures.

**Motion**

**That the Audit Committee notes that the draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan and Budget satisfies Council's financial sustainability and performance measures and support its presentation to Council for adoption.**

Moved D Powell, Seconded S Tu

**Carried**

The Presiding Member sought leave of the meeting to bring forward Item 9.1.

**9.1 Alwyndor Draft Budget and Long Term Financial Plan (Report No: 177/22)****Motion – Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d)**

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Report No 177/22 Alwyndor Draft Budget and LTFP 2022/23 in confidence.
2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 177/22 Alwyndor Draft Budget and LTFP 2022/23 Confidential on the following grounds:
  - d. pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.
3. The Audit Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.

Moved P Davies, Seconded S Tu

**Carried**

The draft 2022/23 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan are presented to the Audit Committee for consideration and discussion prior to final presentation to the City of Holdfast Bay for adoption and integration into its consolidated accounts.

**Motion**

1. That the Audit Committee advises Council it has received and noted Alwyndor's draft Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 2022/23.

**RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

2. **That having considered Agenda Item 9.1 Alwyndor Draft Budget and LTFP 2022/23 (Report No: 177/22) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Report and Attachments be retained in confidence for a period of 12 months and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.**

Moved D Powell, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

The Presiding Member sought leave of the meeting to bring forward 7.4 as Ms Janna Burnham, Director of Internal Audit, Galpins was not available at this stage.

7.4 **Risk Report** (Report No: 174/22)

A comprehensive review of both the Risk Management Policy and Procedure has been completed, with presentation to the Senior Leadership Team on 17 May. Updated details are provided to the Committee via a separate agenda item.

In addition, revisions to the Strategic Risk Register have commenced and will incorporate internal audit recommendations and best practice. Revisions will then cover the Operational Risk Register and be presented to the Audit Committee for consideration at the next meeting.

Environmental scanning has been introduced to provide a forward looking aspect to risk management, assisting Senior Leadership to identify new and emerging risks, as well new and emerging opportunities, for assessment and consideration going forward.

**Motion**

**That the Audit Committee notes this report.**

Moved D Powell, Seconded S Tu

**Carried**

7.5 **Risk Policy and Procedure** (Report No: 181/22)

The Risk Management Framework, Policy and Procedure were endorsed by the Audit Committee on 31 January 2018 and by Council on 13 March 2018. In 2021, the Risk Consequence Scale and Descriptions table (consequence table) and the Risk Matrix in the Risk Management Framework were adjusted by Council on the advice of the Audit Committee.

A comprehensive review of the Risk Management Framework, policy and procedure have now been undertaken by the Risk and Improvement Officer to simplify the suite of documents and apply best practice.

A proposed new Risk Management Policy is provided for Audit Committee's review, comment and endorsement, prior to presentation to Council for consideration. The Risk Management Procedure is provide for Audit Committee's

review and comment. Procedures do not require Council approval and will be confirmed by the Chief Executive once the head policy is approved.

**Motion**

**That the Audit Committee:**

- 1. endorses the proposed new Risk Management Policy (Attachment 4) for Council's consideration, and**
- 2. notes the proposed new Risk Management Procedure (Attachment 5).**

Moved Powell, Seconded Tu

**Carried**

Ms Janna Burnham, Director of Internal Audit, Galpins arrived and the Presiding member returned to Item 7.3.

**7.3 Internal Audit Program (Report No: 175/22)**

Following endorsement of the Council's Internal Audit Plan last year (AC277/21), Internal Auditors, Galpins, have progressed with the 2021-22 scheduled program of reviews.

Of the six risk-based audits outlined for 2021-22, four have been completed, with the Cyber Security Follow Up audit and Planning Reform recently being finalised. With four audits now complete, the remaining two are currently underway – Asset Management and Financial Controls.

In addition to the internal audit program progress report, this report includes an update on the Internal Audit services contract renewal process.

D Powell left the meeting 7.24pm

**Motion - Exclusion of the Public - Section 90(3)(e)**

- 1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Attachment 2 of Report No 175/22 Internal Audit Program Report in confidence.**
- 2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Attachment 2 of Report No: 175/22 Internal Audit Program Report on the following grounds:**

- (e) matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

3. The Audit Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.

Moved P Davies, Seconded S Tu

Carried

Motion

1. That the Audit Committee notes this report.

RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order

2. That having considered Attachment 2 of Agenda Item 7.3 Internal Audit Program Report in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(e) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that Attachment 2 be retained in confidence for a period of 24 months and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

Moved P Davies, Seconded S Tu

Carried

7.6 **Procurement Policy** (Report No: 180/22)

The Procurement Policy suite was reviewed in mid-2021 and is not due for review again until 2024, however, with economic conditions being as volatile as they are, more frequent reviews may be necessary.

Such volatility requires adequate administrative flexibility to ensure the best procurement outcomes can be achieved. To this end, a number of changes to the Procurement Policy are proposed. These changes are intended to provide Council with greater flexibility to negotiate with suppliers, including existing suppliers, where such an approach provides better results compared to a market approach.

The opportunity has also been taken to strengthen processes relating to referee checks relating to procurements and conflicts of interest. These have taken on board documents produced by the South Australian Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.



A revised proposed policy is provided for the Audit Committee's review, comments and endorsement.

**Motion**

**It is recommended that Audit Committee endorse the revised Procurement Policy for Council's consideration.**

Moved S Tu, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

**8. URGENT BUSINESS – SUBJECT TO THE LEAVE OF THE MEETING - Nil**

**9. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Item 9.1 was brought forward with leave of the meeting.

**9.2 Alwyndor Requirement for a Loan Facility (Report No: 178/22)**

**Motion - Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d) Order**

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Audit Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Report No: 178/22 Alwyndor: Requirement for a Loan Facility in confidence.

2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Alwyndor Management Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 178/22 Alwyndor: Requirement for a Loan Facility Confidential on the following grounds:

- d. pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

3. The Audit Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.

Moved S Tu, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

**RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

4. That having considered Agenda Item 9.2 (Report No: 178/22 Alwyndor: Requirement for a Loan Facility) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Report, Attachments and Minutes be retained in confidence for a period of 12 months and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

Moved S Tu, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

9.3 **Alwyndor Service Delivery Business Case (Report No: 164/22)**

**Motion – Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(d) Order**

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Council hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer and Staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Report No: 164/22 Alwyndor Service Delivery Business Case in confidence.
2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Council is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 164/22 Alwyndor Service Delivery Business Case on the following grounds:
  - d. pursuant to section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

3. The Audit Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential

Moved S Tu, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

**Motion**

1. That the Audit Committee notes this report.

**RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

2. That having considered Agenda Item 9.3 Alwyndor Service Delivery Business Case (Report No: 164/22) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Audit Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Report be retained in confidence for a period of 12 months and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

Moved P Davies, Seconded S Tu

**Carried**

- 9.4 **Feedback on ESCOSA Proposed Framework and Approach – S122 Strategic Management Plan Advice Scheme (Report No: 176/22)**

**Motion – Exclusion of the Public – Section 90(3)(j) Order**

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Audit Committee hereby orders that the public be excluded from attendance at this meeting with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer and staff in attendance at the meeting in order to consider Report No: 176/22 Feedback on ESCOSA Proposed Framework and Approach - s122 Strategic Management Plan Advice Scheme in confidence.
2. That in accordance with Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Audit Committee is satisfied that it is necessary that the public be excluded to consider the information contained in Report No: 176/22 Feedback on ESCOSA Proposed Framework and Approach - s122 Strategic Management Plan Advice Scheme on the following grounds:
  - j. pursuant to section 90(3)(j) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is information of a confidential nature the disclosure of which would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by a public authority, being the Local Government Association of SA (LGA).

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest because it is in the public interest for the Council to be able to communicate on a confidential basis with the LGA about proposed sector advocacy and thereby act cooperatively with the LGA in achieving positive outcomes for the local government sector. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information.

3. **The Audit Committee is satisfied, the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public, has been outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential.**

Moved S Tu, Seconded P Davies

**Carried**

As part of reforms to the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act), section 122 of the Act was amended to include the requirement that a designated authority would “provide provide advice to the council on the appropriateness of the relevant matters in the context of the council's long-term financial plan and infrastructure and asset management plan, and (b) may provide advice in relation to any other aspect of the council's long-term financial plan and infrastructure and asset management plan”.

In March 2022, the designated authority, the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) released a Draft Framework and Approach for a Local Government Rates Oversight Scheme (the Draft Framework) for consultation, which is provided as Attachment 1. Written submissions are required by Friday, 27 May 2022.

In April 2022, the Local Government Association (LGA) released a consultation paper in response to the Draft Framework, which is provided as Attachment 2. As the LGA requested feedback by 13 May 2022, a brief administrative response was provided, which was noted as not being Council’s formal position.

As currently proposed by ESCOSA, the Scheme will create an administrative and cost burden for councils with little appreciable value to communities. Nevertheless, as it is a legislated matter, it is unlikely to be rescinded at this time. As such, it is important to ensure the Scheme that is adopted is as practical for Council and as useful to the community as possible. To this end, proposed content for a submission on behalf of Council was been prepared for Council’s consideration on 24 May 2022, and is provided as Attachment 3 for the Audit Committee’s information.

### **Motion**

**That the Audit Committee notes the:**

1. **Draft Framework and Approach for the Local Government Rates Oversight Scheme issued by ESCOSA as provided as Attachment 1;**
2. **LGA Consultation Paper on the Scheme provided as Attachment 2; and**
3. **letter submitted on behalf of Council provided in Attachment 3.**

### **RETAIN IN CONFIDENCE - Section 91(7) Order**

4. **That having considered Agenda Item 9.4 Feedback on ESCOSA Proposed Framework and Approach - S122 Strategic Management Plan Advice Scheme (Report No: 176/22) in confidence under section 90(2) and (3)(j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit**

**Committee, pursuant to section 91(7) of that Act orders that the Report and Attachment 2 be retained in confidence until 30 June 2022.**

Moved P Davies, Seconded S Tu

**Carried**

**10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Audit Committee will be held on Wednesday 24 August 2022 at the Glenelg Town Hall, Moseley Square, Glenelg in the Mayor's Parlour at 6.00pm.

**11. CLOSURE**

The Meeting closed at 8.18pm.

**CONFIRMED 24 August 2022**

**PRESIDING MEMBER**

Item No: 16.1  
Subject: **ITEMS IN BRIEF**  
Date: 14 June 2022  
Written By: Executive Support Officer  
Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Bria

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## **SUMMARY**

These items are presented for the information of Members.

After noting the report any items of interest can be discussed and, if required, further motions proposed.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the following items be noted and items of interest discussed:**

1. **Local Government Association – Stormwater Management Authority Nomination Update**
  2. **Local Government Association – Libraries Board of SA Nomination Update**
  3. **Brighton Railway Station – Maintenance Update**
  4. **Regional Plan for Greater Adelaide**
  5. **Official Opening of Bouchée Walk event and War Service Animal Memorial**
  6. **Collaboration Agreement between the Libraries Board and the Local Government Association 2022-2026**
  7. **State Government Funding Support Request – New Year’s Eve (NYE) – Glenelg and Brighton**
  8. **Police Presence Jetty Road and Glenelg precinct and presentation of Petition to SA Parliament**
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## **REPORT**

1. **Local Government Association – Stormwater Management Authority Nomination Update**

Council received an update from the Local Government Association for its nomination of Mayor Wilson for the Stormwater Management Authority.

*Refer Attachment 1*

**2. Local Government Association – Libraries Board of SA Nomination Update**

Council received an update from the Local Government Association for its nomination of Councillor Abley for the Libraries Board of SA.

*Refer Attachment 2*

**3. Brighton Railway Station – Maintenance Update**

At its meeting of 12 April 2022, Councillor Snewin requested that Administration write to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) regarding maintenance of the Brighton Railway Station. DIT's response is provided for information.

*Refer Attachment 3*

**4. Regional Plan for Greater Adelaide**

The State Planning Commission will shortly formally commence the preparation of a Regional Plan for Greater Adelaide. The current 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide was updated in 2017, with a review envisaged every five years. The purpose of the Regional Plan for Greater Adelaide is to outline how Adelaide should grow to become more liveable, competitive and sustainable, which can then be refined at the local neighbourhood level through the Planning and Design Code. Whilst the responsibility for the preparation for this Regional Plan sits with the State Planning Commission, the intent is to engage with Local Government for the input and insight that only councils can provide. The attached staging plan for the Regional Plan shows that councils will be engaged from the outset. Whilst the scope and timing of the Regional Plan is contingent on budget approval, early discussions with the State Government indicate that councils will be consulted in the latter part of 2022, possibly following the Local Government elections. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

*Refer Attachment 4*

**5. Official Opening of Bouchée Walk event and War Service Animal Memorial**

At the meeting of 12 October 2021 Resolution Number C121021/2435, Council resolved for Hindmarsh Lane be renamed Bouchée Walk in honour of the late Councillor Mikki Bouchée's 25 years of service to Local Government, subject to consultation in line with Council policies.

The official event was opened by Mayor Amanda Wilson, the Hon Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Local Government and close friend Mr David Cotton on Sunday 22 May 2022. The quiet Sunday morning event was attended by Elected Members and close friends of Mikki, which post formal speeches, unveiling of the plaque and photos, was a quaint morning tea of Dutch treats in the spirit of Mikki's European heritage.

In parallel timing, the War Service Animal Memorial was installed on the western side of the Glenelg Town Hall on Friday 20 May 2022, to honour the deeds and sacrifice of war service animals.

This project was initially proposed by Councillor Mikki Bouchée, and was allocated 2020/2021 new initiative funding.

The selected image of Members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion exercising their horses at Glenelg Beach in 1915 will be a permanent public memorial and will create a lasting reminder of the important, selfless and loyal contribution animals make during times of conflict for our nation.

This cause was incredible close to Councillor Bouchée's heart and we are pleased to see the project finally come to fruition.

**6. Collaboration Agreement between the Libraries Board and the Local Government Association 2022-2026**

Council wrote to the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia on 23 May 2022 seeking support to include CPI in the annual grant allocation from 2022-2023 and in forward estimates for future years to adequately maintain funding for public libraries.

*Refer Attachment 5*

**7. State Government Funding Support Request – New Year's Eve (NYE) – Glenelg and Brighton**

At the meeting of 24 May 2022, Resolution Number C240522/2600, Council resolved to write to the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia to request greater State Government support in delivering Council's New Year's Eve celebrations.

*Refer Attachment 6*

**8. Police Presence Jetty Road and Glenelg precinct and presentation of Petition to SA Parliament**

Council wrote to the Hon Joe Szakacs MP, Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services on 3 June 2022 to request a permanent police presence for Jetty Road and Glenelg precinct and to provide a petition for presentation to the SA Parliament – South Australian Police presence at Jetty Road and Mosely Square, Glenelg.

*Refer Attachment 7*



# Attachment 1



In reply please quote our reference: ECM 776951 TN/AL

20 May 2022

Mr Roberto Bria  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Holdfast Bay

**Emailed:** [rbria@holdfast.sa.gov.au](mailto:rbria@holdfast.sa.gov.au) [mail@holdfast.sa.gov.au](mailto:mail@holdfast.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Bria

**Stormwater Management Authority**

Thank you for your Council's nomination of Mayor Amanda Wilson for the Stormwater Management Authority.

At its meeting on 19 May 2022 the LGA Board of Directors resolved to submit the following seven nominees (in alphabetical order) from which three persons will be appointed by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

- a. Mr Jonathon Foong – City of Tea Tree Gully
- b. Dr (Cr) Marilyn Henderson – City of Victor Harbor
- c. Mr Wally Iasiello – Campbelltown City Council
- d. Mr Andrew King – City of West Torrens
- e. Mr Russell King – City of Unley
- f. Ms Grace Pelle – City of Adelaide
- g. Mr Simon Sherriff – Light Regional Council

Please advise Mayor Wilson of the Board of Director's decision.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please email [nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tami Norman  
**Program Leader, Governance**

Telephone: (08) 8224 2037

Email: [tami.norman@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:tami.norman@lga.sa.gov.au)

# Attachment 2



In reply please quote our reference: ECM 777009 TN/AL

24 May 2022

Mr Roberto Bria  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Holdfast Bay

**Emailed:** [rbria@holdfast.sa.gov.au](mailto:rbria@holdfast.sa.gov.au) [mail@holdfast.sa.gov.au](mailto:mail@holdfast.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Bria

**Libraries Board of SA**

Thank you for your Council's nomination of Cr Rebecca Abley for the Libraries Board of SA.

At its meeting on 19 May 2022 the LGA Board of Directors resolved to submit the following seven nominees (in alphabetical order) from which three people will be appointed by the Minister for Arts.

- a. Ms Megan Berghuis – City of Unley
- b. Ms Liz Byrne – City of Whyalla
- c. Cr Joost den Hartog - City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- d. Ms Hadyeh Hashemi - Town of Walkerville
- e. Cr Christel Mex – City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters
- f. Cr Mark Osterstock – Adelaide Hills Council
- g. Mayor Jill Whittaker – Campbelltown City Council

Please advise Cr Abley of the Board of Director's decision.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please email [nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:nominationscoordinator@lga.sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tami Norman  
**Program Leader, Governance**

Telephone: (08) 8224 2037  
Email: [tami.norman@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:tami.norman@lga.sa.gov.au)

# Attachment 3



Received

OFFICIAL

27 MAY 2022

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY



Government of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport

In reply please quote (ID 85682) 18641916

Enquiries to [dit.officeofthechiefexecutive@sa.gov.au](mailto:dit.officeofthechiefexecutive@sa.gov.au)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE

77 Grenfell Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1533  
Adelaide SA 5001

ABN 92 366 288 135

Mr Michael de Heus  
General Manager - Assets and Delivery  
City of Holdfast Bay  
PO Box 19  
Brighton SA 5048

Dear Michael

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 April 2022, regarding the condition of the Brighton Railway Station and its surrounds.

I am advised that the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) has discussed this matter with the operator Keolis Downer Adelaide (KDA) who has advised the Brighton Railway Station is attended once a month to perform ground maintenance at the station, car park and surrounds (within the rail corridor).

Ground maintenance comprises services including hand weeding, trimming of plants, pruning and litter removal.

Weed control inside the rail corridor undergoes a program of mechanical slashing twice per year. Weed control at Brighton Station was to occur in late April 2022, however due to Covid-19 impacting staff levels, the program was unfortunately running behind schedule.

I am advised that the subcontractor attended the site on 10 and 11 May 2022, to assess the site conditions. Following this, weed control commenced on the Seaford line and work at Brighton is expected to be completed by the end of May 2022.

Weed control will continue as per the regularly scheduled program.

As you noted, there is a Rail Care Program, comprised of volunteers and managed by South Australia Public Transport Authority, for the western side of the railway corridor, however none is in place for the eastern side.

Your feedback is appreciated and has been forwarded to the Department's Rail Care Co-ordinator for consideration as possible inclusion in the program.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Jon Whelan  
Chief Executive

24 May 2022

# Attachment 4





# Indicative Steps for Regional Plans

Step 1  
Preliminary

**Define Scope & Process**

- Set-up Governance
- Funding
- **Early Agency & Council communications**
- Population and growth analysis

**Budget Approved**

Step 2  
Commission Initiation

Oct-Dec 2022

- Define Scope & Process
- Engagement Plan endorsement
- Setting the Scene investigations- including population projections
- **Data Collection- Government agencies**

Step 3  
Workshopping

2023

**Workshop 1 series- Councils and local agencies**

Documentation

Identify additional investigations

Step 4  
1st Draft Preparation

Prepare first plan

Directions discussions

**Workshop 2 series- Councils, Development industry, Agencies**

Step 5  
Consultation Draft

Public Engagement Materials

Draft prepared for public consultation

Step 6  
Commission Consultation

Principles of Community Engagement Charter

**Public, Council, Agency consultation**

Step 7  
Consider & Make Amendments

Engagement Report

Acknowledge submissions

Amend the plan

Stakeholder Check-ins

Steps 8-11  
Finalisation and Publication

Commission Endorsement

Approval by Minister

Go-Live

Parliamentary Review



# Attachment 5





[holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://holdfast.sa.gov.au)

Brighton Civic Centre 24 Jetty Road, Brighton SA 5048

PO Box 19 Brighton SA 5048

P 08 8229 9999 F 08 298 4561

Glenelg Customer Service Centre and Library

2 Colley Terrace, Glenelg SA 5045

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

23 May 2022

Hon Peter Malinauskas  
Office of the Premier  
GPO Box 2343  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: [premier@sa.gov.au](mailto:premier@sa.gov.au)

Dear Premier

### **Collaboration Agreement between the Libraries Board and the Local Government Association 2022-2026**

I am writing to raise our concern regarding the *Collaboration Agreement between the Libraries Board and the Local Government Association 2022-2026*, valued at \$20.7 million each year. The agreement provides a grant to each local government to support library operational costs, to purchase library materials through the One Card Network and the operation of Public Library Services.

In previous agreements, CPI was added each year to the grant allocation. The 2022-2026 agreement does not include CPI, which over five years is close to a \$5 million reduction in public library funding.

As the agreement funds the majority of book and digital collection purchases for public libraries and the operation of Public Library Services, any reduction in funding will impact library services across the state and development of the *One Card Network*.

Public libraries attract over 7.5 million visits per year and play a large role in connecting the community, increasing digital literacy and linking community to State Government services. The long standing funding agreement between the State Government and the Local Government Association is an effective mechanism to leverage benefits across the state and restoring CPI will assure this continues.

I am seeking your support to confirm CPI is included in the annual grant allocation from 2022-2023 and in forward estimates for future years to adequately maintain funding for public libraries.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Wilson  
**MAYOR**

cc: Mayor Angela Evans, LGA President: [lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au](mailto:lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au)



# Attachment 6





[holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://holdfast.sa.gov.au)

Brighton Civic Centre 24 Jetty Road, Brighton SA 5048

PO Box 19 Brighton SA 5048

P 08 8229 9999 F 08 298 4561

Glenelg Customer Service Centre and Library

2 Colley Terrace, Glenelg SA 5045

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

31 May 2022

Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP  
Premier of South Australia  
C/ - Department of Premier and Cabinet  
GPO Box 2343  
Adelaide SA 5001

via email: [premier@sa.gov.au](mailto:premier@sa.gov.au)

Dear Premier

### **Request for State Government Funding Support – New Year’s Eve (NYE) - Glenelg and Brighton**

Each year, tens of thousands of people from across the state and beyond converge on Glenelg and Brighton to celebrate the New Year. Hosting vibrant events is vital in increasing visitation and economic development, with tourism comprising some 17% of total local economic activity. In the case of New Year’s Eve (NYE), organised celebrations are also an important means of reducing risk for unplanned and unmanaged crowds converging on the area. Indeed, organised NYE events in Glenelg have their genesis in crowd management and public safety.

In 2019, the last year organised festivities took place, the focus was on staging a safe event with live family friendly entertainment and firework displays. With the assistance of key stakeholders such as SA Police, SA Ambulance, St Johns, local traders and paid security contractors, we recorded our largest crowd to date of 50-60,000 South Australians and visitors enjoying the festivities in Glenelg, with a further 15,000 enjoying the celebrations in Brighton with minimal incidences recorded by SA Police, security and St Johns services. This family friendly event has seen the demographic of the audience change in the past years with more interstate families also joining the celebrations at Glenelg in 2019.

Although there were no organised events in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid restrictions, large crowds nonetheless gathered in the area. In anticipation of this, in 2021 Council implemented the following measures at the request of State agencies: closure of Jetty Road, Glenelg; additional lighting towers in key areas; paid security services to assist SAPOL; paid St John’s services and a dedicated first aid area. Council incurred costs in the order of \$80,000 in implementing such measures. Although these measures are implemented at the request of State agencies and have statewide community benefit, the costs are currently disproportionately borne by Holdfast Bay ratepayers.



Council remains committed to staging Covid safe and exciting events for the South Australian community and as such seeks financial support from the Department of Premier and Cabinet to support the community safety component of the events. Council will continue to implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) measures to ensure all attendees experience a fun and safe environment.

In 2022 Council aims to implement the following safety initiatives across Glenelg and Brighton:

- Paid security services to assist SAPOL with crowd control;
- Paid St Johns services including a doctor onsite;
- Asset protection and the enforcement of dry zone areas in Glenelg;
- Free shuttle bus service to/from Harbour Town;
- Additional lighting towers in key areas;
- Additional toilets in Glenelg;
- More organised family friendly activities in Glenelg and Brighton;
- Implementation of Covid-safe measures as applicable at the time;
- Terrorism Risk Management Plan, implementing Australia's Strategy for Protection of Places Crowded from Terrorism; and
- Execution of a number of anti-terrorism measures with SA Police such as: physical barriers to abate vehicular attacks; increased training for operational staff; security measures at the forty plus access points and additional CCTV amongst others.

To assist us in implementing the initiatives listed above and provide a safe and secure New Year's Eve celebrations across Glenelg and Brighton for the South Australia community, Council seeks grant funding of \$75,000 plus GST.

Council will continue to work with a number of organisations such as emergency services, security providers, Surf Life Saving South Australia, Adelaide Airport Limited, Solo Resource Recovery, RAA, the Jetty Road Mainstreet traders and Wilson Parking to secure funding for the event. In addition to working with these organisations, the City of Holdfast Bay will also be approaching a number of commercial organisations to secure sponsorship for the 2022 event.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Wilson  
**MAYOR**



# Attachment 7





[holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://holdfast.sa.gov.au)

Brighton Civic Centre 24 Jetty Road, Brighton SA 5048 PO Box 19 Brighton SA 5048

P 08 8229 9999 F 08 298 4561

Glenelg Customer Service Centre and Library 2 Colley Terrace, Glenelg SA 5045

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

3 June 2022

Joe Szakacs, MP  
Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services  
GPO Box 2343  
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister

### **City of Holdfast Bay – Increased violence and antisocial behaviour, Jetty Road, Glenelg and Petition to SA Parliament – South Australian Police presence at Jetty Road and Mosely Square, Glenelg**

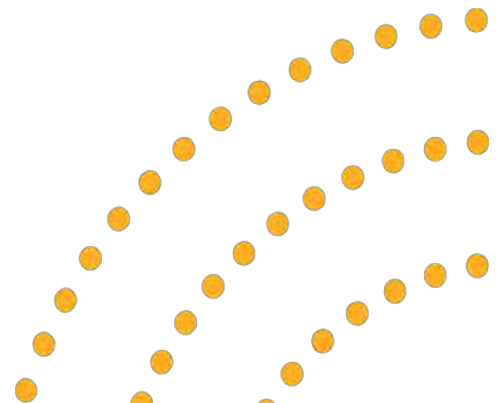
Glenelg is one of only two declared tourism precincts in South Australia, and with the Government's recent increased commitment to grow tourism in our State to aid recovery from Covid-19, it is essential that Glenelg is known as a safe and vibrant destination year round.

In February, we met with the former Minister of Police after being made aware of a number of incidents having been reported to the South Australian Police (SAPOL), as well as anecdotal reports of incidents and violent behaviour, with a noticeable escalation over the Christmas and New Year period. It was evident that there had been an increase in both the frequency and severity of these incidents. Such behaviour influences the perception of safety within the precinct for local customers, tourists and staff.

Following this meeting, a tactical response team was positioned at Glenelg from 3 February – 30 March 2022. This tactical response team was in addition to Operation Jericho. The increased presence was positively received with the visibility of SAPOL within the precinct restoring business confidence and anecdotal feedback suggesting the visibility acted as a strong deterrent to anti-social behaviour. While Council fully supported this initiative, it is important that we retain the positive sentiment through a permanent police presence in the Jetty Road, Glenelg precinct. We see an opportunity to increase the function of the Glenelg Police Station and for this to be a patrol base.

The City of Holdfast Bay Elected Members resolved at the 8 February 2022 Council meeting to instigate a petition to the South Australian Parliament and received one thousand three hundred thirty four (1334) signatures responding positively to the petition. The original, signed petitions are attached for your convenience.

On behalf of the City of Holdfast Bay, I request that you present the attached petition to the House of Assembly, Parliament of South Australia at the earliest opportunity.





In addition to our petition, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and members of your team to discuss the situation within the Jetty Road, Glenelg precinct, the need for a permanent police presence and the opportunity to increase the operation of the Glenelg Police Station.

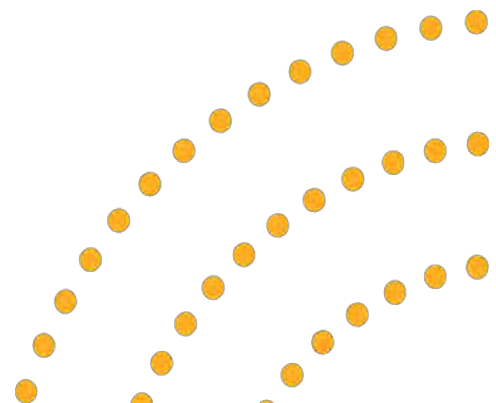
We look forward to working with your Government to ensure our tourism destination is a safe place to visit.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Wilson  
**Mayor**

cc: Mr Roberto Bria – Chief Executive Officer, City of Holdfast Bay  
Ms Marnie Lock – General Manager Community and Business, City of Holdfast Bay  
Ms Gilia Martin – Deputy Chair, Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee



Item No: 16.2

Subject: **DRAFT 2022-23 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN CONSULTATION OUTCOMES**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: Corporate Planning Officer

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

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## **SUMMARY**

The Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan was endorsed for community consultation at Council's meeting of 26 April 2022 (Resolution No: C260422/2581). The community consultation period ran from 29 April to 23 May.

Council received eight (8) submissions in response to its Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan community consultation. The key topics raised through the consultation included comments on environmental initiatives, major projects in the Seacliff and Kingston Park area, active transport and a range of financial management queries. One submission offered full support with no changes.

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That Council notes the submissions arising from the community consultation on the Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan and the answers that will be provided.**
- 

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Wellbeing: Increase participation rates in community engagements across all age groups, particularly under-represented demographics such as children and young people by using methods that are appealing and appropriate.

## **COUNCIL POLICY**

Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.

## **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan was endorsed for community consultation at Council's meeting of 26 April 2022 (Resolution No: C260422/2581). The community consultation period ran from 29 April to 23 May 2022.

Council will also provide the opportunity for verbal submissions and comments regarding the draft plan from members of the community at this Council meeting.

Arrangements on how the community could participate in the consultation process and access copies of the Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan were advertised/promoted through:

- posters at the Brighton Civic Centre and Glenelg and Brighton Libraries;
- the 'Your Holdfast' webpage (29 May to 23 May 2022);
- emails to the Your View database; and
- twitter 'Tweets'.

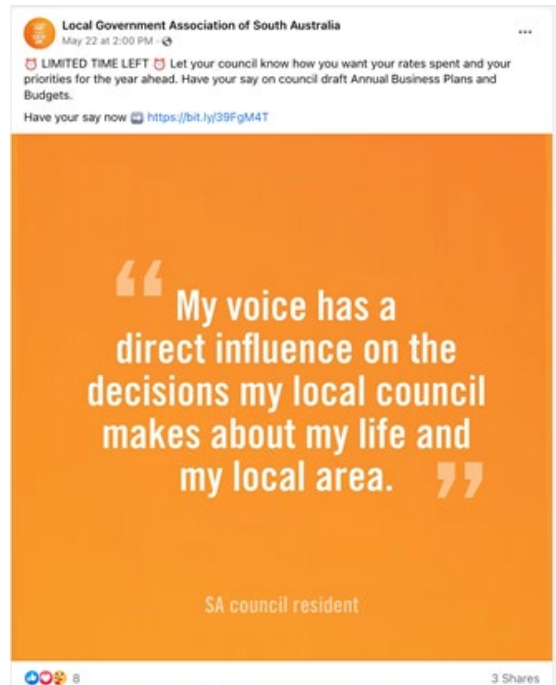
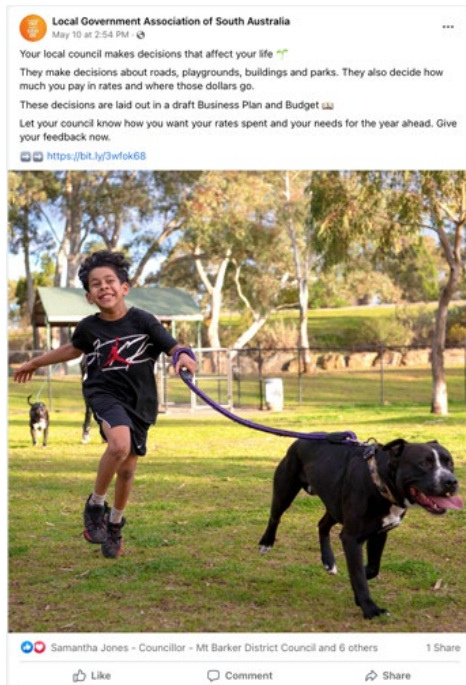
Copies of the Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan were made available:

- on Council's website;
- on Council's engagement website i.e. [yourholdfast.com](http://yourholdfast.com);
- at Council's Civic Centre, 24 Jetty Road Brighton; and
- at Council's Brighton and Glenelg libraries.

Our community was encouraged to provide comments by:

- writing or e-mailing the Council to 23 May 2022;
- a designated "Your View Holdfast" interactive webpage accessible through the Council's website;
- telephoning the Council's Customer Service Centre; and
- the opportunity to make representations to Council at its meeting of 14 June 2022.

The Local Government Association SA ran a campaign to raise awareness of the consultation with a paid social media campaign. These advertisements are provided below.



## REPORT

A total of eight submissions were received, in comparison with 10 for the 2021-22 plan. Written submissions were received via three letters, and five through the interactive web page. An expression of interest has been received to present to Council by an author of one of the eight submissions received. This presentation is scheduled for this meeting of 14 June 2022.

The submissions received were discussed at an Informal Gathering of Council on 31 May 2022, and the Elected Members were provided full copies of all the submissions.

The feedback and comments received during the consultation period, along with answers, are appended as Attachment 1.

*Refer Attachment 1*

The key items raised within the submissions included:

- Kingston Park and Seacliff
  - Kingston Park Café within the Caravan Park
    - Loss of caravan site spaces (1)
    - Pleased that the project is proceeding (1)
  - Kingston Park delays associated with Kaurana collaboration (1)
  - Seacliff Amenities Building
    - Pleased the project is progressing (2)

- Are there precinct plans for Seacliff Plaza and the Kingston Park Kiosk (1)
- Stormwater issues at the Kauri Parade (Seacliff) Railway Reserve (1)
- Seacliff and Kingston Park tourism – more marketing (1)
- Free parking for Glenelg Library, especially for elderly and children (1)
- Don't give up any more Jetty Road parking to outdoor dining (1)
- Conserve water by less frequent watering of Colley Reserve in summer (1)
- Alwyndor
  - Alwyndor employment cost increase (1)
  - Financial responsibility associated with Alwyndor (1)
- Environmental initiatives
  - Clean green parks – positive (1)
  - Street tree planting – positive (1)
  - Support for the environment strategy especially open space, street trees (1)
  - Increase the tree canopy target
  - FOGO project
    - to be council wide, with weekly yellow bins at Christmas (1)
    - Querying the cost benefit of the project(2)
- *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* impact on consultation (1)
- Last year's representation review outcomes – negative (2)
- Transport
  - Prioritizing active transport across the City (1)
  - What pilot activities were undertaken for the Integrated transport strategy (1)
  - Measures supporting healthy lifestyles e.g. increasing access to green and blue space, walking and cycling trails, food (2)
- Financial
  - Rate increase is commensurate with new capital works- positive (1)
  - Commentary on minimum rate vs fixed charge rates mechanism (1)
  - Expenditure vs Income for commercial operations (1)
  - Request for a reduction in rate increase (1)
  - Acknowledgment of "very good" capital projects completed (1)
  - Will the LTFP be revisited to account for change in interest rates (1)
  - Is there a plan to reduce long term debt (1)
  - Queries regarding changes in expenses in specific budget lines (1)
- Quality of Life survey
  - When will the next survey be undertaken (1)
  - What plans does council have to improve Culture items, roads and cycle paths (1)
- Glenelg Football Club leasing review and debt to Council (1)

## **BUDGET**

Any budget implications associated with the comments provided during this engagement will be considered for inclusion in the 2022-23 Annual Business Plan before it is endorsed by Council.

## **LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

There are no life cycle costs associated with the recommendation.

# Attachment 1



## Community Engagement Results Draft 2022-23 Annual Business Plan

<p><b>Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 (The Review Act)</b></p>	
<p>We are concerned that the <i>Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021</i> (Review Act), that has been enacted, removes the requirement for consultation on the Business Plan and the opportunity for community members to provide representations to Council. Despite indications to the contrary, Council may now choose to give less weight or ignore submissions like this one.</p>	<p>The Review Act removes many of the specific requirements for consultation, referring instead to councils undertaking consultation in accordance with their own consultation policies. The Review Act reserves the right to regulate these policies, though no such regulations have been released. In relation to the Annual Business Plan process, whilst the Review Act specifically removed the opportunity for public submissions to be received across an hour during a council meeting, members of the public can, at any time, apply to present or to provide a deputation at a council meeting.</p> <p>The City of Holdfast’s community consultation and engagement policy, available on our website, affirms and details our commitment to the community in this area.</p>
<p><b>Seacliff and Kingston Park Tourism Marketing</b></p>	
<p>As noted previously, we would like to see some mention of Seacliff and Kingston Park as tourist destinations in their own right rather than such a strong focus on “the northern zone”. What percentage of the Tourism Recovery and Economic Activation Plans will be spent on marketing and promoting Seacliff and Kingston Park? Additional effort would help Council achieve its objective of improving patronage at the Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park, the new kiosk when opened, the Brighton &amp; Seacliff Yacht club and other local businesses.</p>	<p>The majority of our tourism advertising and communication activities incorporate Brighton and Seacliff imagery and products including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfront dining Seacliff, Beachfront Escape Brighton Holiday Park, Stand Up Paddle Seacliff, Seacliff &amp; Kingston Park Historic Walk</li> <li>• Tjilbruke Spring and Monument</li> <li>• Glenelg to Seacliff Coastal Walk</li> <li>• ‘Welcome back to the Bay’ video featuring Glenelg, Brighton and Seacliff</li> <li>• School Holiday Guide Glenelg, Brighton and Seacliff</li> <li>• Citywide Spend and Win Competition</li> <li>• Staycation Beachside accommodation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tree Canopy</b></p>	
<p>There is a good emphasis on environmental initiatives through the Environment Strategy with budget allocations for the Stormwater Management Plan, Gullies Masterplan, Tree Audit (Year 2 of 2), Carbon Neutral Plan and FOGO. A Budget allocation (\$40k) for Urban Forest Maintenance (additional tree watering) is supported to ensure that more trees planted by Council actually survive. However, the tree</p>	<p>Whilst our tree canopy target may seem small, it is actually quite ambitious due to the high number of impediments to tree planting in the Holdfast Bay area. These impediments include powerlines (under which we can only plant small trees, which equates to small amounts of canopy), lots of narrow streets, and significant amounts of underground infrastructure (e.g. gas pipes, stormwater, telecoms, etc.). Almost half (49%) of all tree canopy in Holdfast Bay is on private property over which Council has</p>

<p>canopy cover (TCC) mentioned in the COHB 5- year environmental roadmap/strategy only aims to increase cover from 15.3 to 16.8% by 2030. HFB has one of the lowest TCCs in Adelaide (and Adelaide is the lowest of all state capital cities) so a 1.5% increase is an extremely modest target. How many trees will need to be planted to replace those lost on the Sturt Rd property?</p>	<p>no control and yet this is where most of the canopy loss happens. Council controls only 36% of the tree canopy, which makes it very difficult for us to make up for the loss of canopy in the private space. We are nearing completion of a street tree audit in which we have captured data about each of our 17,700 street trees. This process also captured thousands of potential planting spaces. All of this data will feed into the development of our first Urban Forest Strategy in 2022-23, which will provide direction for our future plantings.</p>
<p><b>Quality of Life Survey</b></p>	
<p>Council's Quality of Life Survey is based on the 2020-21 survey so is a repeat of results reported in the last Business Plan. The overall approval rating of 8.7/10, as a Place to Live, was encouraging although the Culture item rated relatively poorly with Value for Money rating only 6.75/10 and Overall Service Satisfaction only 7.1/10. Maintaining Roads (7.2/10) and Cycle Paths (7.3/10) also rated lower indicating that further improvements were required in these areas. What specific plans does Council have to improve performance in 2022-23 in these areas and when will the next survey be taken to gauge performance?</p>	<p>The 2022 Quality of Life survey has recently been completed. The results will be included in the final Annual Business Plan, published on the Council website. We too are pleased that our community rates Holdfast Bay so highly as a place to live. It remains our key aim. The survey has been undertaken in this format since 2014. The value for rates score has steadily improved from 6.4 to 6.8. The performance and quality score has remained stable. Roads and Kerbs has increased from 6.7 to 7.3. Cycle networks has been stable. Of note, facilitating active transport such as cycling and walking features strongly in our strategic plan <i>Our Place 2050+</i>. Our Integrated Transport Strategy (under development) will inform how best this is done.</p>
<p><b>Kingston Park Kiosk</b></p>	
<p>We are very pleased that this project has finally been approved. However, given our significant input to this project over many years we were disappointed that we were not given the opportunity to view and provide comment at the concept and design stage. We are hopeful, as is the operator (Seller Door) and the community, that delivery of this project can be accelerated.</p>	<p>The detailed design for the Kiosk is expected to be complete in August with the Kiosk expected to be operational in 2023.</p>
<p>I do not support the new Kingston Park cafe/kiosk to be built within the existing caravan park resulting in the loss of 2 sites. The Annual Business Plan notes the caravan park as an income producing asset of council yet building it within the park will result in a loss of site income. I would have thought the current vacant land on the opposite side of the carpark a more suitable site.</p>	<p>The construction of the new Kiosk will, indeed, result in the loss of two caravan parks within the Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park. The reduction in revenue associated with these sites has been considered as part of council's business case and feasibility study into the new Kiosk. With the revenue that will be generated from the new kiosk offsetting the loss of revenue from these sites, the Kiosk remains a positive long term financial outcome for the City of Holdfast Bay.</p> <p>Though council considered constructing the new kiosk on the opposite side of the car park (southern side) this was not an option as this location is within the Kingston Park</p>



	Reserve/ Tulukudangga, culturally significant Kurna land. A masterplan for Kingston Park Reserve/ Tulukudangga is also being undertaken by Council, in association with the Kurna people. This will inform how this land will be developed in the future.
<b>Seacliff Amenities Building and Beach Access Redevelopment</b>	
We await the outcome of the public consultation stage and are hopeful that there are no significant changes to the proposed draft design. The project has a Budget allocation of \$2.07 million (\$1.07 million from the 2021/22 Business Plan and \$1 million State Government Grant) and an estimated cost of \$1.95 million. If cost savings can be achieved and /or additional funding secured is Stage 2 “shovel ready” so that it might possibly precede, particularly if there are delays in delivering Stage 1.	Council looks for savings and efficiencies at each stage of any project.
Previous consultation on the new amenities building at Seacliff Beach is acknowledged. I look forward to opportunity to view a “precinct plan” for the area surrounding the proposed new building. This could also apply to the proposed Kingston Park Kiosk	<p>The current proposed development of the Seacliff Amenities Building and Beach Access Project has been designed in consideration of a precinct/masterplan for Seacliff. However, the Seacliff Masterplan is still in its infancy stages and requires further development before a draft is shared for community engagement.</p> <p>The Kingston Park/Tulukutangga masterplan is being developed in partnership with the Kurna people in recognition of the cultural significance of the area.</p>
<b>Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park</b>	
<p>Although not of direct benefit to the local community our Association recognises the importance of this income generating business to HFB Council and that aging infrastructure needs to be replaced. Hopefully, it will enhance the appeal of this part of the Kingston Park tourist precinct. It is important that any re-development is fully integrated with plans for the Kiosk and Kingston Park Coastal Reserve and that the community is consulted on the plans. What is the current status of the Caravan Park Master Plan?</p> <p>The Budget allocation in 2021-22 was \$1.2 million (excluding \$484k for Commercial and Economic Enterprises funding) which took total funding to \$1.95 million. Is the 2022-23 Budget allocation of \$845 in addition to these amounts or does it represent funds unspent and being carried forward?</p>	The Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park masterplan is currently on hold as we await the final outcome of the detailed design for the Kingston Park Kiosk. Whilst the Kiosk has been approved and the detailed design is progressing well, the final Holiday Park design, including how the kiosk will be integrated, will need to be factored into the revised masterplan. The current project budget of \$1.95m will be carried forward into the 22-23 Financial Year.

Brighton Beachfront Holiday Park. It would be helpful to have a comparison of income and expenditure of the holiday park operations to provide a line of sight on how the business unit is operating.	Reports on each of the commercial operations are provided quarterly as part of the Council's public agenda. You can view these on Council's website. The end of year results were provided in the Council agenda for 24 August 2021. Occupancy for the 2020-21 financial year was impacted by the pandemic and also by renovations, though not to the extent forecast.
<b>Gullies Masterplan</b>	
We are pleased to see the continued funding of the Gilbertson, Pine, and Barton gullies with the focus on stormwater management, erosion protection, removal of non-native vegetation, replanting, trail infrastructure and signage in line with the Masterplan. As this will be Year 5 of 5 (unstated in the Business Plan) will this be the last year for which funding will be provided? We are concerned that the excellent work in Pine Gully has stalled at a critical point on site, leaving the site vulnerable to erosion from winter rains.	<p>Works have been delayed due to supply issues for the concrete pits and pipes, and contractor availability, however works are scheduled to begin shortly. Whilst winter is not the ideal season for these works, a site stormwater plan in place for the construction period. The works include rock placement to assist in erosion control for the gully.</p> <p>Following these works, the planting will recommence in accordance with the Pine Gully Biodiversity Action Plan. These plantings will assist with slope stability once established, and will help the gully to look beautiful and be much more biodiverse too.</p> <p>Council has been fortunate to receive some grant funding from Green Adelaide to assist with the costs of this work in Pine Gully. The Environment Strategy affirms a commitment to continue work on our three gullies beyond the 2022-23 financial year.</p>
I support council's strong environmental strategy, particularly in the areas of maintaining green open space parks, street trees and management of the "Gullies"	Noted
<b>Brighton Seacliff Yacht Club Redevelopment</b>	
The BSYC is not listed so we assume that any upgrades and improvements to this facility (lift and toilets) are either unfunded or have been deferred. What is the timing for the proposed works?	The club has secured grant funding for Stage 1 of the redevelopment. Council has provided landowner consent in order for the works to proceed to development application.
<b>Kauri Community and Sports Centre</b>	
There was a provision in the 2020-21 Budget (\$50k) to build an external toilet. Please advise the status of this project as there has been no progress. We are pleased to hear that the Centre's kitchen facilities have been upgraded to a commercial standard as this should increase	Locating toilets near the playground has proven complex due to soil issues. We hope to have now found a resolution pending final pricing and engineering advice before proceeding.

<p>opportunities for hire of the function centre. We also hope that transfer of the facility management to the Seacliff Tennis and Hockey clubs from June 2022 results in cost savings and better use of the facility.</p>	
<p><b>Kingston Park Masterplan Funding</b></p>	
<p>There is no mention of the KP Coastal Reserve (Tulukutangga) and Master Plan in the 2022-23 Business Plan despite this being a unique and extremely important asset to the City, the Community and the Kurna People. At least \$800k is being carried forward to 2022-23 (\$100k was allocated in 2019-20 for review and stage 1 implementation and \$700k carried forward from the Coastal Path). These unspent funds are currently only available until the end of this year so there is a real risk that they could be forfeited if work on the Reserve does not commence in 2022! We understand that additional funds will be required to undertake the full scale of works that have been proposed. We would encourage Council to seek further SA Government funding.</p> <p>o The Masterplan (Aspect Studios) has been approved by Council and is ready to be workshopped with representatives of the Kurna People. We appreciate that there are cultural sensitivities and complexities involved however Council has not provided any advice on what efforts are being undertaken to facilitate this process. We remain hopeful that works will commence this year following community consultation. If further delays are anticipated, then remediation work on the unsightly former overflow car park (“dust bowl”) should be undertaken in the interim as a matter of urgency. The uneven surface is a possible trip hazard for people crossing it to reach the Ocean Foods van.</p>	<p>We maintain a positive relationship with the funding body and will ensure that the funding for the project is retained.</p> <p>It is noted that this former overflow car park area requires attention and will be addressed as a priority in the Kingston Park Reserve works. As previously advised, no works can occur on the Reserve site until the final masterplan has been endorsed by Kurna. Council is currently looking into how to progress to this stage given the current difficulties being experienced in managing cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Kingston Park Masterplan Kurna Engagement</b></p>	
<p>Council engagement and consultation with the Kurna People has been very good. Although it is essential that a strong partnership is maintained we are disappointed that this “goodwill” has not resulted in better collaboration on projects like the Kingston Park Coastal Reserve. What strategy does Council have to reduce delays in the engagement and approval process?</p>	<p>Council is currently looking into how to progress the project given the current difficulties being experienced involving in managing cultural heritage. Details of this process cannot be shared at this time.</p>

**Integrated Transport Strategy**

A total of \$150,000 was allocated in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 Budgets to implement a range of initiatives (“pilot activities”) once a strategy had been finalised. What initiatives were implemented in these two years? An updated draft Integrated Transport Strategy has yet to be issued, as promised, for a second round of community consultation. This initiative has been poorly managed with no outcomes delivered as yet.

Research and development of the strategy has informed the following activities that are now completed.

- Completed Jetty Road Glenelg Master Plan and Stage 1 -3 detailed design 2019
- Stage 1 of Jetty Road Glenelg Master Plan Chapel St Plaza (street to public realm) and Hindmarsh Lane amenities upgrade 2021
- Sharrows added along Greenways route - Sherlock Road, Kauri Parade, Shoreham Road, and Cedar Avenue
- Minda Coast Park path constructed and completed 2019
- Holder Ave – reviewed for traffic calming 2021
- Rugless Tce - pedestrian crossing improvements 2022
- Esplanade Coast Park - Additional signage, line marking and decals 2021
- Upgraded school pickup/dropoff zones St Leonards School 2020
- Activation events including temporary road closures at Brighton for Solstice markets
- Encouraged bike rider visits to local businesses by providing bike locks at suitable locations

We have also been providing additional budget for footpath repairs under the accelerated footpath program and upgrading pram ramps.

Activities underway at present include:

- 40 kph speed reduction zones being investigated
- Sturt River Linear Park bikeway link concept plan being completed ready to seek funding
- A draft on-street parking policy being developed that promotes behavioural change
- Local functional street hierarchy informing prioritisation of routes for public and active transport modes
- Sixth Avenue modifications being implemented on existing road environment to address perceptions of rat-running traffic
- Seacliff streets investigations for Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) opportunities combined with urban greening/water sensitive urban design treatments

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with State Government on their proposals for Edwards Street traffic signals on Brighton Road and future options for Wattle/ Dunrobin Road/Brighton Road</li> <li>• Brighton Secondary School - investigations of possible improvements for parking/school drop off</li> <li>• Paringa Park school pedestrian refuge/Emu crossing review and installation</li> <li>• Development of a traffic management plan for Elm Lane/Twinning Lane at Brighton</li> <li>• Wheatland Street pedestrian crossing installation west of rail line</li> <li>• 12-18 month trial review of two interventions around McAuley School resulting from King Street Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) from Wattle Street south to Jetty Road Brighton including King George Ave, part of The Crescent and Colton Street</li> </ul>
<p>Prioritise sustainable and active transport (such as walking and cycling) across the city, including by reclaiming streets for play and nature and improving walkability to support healthy ageing. (Measure is) Number of kilometres of street prioritised for active transport increases, measured every five years.</p> <p>The measure of success being very simply 'increases' and yet the business plan doesn't appear to have any funds set aside to do this (other than maybe Jetty Road Glenelg). If this was a serious objective surely some funds would be set aside to investigate which streets can be reclaimed and on which active transport can be prioritised? Maybe funds set aside to do some consumer investigations - i.e. asking cycling groups such as the Marion and Holdfast BUG what might be a good idea - happy to volunteer to assist.</p>	<p>Council's strategic plan Our Place 2050+ has identified active and sustainable transport as a key objective for our City. The development of an Integrated Transport Strategy is well underway with significant engagement input from 2019 and experience from the last 2 pandemic affected years.</p> <p>When approved by Council, the Strategy will develop the priorities and directions to drive the implementation of active transport initiatives. This development will include engagement with community and stakeholders.</p>
<p>In the wellbeing section I support the move to increase dementia friendly environments but I would like to see objectives on supporting healthy lifestyles by, for example, increasing access to green and blue space, walking and cycling trails, parks, regulating advertising of unhealthy foods and number of fast food outlets.</p>	<p>Council's new strategic plan Our Place 2050+ includes healthy lifestyles supported in a variety of contexts.</p> <p>In addition to those included in the Wellbeing focus area, in the Sustainability focus area, to achieve a city, economy and community that is resilient and sustainable, we include two such objectives:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise sustainable and active transport (such as walking and cycling) across the city, including by reclaiming streets for play and nature and improving walkability to support healthy ageing</li> <li>• Support mixed use neighbourhood development while honouring heritage values to encourage walking and cycling and support healthy ageing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SA Planning and Design Code</b></p>	
<p>With the code introduced in March 2021 our Association wishes to emphasise our community's continuing concerns about the flawed implementations process and the serious gaps in the approval process, in particular the local contextual design controls. We are very disappointed with the lack of consultation with the community regarding the controversial Marine Parade/Wheatland Street shed and retaining wall approvals. Council could have consulted with the community regarding the project, especially considering the fact that in both cases the proponent sought approval after construction, and Council were aware of the level of community concern. We urge Council to lobby and recommend improvements in support of more local consultation and protection of local environment and amenity.</p>	<p>At its meeting held on 26 April 2022, Council resolved to write to the Premier of South Australia, The Hon. Peter Malinauskas, to seek a comprehensive review of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. Specifically, Council's resolution sought that the review focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Returning appeal rights for representors to the Environment, Resources and Development Court against some performance assessed developments, similar to previous appeal rights for category 3 merit developments under the Development Act 1993</li> <li>• an increase in elected member representation on Council Assessment Panels</li> <li>• increasing the level of protection of local heritage places and historic areas</li> <li>• the preservation of neighbourhood character through consideration of appropriate design principles.</li> </ul> <p>This resolution therefore accedes to the request that Council advocate on the community's behalf for changes to the Planning and Design Code. With respect to the assessment of the outbuilding, the Council followed the assessment pathways offered under the Planning and Design Code, which did not allow for community consultation. Whilst it is acknowledged that some development decisions will not meet the expectations of the broader community, such decisions are nevertheless guided by the strength of policies in the Planning and Design Code, which the Council is of course seeking to change</p>
<p><b>Seacliff streetscapes</b></p>	
<p>We are pleased that tree planting along Seacliff's "barren" streets has been accelerated, thanks to State Government funding. However, much more can be done. We have strongly supported Councillor Lindop's proposal to provide a greener entry to Seacliff along Wheatland St. with additional street tree plantings on the southern side (where</p>	<p>Noted</p>

<p>permissible). We are disappointed that there are no plans for a pocket park at the SE corner of Wheatland St and Kauri Parade, and other beautifications (eg. retaining wall creepers and Power Box artwork, etc.).</p> <p>In Kingston Park 5049CC were active in this space with verge planting along selected streets in Kingston Park, using funds from a Greening Australia Grant. As recommended previously, we hope this work will be complemented by Indigenous artwork on the Singleton Bridge to make the entrance to Kingston Park more attractive.</p>	
<p>I walk daily though my neighborhood parks and it's great to have a clean green park, particularly through summer.</p> <p>The neighborhood street tree planting program has also been beneficial with an exponential increase in bird activity in the native tree species. I note the non-native tree species along Seacombe Road appear a bit soulless and devoid of birds.</p>	<p>The Seacombe Road tree selection is Cupaniopsis anacardioides, commonly known as the Tuckeroo. These have been selected due to them being a powerline friendly tree as we need to account for the high voltage infrastructure within this space. This year we will be removing 22 sorry looking specimens in decline and planting 40 new trees to fill the void along Seacombe Road. It is also worth noting that although the Tuckeroo is not a local species, it is considered an Australian native (local to Qld and NSW).</p>
<p><b>Representation Review</b></p>	
<p>You list as an achievement the “undertaking of a representation review, to consider council’s composition and the division of the council area into wards”. We would regard this as a failure because it clearly did not represent the view of the majority of residents who responded, including those represented by the HBRA and 5049CC Associations.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>During the current term of this Council the Councillors in the majority voted not to review the Electoral Structure of the Council.</p> <p>Council comments made that the retention of 12 members was a good outcome and in line with resident sentiments. This is not true and should be retracted Well over 65% of correspondents supported a reduction to eight elected representatives and this percentage would have been much higher if the 5049 and HBRA submission had been correctly counted in line with their membership and not as one submission.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

**Rate increase**

The proposed rate increase of 3.2% is higher than expected but must be weighed up against the benefit and cost of proceeding with the capital works proposed for HFB and specifically those in Seacliff and Kingston Park. By comparison, Marion Council are only proposing a 2% increase in rates in their draft 2022-23 Business Plan (with no increase last year) and unlike HFB do report on their KPI's and their rate of delivery against their plan.

In setting rates Council considers the services it provides and the assets it needs to maintain, renew and improve. The rate in the dollar is a calculated amount applied against the property value. All councils adjust the 'rate in the dollar' each year to react to changes in property values. Councils do not automatically receive more money because property values increase.

To compare rates in the dollar between Councils in isolation can be misleading as Council areas with relatively high property values will have a lower rate in the dollar than those with lower property values. A further comparative analysis is the average rate. To this end the following table has been researched comparing the average residential rate for the Councils identified in your submission over the past three years. The table shows that Holdfast Bay on average has the second lowest average residential rate across the past three years.

It is anticipated that given the current property market and increases in property values across the City that Councils residential rate in the dollar will be reduced in 2022/23. As identified in Councils draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan council is proposing a 3.2% rate increase equating to a \$52 per year increase for the average residential property owner. This increase is considered reasonable to fund a range of services and projects detailed within the plan and current economic climate.

Over the past two years where COVID has been and continues to be an issue for the country and our community. Many councils did not increase rates at all in the first year of the pandemic with a minimal increase in the second.  
A number of the Councils that adopted this policy and now proposed increase for the 22/23 financial year in the 3% to 3.5% range.

We cite the Marion Council who had a 1% increase over the past two years and is proposing a 2% increase for the 22/23 financial year. Burnside Council did not increase its rates for the last 2 years and is proposing an increase of 3.5% increase for this financial year. There are 5 Councils that have a lower "Rate in the Dollar" they are: Burnside, Onkaparinga, Unley, Playford, and Port Adelaide/Enfield.

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Holdfast Bay implemented increases of 1.9% and 2.4% over the past two years. This year the Council is proposing an increase of 3.2% which equates to 7.5% increase over the 3-year period.

Considering other Councils rate in the dollar charges and the consistent increases by the City of Holdfast Bay over the last 3 years, HBRA requests a major reduction to this proposed increase of 3.2%.

Last year in the Council's reply to our submission." The valuation for many residential and commercial properties has increased, and the rates payable for those properties will increase on the basis of that valuation." In essence the increase in rates is based on the proportional increase in the value of the individual properties.

Whilst HBRA understands the rate in the dollar formula, it is obvious from last year's reply that rates will be affected by substantial increase in property valuation. Has this been considered when setting the current budget?

<u>Residential Rates</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>3 year average</u>
Port Adelaide/Enfield	\$1,067	\$1,059	\$1,081	\$1,069
Holdfast Bay	\$1,529	\$1,565	\$1,617	\$1,570
Onkaparinga	\$1,573	\$1,573	\$1,613	\$1,586
Playford	\$1,568	\$1,588	\$1,635	\$1,597
Burnside	\$1,841	\$1,842	\$1,903	\$1,862
Unley	\$1,861	\$1,870	\$1,879	\$1,870

It is anticipated that given the current property market and increases in property values across the City that Councils residential rate in the dollar will be reduced in 2022/23. As identified in Councils draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan council is proposing a 3.2% rate increase equating to a \$52 per year increase for the average residential property owner. This increase is considered reasonable to fund a range of services and projects detailed within the plan and current economic climate.

**Seacliff and Kingston Park Walking Tour Brochure**

We campaigned for two years to advance this project so are very pleased that this booklet has now been published! We commend the History Centre and the authors on producing an excellent publication which will hopefully encourage more people to visit Seacliff and Kingston Park.

Noted

**Debt**

HBRA acknowledges that there have been some very good capital projects completed within the Council area.

Listed below are the historical debt levels from previous budgets.

Year	Debt Level
2017 - 18	\$17.7M
2018 - 19	\$18.1M
2019 - 20	\$24.4M

The long term financial plan (LTFP) is regularly updated (at least yearly) and presented to the Audit Committee for comment and endorsement. All the parameters in the plan are reviewed and updated as part of this process including CPI, interest rates and Local Government specific pricing. In terms of long term debt Council currently has in place a long term financial target to achieve a net financial liabilities ratio of less than 75 per cent. To understand this ratio better it can be explained in terms of a household budget with an annual income of \$100,000 having a mortgage of \$75,000. This target is forecast over the ten year planning horizon. Please note the information in the draft Annual Business Plan on pages 52 and 53 for information specific to this target. There is no strict process in place to reduce long term debt, rather Council is

2020 - 21	\$27.8M	managing debt within the agreed targets to meet the expectations and opportunities for new capital investment.
2021 - 22	\$30.3M	
2022 - 23	\$28.8M	
<p>We acknowledge that the debt has decreased as has the Interest Cover Ratio to 1.6%. The Net Financial Ratio in the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is worked on an increase in interest rate of only 0.5%.</p> <p>As interest rates are predicted to rise substantially is there a plan to revisit the LTFP? Whilst HBRA understands that the Council long term plans are guided by the Net Financial Ratio and Interest Cover Ratios, is there a target to reduce long term debt say over a 10 year period?</p>		
<b>Alwyndor</b>		
<p>In last year's Council's reply to HBRA, it was reinforced "that Alwyndor is a self-funded business which does not use rate payer funding".</p> <p>It is HBRA's understanding that whilst it is self-funding, the financial responsibility rests with the council and therefore the residents. Can you please clarify?</p>		<p>Alwyndor is a self-funded business which does not require or use ratepayer funds. It is governed by the Alwyndor Trust Deed. Council is the Trustee and delegates its day to day management of the Trust to the Alwyndor Management Committee. Council has no legal entitlement to benefit financially from the Trust however is permitted to receive payments for commercial services provided. Alwyndor is therefore a self-sustaining business separate to Council.</p>
<p>Ongoing media attention is highlighting the various challenges being experienced by the aged care sector (finance, quality of care and COVID). It is interesting to note that Alwyndor is projecting a 33% increase in employment costs for 2022/23.</p>		<p>Employment costs have risen at Alwyndor due to 24% increase in home support clients. Alwyndor has also worked to reduce the use of both agency and brokerage (external service providers) across all areas of the business, this means we have employed more people in delivering services and seek to ensure a high quality and consistent level of services with our own employees.</p>
<b>Glenelg Football Club</b>		
<p>Last year Council advised that there was a "unique leasing arrangement" with the GFC. This was to be reviewed in October 2022 can you please advise if the review has been progressed and if so, will the GFC lease comply with the current Council's leasing policy? Why is the unique leasing arrangement in place?</p>		<p>A report was prepared for Council consideration on 14 December 2021. The details of this report can be found on Councils website (report number 379/21). The report dealt with the financial support offered to the club reviewing the current ability of the Club to make lease and interest payments on borrowings by assessing the Club's</p>

<p>The financial accounts provided do not detail the current debt owed to the Council. Last year Council advised that the debt was \$1.66m and that a review of the repayment was to be undertaken during 2022. Has the review commenced what is the level of debt and repayment arrangements?</p>	<p>financial performance and future budgets. The report also identified the impact of COVID-19 and the SANFL deferral of the annual land divestment distribution. Council resolved to affirm its commitment to the long-term sustainability of the Club, while agreeing to not charge interest on borrowings and maintain the exiting lease up to 31 October 2023. The current debt owed to Council is \$1,463,256. It is anticipated that by October 2023 a further two SANFL annual land divestment repayments will be made totalling \$433,334. The remaining debt owing at that time will be \$1,029,922. Once the final distribution of the SANFL land divestment payments in October 2023 the financial support and lease arrangement will be reviewed by Council.</p>
<p><b>Employee/Contractor Costs</b></p>	
<p>Last year HBRA raised that the Council staffing ratios appeared to be top heavy and suggested that a review of the restructure be completed. The reply from Council advised that reviews were completed on a year-by-year basis and when a position became vacant. This appears to be both short term and reactive.</p> <p>Again HBRA suggest that a proactive holistic approach be adapted with a view to achieve long term savings to the rate payers.</p>	<p>It is correct that organisational and staffing reviews are conducted regularly, and in particular when positions become vacant. Major reviews are conducted when senior roles become vacant and this occurred during 2021. It is considered that this approach is not reactive, rather enables an agile organisational structure which can adapt to changing community needs and expectations.</p>
<p><b>Food Organics Green Organics</b></p>	
<p>Substantial increases in the Revenue &amp; Expenditure. Can we have further details? Is the Revenue item of \$100K a grant from the State Government and how is this trial working or the outcomes of the post implementation review?</p>	<p>Council has secured a grant from Green Industries of \$100,000 to progress further Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) developments. In addition costs have been reallocated from waste budget to FOGO to reflect true cost of the initiative. The trial has been very successful and well supported by the community and successful in achieving a substantial improvement in waste diversion away from landfill. Further FOGO developments are planned in 2022-23 FY</p>
<p>It would be interesting to understand what the cost benefit results are in achieving increase of the diversion rate from 58% to 76%.</p>	<p>From a purely financial perspective, the diversion of food waste from landfill attracts savings associated with the solid waste (landfill) levy imposed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). In South Australia this is \$146/tonne (metropolitan areas) for the 2021-22 year, with Councils also paying an additional gate fee of approximately \$50 for every tonne taken to landfill (EPA, 2021). In comparison, disposal of green organics costs approximately \$50/tonne, which equates to a saving of roughly \$150 for every tonne diverted from landfill (EPA, 2021).</p>

<p>Having weekly green bin collection across the whole council area. Red bin fortnightly. Yellow bin weekly at Christmas</p>	<p>Concluding in September 2021, the City of Holdfast Bay undertook the first FOGO trial in South Australia. The trial is part funded by Green Industries SA. This stage of the FOGO program is trialling a similar activity to the one you describe: weekly green bin and fortnightly red bin collection. Funding for the trial provided for up to 1000 households in the Kingston Park, Seacliff and Somerton Park area. The trial demonstrated an increase in the rate of diversion from landfill from 60 per cent to 84 per cent.</p> <p>Under the state’s existing Waste Environment Protection Policy, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requires general waste (red bin) collection be offered weekly. A number of other metropolitan councils are running pilot programs. Hopefully the results will encourage a policy change at the EPA.</p>
<p><b>Parking</b></p>	
<p>Dedicated free parking for Glenelg library; paid parking by Wilson should be replaced with 15 &amp; 30min parking. There is no close free parking for the elderly and those with children</p>	<p>We are working on a solution for parking to Glenelg Library, especially for the elderly and small children.</p>
<p>Don’t give up any more Jetty Rd Glenelg parking for cafe seating</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>Colley Reserve</b></p>	
<p>Conserve water by not watering Colley Reserve ever day in summer</p>	<p>Colley Reserve is a key community and tourism asset that attracts many sporting and other events over the summer, in addition to the regular sporting and personal training groups. With such intense use over the summer it’s important to maintain the resilience of the turf.</p>
<p><b>Kauri Parade Railway Reserve</b></p>	
<p>I would also like some strategic council thought and vision on the Kauri Parade railway reserve (city bound side). The site has had numerous council attempts to contain/address the flow of water with limited success. If you can't fix the problem, please at least budget for maintaining the reserve on a regular basis so that pedestrians transiting the reserve to and from the railway station do not need to jump and negotiate the damaged paths (from the numerous water blowout events). The paths are still not fixed and it’s been over 12 months.</p>	<p>As you have noted, the stormwater issues at the Kauri site have been complex, potentially due to changes to stormwater flow further up the system outside our area. We are in the process of undertaking a new survey to identify a more effective solution. Our field services team will, in the meantime, continue to manage the silt to keep the system going.</p>

Item No: 16.3

Subject: **GRANT APPLICATION – TARLTON STREET SOMERTON PARK  
STORMWATER DRAINAGE**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: General Manager, Assets and Delivery

General Manager: Assets and Delivery, Mr M de Heus

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### **SUMMARY**

Council has been offered a \$2.927M grant through the Federal Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream Program as 50% contribution towards the construction of underground stormwater drainage, stormwater outlet and a gross pollutant trap to significantly reduce property flooding in the Tarlton Street Catchment in Somerton Park.

Tarlton Street stormwater improvements are a high priority project identified in Council's stormwater management plan (2014) and implementation plan (2020). This report provides details of the grant and recommends approval.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **That Council:**

- 1. approves the acceptance of the \$2.97M grant and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the grant agreements; and**
  - 2. allocates funding of \$3M over the next three (3) financial year budgets to implement the Tarlton Street / Whyte Street drainage improvements.**
- 

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Sustainability: Support the creation of safer places by improving the public realm.

### **COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

Not applicable

## **BACKGROUND**

Council has an approved Stormwater Management Plan for the Coastal Catchments between Glenelg and Marino, prepared in 2014 which describes stormwater management and includes flood maps for the area. In 2020, a stormwater implementation plan was prepared and presented to Council in which the Tarlton / Whyte Streets drainage catchment was identified as a major flood risk and high priority. This project was prioritised for construction in 2023-2025 subject to funding.

Council administration engaged consultants to investigate options to reduce flooding in the Tarlton Street catchment and identify best value options based on a damages assessment. It was found that without stormwater improvement works that up to 94 properties would have over floor flooding in a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood (i.e. the chance of a flood of this size is 1% every year) and this was reduced to 19 properties following implementation of the works with reduced depth of flooding across the catchment.

Council administration applied for and was successful in a grant for 50% of the cost for the construction of the stormwater improvement in the Tarlton Street Catchment.

The grant application identifies the total project cost of \$5,915,000 (ex GST) and Council contribution of 50% including \$60,000 in-kind contribution. The Tarlton Street catchment is fully contained in the City of Holdfast Bay and accordingly no contribution from the City of Marion is being sought.

## **REPORT**

The stormwater improvement works proposed to be funded through the grant / Council includes the following:

- detailed design including services locations, services deepthing, geotechnical assessment and approvals;
- services relocations and adjustments by the service authorities;
- construct 1200mm diameter pipe along Whyte Street from Tarlton Street and new beach outfall;
- construct large box culverts along Tarlton Street from Whyte Street to Bickford Terrace; and
- construct gross pollutant trap on Whyte Street.

Figure 1 shows the predicted extent of flooding currently in a 1% AEP flood and Figure 2 shows the expected reduction in flooding, both extent and flood depth.

A copy of the grant application is included as Attachment 1.

*Refer Attachment 1*

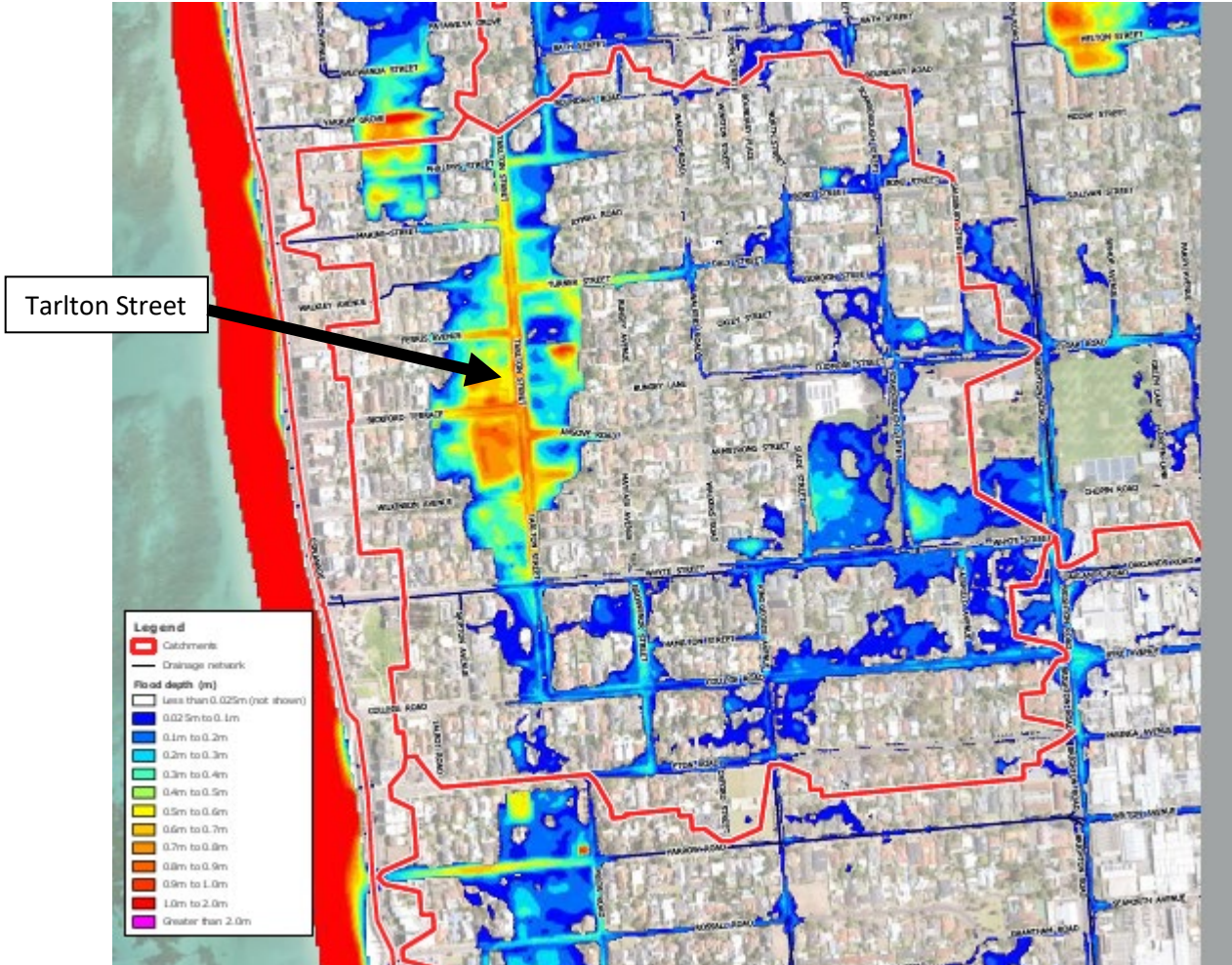


Figure 1 – Current Extent of Flooding – Existing – 1% AEP



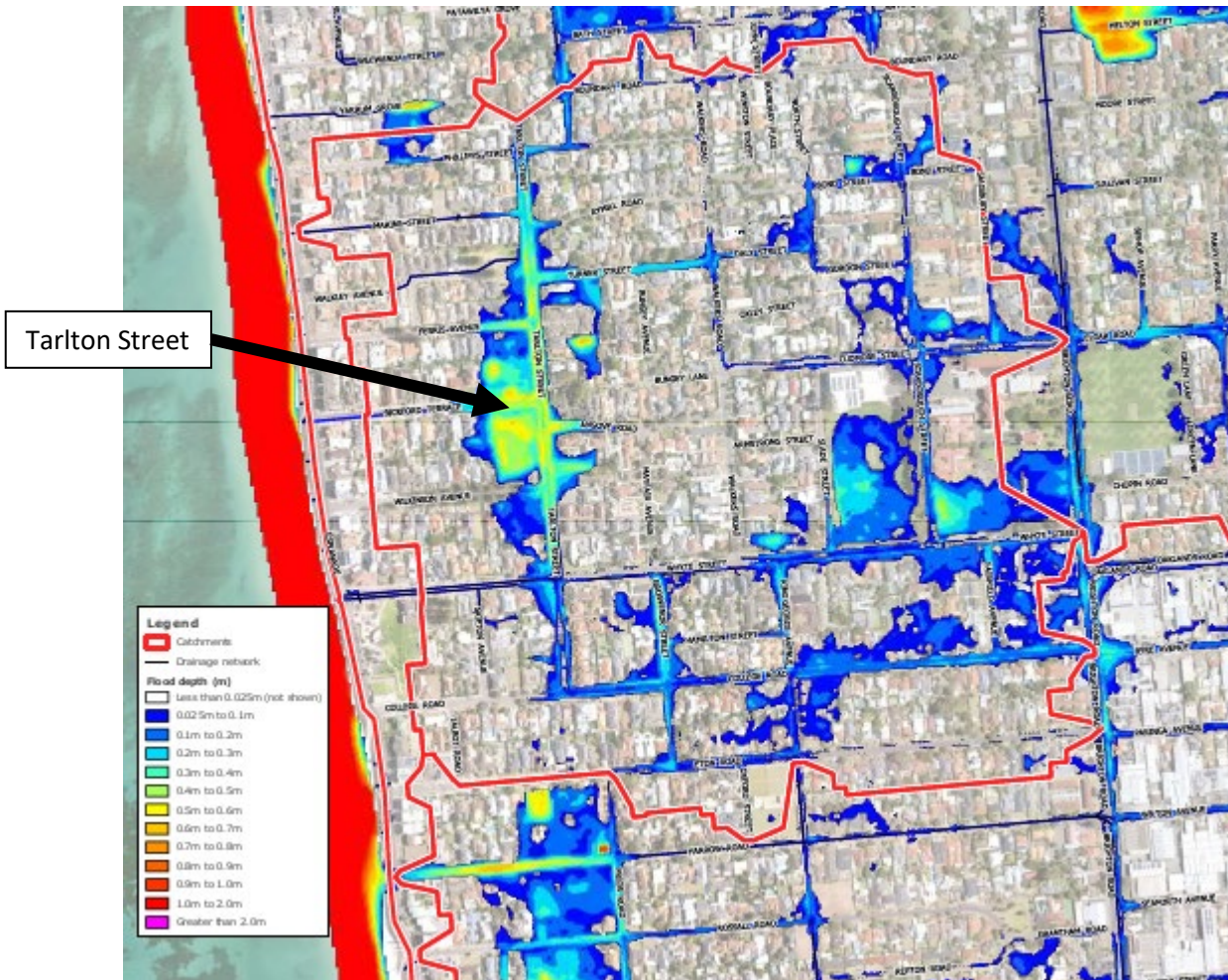


Figure 2 Extent of Flooding 1% AEP – Post stormwater improvement works

The works are proposed to be delivered over three (3) financial years with the amended grant having a completion date of December 2024. The majority of construction will be undertaken during calendar year 2024.

Design and delivery will be undertaken using specialist consultants funded through the project and existing Council resources.

### BUDGET

Council has included stormwater capital new acquisitions in its long term financial plan (LTFP) and has allocated approximately \$1M per year. It is proposed that the Tarlton Street stormwater project be planned, designed and constructed over three (3) financial years and the Council component of approximately \$2.928M is funded through the LTFP budget provisions.



**LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

This project will create new assets and a new gross pollutant trap. The new assets will be depreciated over approximately 100 years and increase Council's depreciation. Minimal maintenance will be required over the asset life apart from general cleaning of pits and pipes. The gross pollutant trap will require quarterly cleaning fully funded by the City of Holdfast Bay. This is expected to increase Council's maintenance budget by around \$25,000 per year whilst removing more than 50 tonnes per year of potential pollutants from the marine environment.

# Attachment 1



# Application PACLS000406

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## Application Summary

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**Application ID**

PACLS000406

**Application Title**

PACLS - CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

**Program Name**

Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream

**Applicant**

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

**Submitted Date**

6/01/2022

## Program selection

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### CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

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**Are you a trustee on behalf of a trust?**

No

**Do you have an ABN?**

Yes

### Entity details

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**ABN**

62551270492

**Legal name**

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

**Business name**

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

**Date of registration**

1/11/1999

**GST Registered**

Yes

**Are you a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)?**

No

**Are you a not-for-profit?**

Yes

### Program Selection

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**Program**

Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream

**Program Element**

Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream

## Eligibility

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**Select which entity type you are.**

an Australian local governing agency or body as defined in the glossary (including the ACT Government)

**Do you agree that you will deliver your project in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and industry standards?**

Yes

**Is your project aimed at reducing the risk to and/or improving the resilience of your community against bushfire, flood and/or tropical cyclones?**

Yes

**Will your proposed project increase the community's ability to mitigate, avoid, withstand and/or recover from the increasing effects of tropical cyclone, bushfire or flood as a result of climate change, in a timely and efficient manner, through activities targeting or delivering resilience in the social, economic, natural and/or built environments?**

Yes

**Does your project have at least \$20,000 in eligible project expenditure?**

Yes

**Are you able to provide all mandatory attachments as outlined in section 8.2 of the grant opportunity guidelines?**

Yes

**Can you declare that you and any project partner/s are not included on the National Redress Scheme's list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'?**

(see website: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>)

Yes

**Can you declare that you and any project partner/s have not been named by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency as an organisation that has not complied with the Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)?**

(see website: <https://www.wgea.gov.au/what-we-do/compliance-reporting/non-compliant-list>)

Yes

**Are you able to meet your share of project costs and provide evidence of your cash or in kind contribution?**

See section 3.1 of the guidelines to determine if you are required to provide a co-contribution to your project.

Yes

**Are any required approvals planned for or already in place in order to commence your project around May 2022?**

Yes

**Can you declare that you have not previously submitted an application under the Preparing Australian Communities Program - Local?**

Yes

## Applicant address

---

**Applicant street address****Is the address located in Australia?**

Yes

**Address Details**

24 Jetty Rd  
BRIGHTON SA 5048  
Australia

**Applicant postal address****Is the address located in Australia?**

Yes

**Address Details**

24 Jetty Rd  
BRIGHTON SA 5048  
Australia

## About your organisation

---

We collect the following data from all applicants. We use this data to better understand your organisation and to help us develop better policies and programs.

## Latest financial year figures

---

**Has your organisation existed for a complete financial year?**

Yes

**What was the latest complete financial year?**

2020/21

Provide the following figures for the financial year you have entered above.

Values must be that of the entity applying (the 'applicant'), regardless of whether the entity belongs to a consolidated group for tax purposes.

These fields are mandatory and entering \$0 is acceptable if applicable for your organisation.

**Sales revenue (turnover)****Total revenue from the sale of goods and services, as reported in your organisation's Business Activity Statement (BAS).**

\$ 4,438,781

**Export revenue****Total revenue from export sales, as reported in your organisation's Business Activity Statement (BAS).**

\$ 0

**R&D expenditure****Expenditure on research and development, i.e. creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.**

\$ 0

**Taxable income****Taxable income or loss as per your organisation's income tax return form.**

\$ 0

**Number of employees (headcount)****Number of individuals who are entitled to paid leave (sick and holiday), or generate income from managing your organisation. This should include working proprietors and salaried directors.**

189

**Number of independent contractors (headcount)****Number of individuals engaged by your organisation under a commercial contract (rather than an employment contract) to provide employee-like services on site.**

0

## ANZSIC code

---

Provide the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) details for your organisation.

**ANZSIC division**

O - Public Administration and Safety

**ANZSIC class**

7720 - Regulatory Services

## Indigenous organisations

---

**Is your organisation Indigenous owned?****An organisation is considered Indigenous owned where at least 51% of the organisation's members or proprietors are Indigenous.**

No

**Is your organisation Indigenous controlled?****An organisation is considered Indigenous controlled where at least 51% of the organisation's board or management committee is Indigenous.**

No

## Project information

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### Natural Hazard

---

Select the natural hazard/s your project is aimed at reducing the risk to and/or improving the resilience of your community against.

You may choose one or more natural hazard/s.

**Bushfire**

No

**Tropical Cyclones**

No

**Flood**

Yes

## Project domains

---

See section 6.1 of the grant opportunity guidelines for further details on each domain.

Select the domain/s your project will fall under.

You may select one or more domains relevant to your project.

**Social environment**

No

**Economic environment**

No

**Natural environment**

No

**Built environment**

Yes

## Project Category

---

See section 6.2 of the grant opportunity guidelines for further details on each eligible activity category.

If your project contains infrastructure of \$100,000 or more, you should select 'infrastructure' as your eligible project category. Infrastructure projects that are \$100,000 and over require a 50 per cent cash or in kind contribution.

**Select the eligible activity category your project will fall under.**

**Your project may have elements of more than one category. However, you must select which of these categories is the most relevant.**

Infrastructure

## Priority Local Government Area (LGAs)

---

Your project may be addressing more than one of the hazard risks across more than one LGA. However, you must nominate the most relevant for your project.

Projects that address the hazard risks in the priority LGAs identified in Appendix A will receive an additional 20 points. You can only receive a maximum of 20 additional points per application.

**Is your project addressing flood risk in one of the Priority LGAs listed in Appendix A of the guidelines?**

Yes

**Select the most relevant LGA.**

SA - Holdfast Bay

**Is your project addressing flood risk in more than one LGA?**

No

## Project title and description

---

If your application is successful, we will publish some grant details on GrantConnect and other government publications. Published details include:

- name of the grant recipient
- a project title
- a brief project description and its intended outcome
- amount of grant funding awarded.

**Provide a project title.**

Tarlton and Whyte Street, Somerton Park Flood Protection

**Provide a brief project description for publication.**

**Ensure your project description focuses on your project's key activities and outcomes. Outline what it is you are going to do and how it will benefit the community.**

Flood flows reaching the Tarlton Street area in a 1 in 100 year event pond primarily in properties on the western side of the road between Whyte Street and Marine Street. Construction of this outfall will reduce or prevent flooding of approximately eighty properties in the area, some of which will be inundated to depths of up to 800 mm in a 100 year event.

Floodwaters overflow from this area further to the north into low-lying areas around Yarrum Grove. Modelling has shown that construction of a new outfall from this area that collects flows in Tarlton Street, has the potential to substantially reduce the extent of flooding in the area and prevent the overflow of floodwaters further to the north.

## Detailed project description and key activities

---

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

**Provide a detailed description of your project including the project scope and key activities.**

**For applications seeking a grant amount over \$100,000 you must also provide a project plan later in your application.**

The City of Holdfast Bay's Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) and stormwater implementation plan outlines this project as a priority upgrade to the major drainage system to mitigate flood flows reaching the Tarlton Street area in a 1 in 100 year event.

Construction of this outfall will reduce or prevent flooding of approximately eighty properties in the area, some of which will be inundated to depths of up to 800 mm in a 100 year event.

Floodwaters overflow from this area further to the north into low-lying areas around Yarrum Grove. Modelling has shown that construction of a new outfall from this area that collects flows in Tarlton Street, has the potential to substantially reduce the extent of flooding in the area and prevent the overflow of floodwaters further to the north.

## Project outcomes

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

**Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.**

The Cities of Holdfast Bay and Marion have an overarching objective of progressing towards becoming "Water Sensitive Cities" and to minimise flooding and harness the potential of stormwater to overcome water shortages, reduce urban temperatures, and improve waterway health and the landscape of their cities. Water Sensitive Urban Design is the process that will lead to Water Sensitive Cities.

Council have undertaken studies into this catchment and assessed a number of options to provide an increased level of flood protection for properties along Tarlton Road. A number of options have been considered for this project including locations for outfalls, box culverts and twin pipe systems.

The preferred option is a 1200mm diameter RCP on Whyte Street and culvert on Tarlton Street with pipe jacking as the proposed construction methodology. The key activities involve pipe jacking through sands, pipe installation, culvert construction, service relocations.

The preferred option includes:

- Construction of a 1200mm diameter RCP on Whyte Street.
- Construction of a culvert along Tarlton Street, to minimise the required cover over the new stormwater drainage system, thereby minimising the depth to the invert of the network.
- Upgrading the inlet capacity along Tarlton Street, with additional pits on the western side of the road connected into the new culverts.
- Significant service relocations will be required due to the minimum cover and flat grades, which will not allow alterations for the vertical alignment of the new drainage system.
- Consideration to incorporate raingardens into the proposed new pits along Tarlton Street.
- A gross pollutant trap constructed immediately upstream of the coastal outfall to treat low flows.

## Project duration

Your project must be completed in line with the dates provided in the grant opportunity guidelines.

We expect you will be able to commence your project around May 2022 and your project must be completed by 31 March 2025.

**Estimated project start date**

03/10/2022

**Estimated project end date**

28/06/2024

**Estimated project length (in months)**

21

## Project milestones

Provide details on the project milestones including the key activities occurring at each milestone.

The milestones start and end dates must be between the project start and end dates. You may add up to 10 milestones.

**Milestone title**

Detailed Design

**Description**

Review concept design, undertake detailed design, undertake geotechnical investigations, produce construction issue drawings and technical specifications as required

**Estimated start date**

03/10/2022

**Estimated end date**

30/06/2023

**Milestone title**

Procurement

**Description**

Open tender required do to project value. Tender process to be completed in early part of 2023/24 financial year to enable construction to be carried out in 2023/24

**Estimated start date**

03/07/2023

**Estimated end date**

29/09/2023

**Milestone title**

Service relocations

**Description**

Expected to be numerous clashes with existing services, service relocation to begin in 2022/2023 when the design is nearing completion as these may take some time to coordinate.

**Estimated start date**

24/04/2023

**Estimated end date**

20/10/2023

**Milestone title**

Construction

**Description**

Construction to be staged for Whyte Street (pipe jacking), followed by Tarlton Street then GPT and outfall at Whyte St at the Esplanade.

**Estimated start date**

02/10/2023

**Estimated end date**

28/06/2024

## Project location

---

### Project Site 1

---

Whyte Street  
Somerton Park SA 5044  
Australia

**Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site**

50

### Project Site 2

---

Tarlton Street  
Somerton Park SA 5044  
Australia

**Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site**

50

## Project geolocation

---

A [mapping tool](#) is available to assist you in determining the location of your project. The latitude and longitude must be in numeric format. You must provide a geolocation for each project location entered above.



**Project site number**

Enter the project site number from the section above

1

**Project site address latitude**

The latitude must be expressed in numeric format (including the negative symbol). For example, the latitude of Alice Springs is -23.6980.

-34.99717

**Project site address longitude**

The longitude must be expressed in numeric format. For example, the longitude of Alice Springs is 133.8807.

138.51152

**Project site number**

Enter the project site number from the section above

2

**Project site address latitude**

The latitude must be expressed in numeric format (including the negative symbol). For example, the latitude of Alice Springs is -23.6980.

-34.99359

**Project site address longitude**

The longitude must be expressed in numeric format. For example, the longitude of Alice Springs is 133.8807.

138.51343

## Disclosure of financial penalties

Have any of your board members, management or persons of authority been subject to any pecuniary penalty, whether civil, criminal or administrative, imposed by a Commonwealth, state, or territory court or a Commonwealth, state, or territory entity?

No

## Project budget

Provide a summary of your eligible project expenditure over the life of the project.

If you are registered for GST, enter the GST exclusive amount. If you are not registered for GST, enter the GST inclusive amount. We only provide grant funding based on eligible expenditure. Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for guidance on eligible expenditure.

The minimum project expenditure for this grant opportunity is \$20,000.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify the project budget that you provided in your application when we negotiate your grant agreement. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

## Project budget summary

Type of expenditure	Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Costs
Project expenditure			\$5,915,000
	Equipment/ Materials (purchase or hire)		\$4,800,000
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$4,800,000
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Labour		\$60,000

Type of expenditure	Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Costs
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$30,000
		2023/24	\$30,000
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Labour on-costs		\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Contract (including expert advice)		\$150,000
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$150,000
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Workshops, conferences and events		\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Domestic travel		\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Approvals – Planning, environment or regulatory		\$0

Type of expenditure	Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Costs
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Staff training		\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Contingency costs (up to 10% of total eligible project costs)		\$350,000
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$350,000
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Audit costs		\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
	Other eligible expenditure		\$555,000
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$225,000
		2023/24	\$330,000
		2024/25	\$0
		2025/26	\$0
Total project expenditure			\$5,915,000

Financial Year	Costs
2022/23	\$405,000
2023/24	\$5,510,000
Total project expenditure	\$5,915,000

### Provide details of Other eligible expenditure.

Service Relocation

### Source of funding

In this section you must provide details of how you will fund the project.

The total of all sources of funding should be equal to your total project expenditure in the section above. Sources of funding include:

- grant amount sought
- your contribution
- other contributions as allowed in the grant opportunity guidelines.

If your project will receive cash contributions from other sources, you must provide formal documentation confirming the cash contributions from those sources (e.g. state government) such as a commercial finance agreement or letter of offer later in this application.

### Grant amount sought

Enter the grant amount sought. We will add GST to this where applicable.

The minimum grant amount under this grant opportunity is \$20,000. The maximum grant amount under this grant opportunity is \$10 million.

\$ 2,927,000

### Your contribution

Enter your organisation name. In the description field, provide additional details. Indicate whether your contribution is sourced from cash flow, loans, equity etc.

You must enter '0' in the field where no contribution is being provided as both amount fields are mandatory. The visible zero is a display only.

#### Name of contributor

City of Holdfast Bay

#### Details of contribution

Contribution Type	Amount	Due Date	Description
Cash	\$2,928,000	28/06/2024	Capital funding
In-Kind	\$60,000	28/06/2024	Staff cost
Total	\$2,988,000		

### Other non-government contribution

Enter the organisation name. In the description field, provide additional details.

If you have project partners we will ask you for their details later in the application. You must provide their name and their contribution here.

You must enter '0' in the field where no contribution is being provided as both amount fields are mandatory. The visible zero is a display only.

### Other non-Commonwealth government grants

Enter the government organisation name. In the description field, provide additional details. Provide the name of the grant.

You must enter '0' in the field where no contribution is being provided as both amount fields are mandatory. The visible zero is a display only.

## Other Commonwealth Government grants

Enter the government organisation name. In the description field, provide additional details. Provide the name of the grant.

You must enter '0' in the field where no contribution is being provided as both amount fields are mandatory. The visible zero is a display only.

## Assessment criteria

We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion and against the indicators listed beneath each criterion. We will only consider funding applications that score at least 60 per cent against each criterion, as these represent best value for money.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide should be commensurate with the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should define, quantify and provide evidence to support your answers.

To support your responses you must include mandatory attachments later in the application.

### Assessment criterion 1

#### Project alignment with policy intent (program objectives/outcomes) (Score out of 50)

You must demonstrate how your project:

- will support a community that is at increased risk of bushfire, tropical cyclone and/or flood due to climate change
- reduces the risk or increases the long term resilience of the community against disruption/disaster arising from bushfire, tropical cyclone and/or flood
- aligns with the objectives of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

City of Holdfast Bay and City of Marion undertook a joint project to create a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) for the joint catchment areas. The Tarlton and Whyte Street project was listed as one of four major projects requiring priority following this study and is recognised as a high priority project in the stormwater implementation plan to provide resilience against future flooding for this catchment.

Holdfast Bay is a coastal Council with a typically flat topography, particularly within Somerton Park where the proposed project is located. The flat topography makes it difficult for stormwater to naturally drain. This is compounded as a large number of properties on our plains have been built behind a long sand dune, located between the ocean and these properties acting as a physical barrier for drainage.

The properties on Tarlton and Whyte streets are situated behind the sand dune in a low lying flat area with little natural surface drainage. The proposed project will provide drainage for 80 affected properties, providing a significant reduction in flood risk during a storm event.

This project will provide significant increase in the resilience of this catchment area, particularly with the effects of climate change expecting to increase the frequency, intensity and duration of significant storm events, increasing the likelihood and consequence for all properties within this risk area.

There is direct alignment with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework drivers for action in terms of natural disasters being more frequent and intense, people and assets are more exposed and vulnerable, the disaster impacts are longer lasting and complex, and the costs of disasters growing. The priorities of the NDRRF are also well-aligned with this project:

NDRRF Priority 1: Understand disaster risk

The City of Holdfast Bay is working towards flood disaster risk reduction through the development of the SMP providing capability and information to make informed decisions and to take action to reduce disaster risk, minimise the creation of future disaster risk. The SMP provides a strong evidence base for disaster risk across the joint catchment areas of the greater region. This includes understanding the catchment, the stormwater assets, identification of problems and opportunities, defined objectives, costs/benefit, funding arrangements, responsibilities, consultation and priorities to ensure we are delivering appropriate projects and take advantage of opportunities to mitigate flood risk across Council.

NDRRF Priority 2: Accountable decisions

Prioritisation and cost benefit was a key element of the SMP and subsequent implementation plans. A stormwater implementation plan was endorsed by Council in October 2022 to inform the LTFP.

NDRRF Priority 3: Enhanced investment

The inclusion of the stormwater implementation plan into the LTFP ensures Council has the appropriate funding to deliver these capital projects as well as take advantage of external funding when available for major catchment projects such as this one.

NDRRF Priority 4: Governance, ownership and responsibility

Collaboration between the neighbouring Council's ensured a holistic approach to the joint catchment and identified governance structures to manage the delivery of the SMP. Engagement and endorsement with Elected Members enabled financial support for these projects and enables Council to seek funding from state and federal government to assist with the delivery of critical flood risk infrastructure projects.

### Assessment criterion 2

#### Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (Score out of 30)

You must demonstrate this by:

- proving your track record, and your project partner/s track record (if you have project partners), to successfully manage and deliver similar projects (including project budget and scale)
- outlining your plan for managing the project, including implementation methodology, timeframes, risk management (including mitigation of risks associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic), and maintaining the benefits of your project

**beyond the program funding.**

**A project plan must be attached later in the form for projects with a grant amount over \$100,000 (refer to section 8.1 in guidelines for guidance).**

City of Holdfast Bay is a local government authority in South Australia. The Assets and Delivery team who will deliver this project consists of experienced Civil Engineers that can be utilised on this project. It is proposed that the Project Manager Civil will be responsible for delivering this project under the direction of the Manager Engineering. The project has been highlighted in our forward works programs and staff allocated to deliver this project. We plan to begin this project in the next financial year 2022/2023 beginning with the detailed design. We have a completed concept design which considered of reviewing various options for the project and it is recommended that the combination of treatments on the two main roads is suitable for this location. Subject to further geotechnical investigations, we plan to utilise pipe jacking in the sandy soils for the pipe on Whyte Street as it can be difficult to trench in sand.

During the 2022/2023 financial year, Council will engage a consultant to provide specialist engineering advice including geotechnical investigations, proposed construction methodology, detailed design of stormwater systems, advice for service relocations including potholing for deepening of services. Council will be responsible for arranging service relocations where required in accordance with relevant authorities requirements. Service relocations would be planned to be undertaken prior to the construction works, we plan to begin these in 2022/2023 and continue into 2023/2024.

The construction phase of the project is planned to be undertaken in 2023/2024, completed for the end of that financial year. To minimise resident disruption, the construction is likely to be undertaken in three main phases, Whyte Street pipe jacking and pipe placement, the Tarlton Street culvert and then outfall construction and Gross Pollutant Trap. Whilst this may take longer for construction, it affects fewer residents at a time and would minimise road closures where possible.

## Assessment criterion 3

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### Community support and broader public benefit (Score out of 20)

You must demonstrate this by identifying:

- **evidence of community support for your project, including any contributions to the project**
- **the broader public benefits that your project will deliver for the region and community, including how the project supports the needs of group(s) within communities who are at greater risk.**

The Elected Members and the community have supported this project through endorsement of:

- 1) The Stormwater Management Plan, Coastal Catchments Between Glenelg and Marino (2014).
- 2) The updated Stormwater Implementation Plan 2020/21 to 2023/24 in October 2020, which identified Tarlton Street as a high priority.
- 3) The Long-Term Financial Plan, which includes significant stormwater funding for the delivery of the stormwater implementation plan.
- 4) The Stormwater Asset Management Plan (2020) identifying this project within the financial summary – acquisition works forecast.

Construction of the project is dependent on external funding.

The broader public benefit includes flood protection and resilience for this catchment area into the future particularly with the effects of climate change expecting to increase the frequency, intensity and duration of significant storm events, increasing the likelihood and consequence for all properties within this risk area.

This is a major drainage system within the SMP, which will contribute to the overall stormwater management and resilience of the community within the greater coastal catchments between Glenelg and Marino.

## Assessment criterion 4

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Priority locations

### Score out of 20

Applications for projects that address the hazard risks in the selected LGAs identified in Appendix A of the guidelines will be awarded an additional 20 points. You can only receive a maximum of 20 additional points per application.

## Project partners

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Provide details about all project partners.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the grant agreement.

See section 8.3 in the guidelines for further details about joint applications.

If you do not have project partners, press Save and continue to move to the next page.

## Project partners

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No Project partners found for this Application.

## Bank account details

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If your application is successful we will need to set up a payment process to pay your grant. We need your bank account details to do this. If your application is not successful we will not process these details.

We can only pay grant funding to the applicant organisation, who if successful will be party to a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. You must provide bank account details for this organisation.

## Account details

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**Account name**

City of Holdfast Bay

**BSB**

065100

**Account number**

10032196

## Payment contact

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We will send the payment remittance advice to this person. All other notifications are sent to the primary contact whose details you provide on the last page of this application.

**Given name**

Cadel

**Family name**

Blunt

**Email address**

cblunt@holdfast.sa.gov.au

**Phone number**

08 8229 9832

## Application finalisation

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### Conflict of interest

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**Do you have any perceived or existing conflicts of interest to declare?**

**Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for further information on your conflict of interest responsibilities.**

No

### Program feedback

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**How did you hear about this grant opportunity?**

Industry group

### Additional information

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You should attach any additional supporting documentation here. You should only attach documents that we have requested or you have referred to in your application.

**Project plan (if applicable)**

You must attach a project plan outlining all the project activities including a timetable in support of assessment criterion 2 (for projects with a grant amount over \$100,000).

20211210 Whyte Tarlton Project Plan.pdf

**Evidence of how you will provide your share of the project costs (if applicable)**

For infrastructure projects with eligible project expenditure over \$100,000 only. For your own cash/in-kind contribution to the project use the Accountant Declaration form available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect. For contributions from other sources, you must provide formal documentation confirming the contributions. Refer to the guidelines for more information.

06012022 CFO signed.pdf

**Evidence of incorporated association or not for profit organisation (if applicable)**

Where you have indicated you are applying as an incorporated association or not for profit organisation, you must demonstrate your entity status through one of the documents provided in section 5.1 of the guidelines.

**Trust documents (if applicable)**

Where you have indicated your entity type is a trustee applying on behalf of a trust, you must attach trust documents showing the relationship of the incorporated trustee to the trust.

**Supporting documents**

If we have asked you to provide additional documents you should attach them here.

## Primary contact

---

**Title**

Mr

**Given Name**

James

**Family Name**

Mitchell

**Position Title**

Manager Engineering

**Email Address**

jmittchell@holdfast.sa.gov.au

**Phone Number**

08 8229 9962

**Mobile Number**

0497 958 780

**Business postal address of the primary contact****Is the address located in Australia?**

Yes

**Address Details**

24 Jetty Rd  
BRIGHTON SA 5048  
Australia

## Declaration

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### Applicant declaration - WWC

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#### Privacy and confidentiality provisions

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I acknowledge that this is an Australian Government program and that the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the department) will use the information I provide in accordance with the following:

- Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement
- Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines
- grant opportunity guidelines
- applicable Australian laws.

Accordingly, I understand that the department may share my personal information provided in this application within this department and other government agencies:

- a. for purposes directly related to administering the program, including governance, research and the distribution of funds to successful applicants
- b. to facilitate research, assessment, monitoring and analysis of other programs and activities

unless otherwise prohibited by law.

I understand that where I am successful in obtaining a grant, the financial information that I provide for the purposes of payment will be accessible to departmental staff to enable payments to be made through the department's accounts payable software system.

I understand that information that is deemed 'confidential' in accordance with the grant opportunity guidelines may also be shared for a relevant Commonwealth purpose.



The department will publish information on individual grants in the public domain, including on the department's website, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

### **Applicant declaration**

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I declare that I have read and understood the grant opportunity guidelines, including the privacy, confidentiality and disclosure provisions.

I declare that the proposed project outlined in this application and any associated expenditure has been endorsed by the applicant's board/management committee or person with authority to commit the applicant to this project.

I declare that the applicant will comply with, and require that its subcontractors and independent contractors comply with, all applicable laws.

I declare that the information contained in this application together with any statement provided is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, complete and not misleading and that I understand that giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

I acknowledge that I may be requested to provide further clarification or documentation to verify the information supplied in this form and that the department may, during the application process, consult with other government agencies, including state and territory government agencies, about the applicant's claims and may also engage external technical or financial advisors to advise on information provided in the application.

I agree to participate in the periodic evaluation of the services undertaken by the department.

I approve the information in this application being communicated to the department in electronic form.

I understand that the applicant is responsible for ensuring that it has met relevant state or territory legislation obligations related to working with children, and that any person that has direct, unsupervised contact with children as part of a project under this grant opportunity, has undertaken and passed, a working with children check, if required under relevant state or territory legislation. The applicant is also responsible for assessing the suitability of people engaged on this project to ensure children are kept safe.

I acknowledge that if the department is satisfied that any statement made in an application is incorrect, incomplete, false or misleading the department may, at its absolute discretion, take appropriate action. I note such action may include excluding an application from further consideration; withdrawing an offer of funding; using the information contained in the application for a fraud investigation that would be consistent with the Australian Government's Investigations Standards and Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework and/or for a grant under management, terminating a grant agreement between the Commonwealth and the grantee including recovering funds already paid.

I declare that I am authorised to submit this form on behalf of the applicant and acknowledge that this is the equivalent of signing this application.

**By checking this box I agree to all of the above declarations and confirm all of the above statements to be true**

Yes

Item No: 16.4  
Subject: **PROPOSED AREA 40KM/H SPEED LIMIT**  
Date: 14 June 2022  
Written By: Manager, Engineering  
General Manager: Assets and Delivery, Mr M de Heus

---

## **SUMMARY**

Council, at its meeting on 9 November 2021 (Report No: 374/21) 40KM/H Area Speed Limit Public Consultation, resolved the following motion (Resolution Number C091121/2471):

*That Council support community engagement to help inform a proposed 40km/h speed limit within the City of Holdfast Bay and that the engagement findings and a recommendation report is presented back to Council.*

Community engagement was undertaken and there was a net positive support for the implementation of a 40km/h speed limit specifically in the area west of Brighton Road.

This report provides details of the community consultation and recommends that Council proceed to develop a business case for a 40km/hr area in two precincts identified and that the business case is brought back to Council for consideration prior to proceeding to the next steps.

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That:**

- 1. Council notes the engagement summary report;**
  - 2. Administration prepare a business case for 40km/h speed limit area generally west of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road, and the triangle between Brighton Road, Oaklands Road and Diagonal Road on the eastern side of Brighton Road (Attachment 3); and**
  - 3. Council receives a business case for consideration within 12 months with recommendations on further steps.**
- 

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Sustainability: Support the creation of safer places by improving the public realm.

**COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

**STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

*Local Government Act, 1999*

*Speed Limit Guideline for South Australia 2017 – DPTI (now DIT)*

Community Engagement and Consultation Policy

*National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020*

Manual of Legal Responsibilities and Technical Requirements for Traffic Control Devices

**BACKGROUND**

Many councils throughout the metropolitan region introduced areas of 40km/h on local road networks since the City of Unley first introduced it in 1998. The reduced speed limit in these councils has meant that safety is increased and implementation of aggressive speed control devices such as speed humps or slow points has been reduced, reducing both cost and inconvenience to residents and less impact on emergency services.

Based on evidence from a variety of sources on the outcomes and successes of other 40km/h speed limits, Council staff believe that the lowered speed limits are a successful method to reduce speed on local roads. This then also increases road safety for all road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

The City of Holdfast Bay is predominantly subject to the urban default speed limit of 50km/h. The exceptions are Jetty Road Glenelg, portion of Broadway and western end of Jetty Road, Brighton which are subject to a lineal speed limit of 40km/h due to high pedestrian activity. In addition a 40km/h speed limit applies around the pedestrian crossings on Esplanade.

Arterial roads under the care and control of the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) are predominately posted at 60km/h and would not be included as part of any proposal for changes to speed limits.

Council undertook initial consultation on a 40km/h urban speed limit in early 2000 and received very few responses (68) with no clear direction. Since 2000, there has been significant changes around urban infill, increased on-street parking, more businesses in the area, increased tourism and events, more efficient (faster) cars, more cars and a significant change in expectation by the community to lower urban speeds and improved safety for cycling and walking.

The initial engagement on issues and solutions for an Integrated Transport Strategy identified speed, minimising through traffic (rat running), increasing walkability and safety as key issues of concern. In addition, Council's traffic team continually receive complaints regarding vehicle speeds along residential streets.

The installation of 40km/h speed limits in local roads requires The Minister for Transport's approval. The Minister for Transport has delegated under Section 33 of the *Road Traffic Act, 1961* powers and responsibilities to councils that includes a number of road safety measures such as traffic calming devices, signs and other controls but not speed limits.

An area wide or precinct based 40km/h speed limit is one of a suite of strategies being considered in the draft Integrated Transport Strategy to meet objectives around safety, walkability and liveability and reducing vehicles on local roads.

An extensive community engagement was undertaken from 24 November 2021 to 14 December 2021 to understand the community's views on an area wide or precinct based 40km/h speed limit.

This engagement was the first stage of the process to consider a change in the speed limit.

The views of the community were collected via the Council's engagement website ([www.yourholdfast.com](http://www.yourholdfast.com)) which provided the opportunity to complete an online survey and pin information on an interactive map, three face to face drop-in sessions (Da Costa Reserve, Angus Neil Reserve and Bindarra Reserve) and via email submissions, phone calls and letters.

Extensive promotion was undertaken through a registered user update (email to a 5000+ database), Jetty Road Trader Newsletter, Holdfast Bay Trader Newsletter, City of Holdfast Bay's Twitter account every week for the duration of the engagement, corflute signage at the three engagement drop-in sites, posters at the Brighton Civic Centre and libraries and community centres, Facebook posts, news article in Holdfast News, newsfeed on the City of Holdfast Bay's council and engagement websites as well as targeted emails to key external stakeholders including City of Marion, City of West Torrens, SAPOL, Emergency Services, Local Schools, MPs, DIT, community groups and cycling groups.

Detailed results of the community engagement can be found in the 40km/h Speed Limit for Residential Streets Engagement Summary Report.

*Refer Attachment 1*

## **REPORT**

Through the engagement, Council was seeking to find out if the community was in favour of a change in speed limits to 40km/h, in what locations and importantly the reasons for the responses.

### **Responses**

There was a high level on engagement with this project. Council received feedback from 434 participants who provided feedback through all formats. This included 386 who participated in the online survey, 13 participants pinned 31 comments on the map, eight participants filled in a hard copy and we received 25 emails. The project page was visited 3038 times by 1025 visitors. The engagement process also netted an increase to the overall registrations on YourHoldfast by over 300 people.

### Outcomes – 40km/h area speed limit

We asked the community directly if they were supportive in some form of a 40km/h area speed limit. Of the 410 participants in this question, a slight majority of the community were in favour 202 (49%), with 15 (4%) unsure and 193 (47%) against a speed limit change. It should be noted in this kind of engagement that negative comments tend to prevail, so a slight positive can be interpreted as supportive.

More importantly than a binary response, Council was interested in the reasoning and themes that came up from the responses. These have been summarised below.

Themes identified for a 40km/h area speed limit:

Common Theme	Count	Implication
Safety as an outcome	71	This aligns with daily feedback from the community received by the traffic team.  Evidence from existing 40km/h speed limits areas shows a reduction in traffic speeds leading to safer environments.
Speeding as an issue	47	
Reduce traffic speeds	41	
Safer for walking and cycling	27	The DIT cycling strategy survey found that 36% of respondents were interested in cycling, though concerned with safety as vehicle speeds if found to be a major barrier to cycling.
Safer for schools	21	Inclusive of the journey to school for students extending beyond the surrounding streets.

Themes identified neutral a 40km/h area speed limit:

Common Theme	Count	Implication
Suggested alternative traffic management or improving other infrastructure	84	There is not a 'silver bullet' to improve Council-wide traffic issues. An area wide or precinct based 40km/h speed limit is one of a suite of strategies being considered through the draft Integrated Transport Strategy to meet objectives around safety, walkability and liveability and reducing vehicles on local roads.  A reduction in speed limit will allow council to re-assess locations and priority for traffic devices.
Requested to see more evidence for need and effectiveness	28	This initial engagement stage is to gauge the community feedback on a speed limit change prior to an in-depth analysis and proposal.  This evidence can be provided as part of a specific proposal.

Themes identified opposed to a 40km/h area speed limit:

<b>Common Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Implication</b>
Not in favour of lowering traffic speeds	46	<p>The time impact on a journey is minimal when local streets are used for their intended purpose (getting people to/ from homes/local facilities to arterial roads)</p> <p>More time is lost by slowing down at intersections within the local street network and waiting at traffic lights on arterial roads.</p> <p>Peak period when there are more cars on the road naturally experience lower speeds due to congestion, which would decrease any impact of a speed change during these times.</p>
Believed traffic was already managed adequately	38	Council receives constant feedback from the community around traffic safety and speeding.
Participants were concerned about revenue raising	34	<p>Council does not enforce speed limits nor does it earn any revenue from any SAPOL enforcement activities.</p> <p>The aim is to increase safety for all road users. Lower speeds can improve walkability, create calm environments, and encourage motorists to reduce their vehicle speeds without penalty.</p>
Multiple speed limits between councils would be confusing	29	<p>The 40km/h speed limit is becoming common and accepted within metropolitan Adelaide.</p> <p>Council has opted for an area-wide approach to limit changes between 40km/h and 50km/h within its local network. The design of the area will ensure clear area signage and avoid frequent changes within the local network.</p>
Concerned it would cause congestion	27	<p>Congestion is typically a problem during peak period where operating speeds are naturally already lower than 50 km/h.</p> <p>Congestion may be reduced if non local traffic is diverted to arterial roads.</p>
Enforcement issue	25	<p>Council will continue to monitor the need for enforcement and investigate physical changes to the road environment to support the speed limit.</p> <p>SAPOL advised they would enforce speed limits as per normal irrespective of the outcome. Council will continue to work with SAPOL at identified hot-spots</p>
Did not believe it would make the streets safer	25	<p>The evidence from previous examples has shown that a lower speed limit reduces the average speed on the roads.</p> <p>Lower speeds provide more time for drivers to react to hazards leading to a lower likelihood of a crash and lower severity if a crash occurs.</p> <p>Other South Australian examples have shown a decrease in the injury crash rate within 40km/h zones.</p>

## Outcomes – Location

Council also asked the community where they would like the 40km/h area speed limit to be applied. From the 192 responses, 119 (59%) said all of City of Holdfast Bay, 73 (37%) said west of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road and 8 (4%) said east of Brighton and Tapleys Hill Road. These responses showed that 96% of respondents were in favour of the speed limit change west of Brighton and Tapleys Hill Road.

*The Speed limit Guideline for South Australia states “A speed-limited area should have a clear boundary. Such an area would generally be bounded by arterial roads, other major traffic routes retaining a higher speed limit, or physical or geographic features which restrict the movement of traffic, such as rail corridors, parks and waterways. Speed-limited areas may also be applied to large areas, such as whole Council areas, excluding major traffic routes”.*

This description supports the west of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road option as there are major roads providing delineation. The triangle bounded by Oaklands Road, Diagonal Road and Brighton Road on the eastern side of Brighton Road also meets the DIT guidelines. A map of the proposed area defined in Recommendation 2 is provided as attachment 3. Other areas east of Brighton Road are complicated by the Council boundary with the City of Marion. Attachment 2 shows the maps provided as part of the consultation.

*Refer Attachments 2 and 3*

The portion of the City of Holdfast Bay west of Brighton Road is also used by a large number of visitors to the area accessing the beach, reserves and key school and retail areas, which increases traffic volumes. These visitors as non-residents are often unfamiliar with the area which may result in driving at higher speeds through the area to their destination. A 40km/h area limit would encourage visitors to drive at a lower speed.

The detail of any area wide speed limit has not been decided at this stage, with individual Council collector streets within the network to be looked at closer in terms of a suitable speed limit (50km/h or 40km/h). The community engagement results identified several common streets of note within the feedback. The following streets were named in the feedback, the table below outlines the community sentiment.

<b>Name of street</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>40km/h</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>50km/h</b>
The Esplanade	20	15	4	1
King George Avenue, Somerton Park/Hove/Brighton	14	5	5	4
Colley Terrace, Glenelg	13	6	7	0
Broadway	9	4	4	1
Wheatland Street, Seacliff	8	5	2	1
Pier Street, Glenelg/Glenelg South	8	3	4	1
Anzac Highway, Glenelg/Glenelg North	7	3	4	0
Adelphi Terrace, Glenelg North	7	2	5	0
Whyte Street, Somerton Park	6	1	2	3
Wattle Avenue, Hove	6	3	0	3
Moseley Street, Glenelg/Glenelg South	5	1	0	4

The most divisive street within the network was King George Avenue, a north/south collector between the Esplanade and Brighton Road. This road will be reviewed as part of any further analysis.

Based on initial feedback, support for lower speeds on collector roads was high although this would need to be assessed based on creating an appropriate road hierarchy as part of the business case.

### **Next Steps**

When submitting a request for approval of a speed limit to DIT, the following are required:

- resolution from Council endorsing the proposed speed limit change;
- indication of support from the local State Member(s) of Parliament;
- a site plan accurately indicating existing speed limit signs, location of proposed speed limit signs, local roads, distances and any other relevant information, such as details of roadside development, parking controls, traffic signals, and existing and proposed physical speed control treatments or traffic calming devices;
- an assessment of the speed limit proposal against the requirements of the DIT Speed Limit Guideline for South Australia; and
- a traffic impact statement and any other supporting documentation, such as consultation details, annual average daily traffic volumes, heavy vehicle content, pedestrian volumes, speed surveys.

A traffic impact statement is a report indicating the traffic management and road safety effects for all users. The expected impact of the change in speed limit on adjacent streets and alternative routes shall be included in the traffic impact statement. For Council, a Traffic Impact Statement



must be prepared by an experienced traffic engineering practitioner, and endorsed by a person authorised by Council, 'for and on behalf of the Council'.

It is proposed to prepare a business case for Council's review which will include the traffic impact statement required of DIT, together with the likely costs of implementation, feedback from stakeholders and benefits and risks.

The next steps for Council are:

1. business Case – Undertake investigation and analysis and develop a proposal for specific speed limit change. Engage major stakeholders including DIT. This will be undertaken over 12 months including additional data collection;
2. business case is presented to Council for Council decision whether to proceed to consultation;
3. community consultation on the proposal. This would be more targeted, with details of the precinct area, any alterations to existing traffic management and identification on recommended speed limits for collector roads;
4. Council assessment of consultation results and decision whether to endorse the proposed speed limit change;
5. subject to Council approval, submit proposal to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for approval as delegated by the Minister for Transport; and
6. implementation of speed limit change.

## **BUDGET**

An estimated budget of \$40,000 is anticipated to engage a traffic management consultant to undertake development of the business case. In addition data collection, stakeholder consultation, project management and technical review will be undertaken in-house.

This cost can be allocated to the existing Integrated Transport Strategy budgets allocated in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Costs for consultation and capital costs for any signage installation or modification to traffic control devices will be included within the findings of the business case.

## **LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

There will be lifecycle costs associated with the maintenance of any speed limit signage if a 40km/h area is implemented. This will be detailed in the findings of the business case.

# Attachment 1



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

# 40 KM/H SPEED LIMIT FOR RESIDENTIAL STREETS

Report Completed for the Manager Engineering, Assets & Delivery  
Written by the Digital Engagement Partner  
December 2021

## Introduction

At the council meeting on 9 November 2021 a motion was endorsed to consult with the community to help inform a proposed 40 km/h speed limit within the City of Holdfast Bay (Council) and that the engagement findings and a recommendation report is presented back to Council.

The community were invited to provide their views on the proposal. This report provides the engagement methodology and engagement outcomes.

All submissions have been collated and are available upon request.

## Engagement Methodology

This community engagement ran from 24 November to 14 December 2021, a total of 21 days.

The views of the community were collected via:

- Council's website - the council's engagement website ([www.yourholdfast.com](http://www.yourholdfast.com)) provided the opportunity to complete an online survey and pin information on an interactive map.
- Drop-in sessions (face to face)
- Email submissions, phone calls and letters.

And promoted through:

- A registered user update - via email to a 5000+ database.
- Jetty Road Trader Newsletter.
- Holdfast Bay trader Newsletter.
- City of Holdfast Bay's Twitter account every week for the duration of the engagement.
- Corflutes at the three engagement drop-in sites: Da Costa, Angus Neil and Bindarra Reserve.
- Posters at the Brighton Civic Centre and libraries and community centres.
- Facebook posts.
- News article in Holdfast News.
- Newsfeed on the City of Holdfast Bay's council and engagement websites.
- Emailed key external stakeholders including City of Marion, City of West Torrens, SAPOL, Emergency Services, Local Schools, MPs, DIT, community groups and cycling groups.

## Survey format

**1a. Do you support a 40 km/h speed limit across all or part of the City of Holdfast Bay's local streets?**

Yes/No/Not sure

**1b. If yes: where would you like to see the 40 km/h speed limit to apply?**

- All City of Holdfast Bay roads 40 km/h
- East of Brighton Road
- West of Brighton Road

**1c. If no, what are your reasons?**

**2a. Are there any roads you would like to see remain 50 km/h?**

**2b. If yes, Please specify which roads and why?**

**3. General comments**

## How the feedback was received

Council received feedback from 434 participants including 386 participated in the online survey, 13 participants pinned 31 comments on the map, eight participants filled in a hard copy and we received 25 emails.

- Three hundred and eighty-six (386) surveys were received online via the YourHoldfast.com
- The project page was visited 3038 times by 1025 visitors.
- 32 people participated in the drop-in sessions
- 159 visitors read the FAQs.
- The majority of traffic to the website was primarily received directly (indicating they had seen information advertised). There was an equal via the Yourholdfast engagement alert and the council Facebook page.

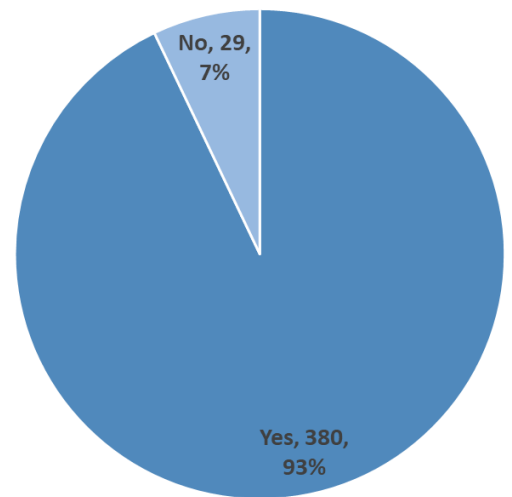
The results below show the combined survey and email results (both online and hardcopy).

## About the participants

### 1. Are you a City of Holdfast Bay ratepayer and/or resident?

409 participants completed this section:

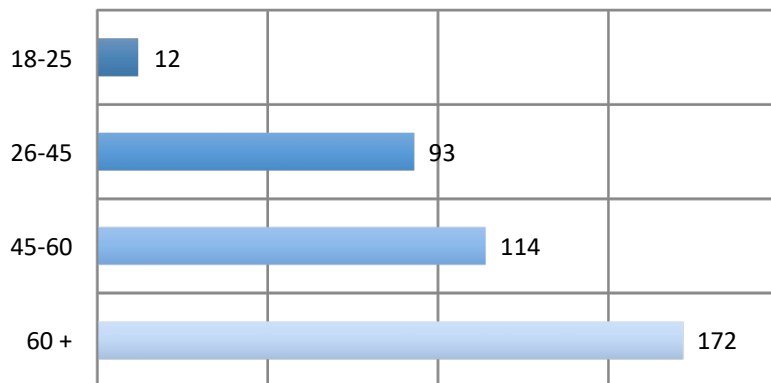
- 380 (93%) of participants identified as City of Holdfast Bay residents/rate payers
- 29 (7%) said, no they were not a City of Holdfast Bay rate payers



### 2. Age

391 participants completed this section (3 skipped the question)

- 12 (3.1 %) participants are aged between 18- 25
- 93 (23.8%) participants are aged 26-45
- 114 (29.2%) participants are aged 45- 60
- 172 (44%) participants are aged 60+



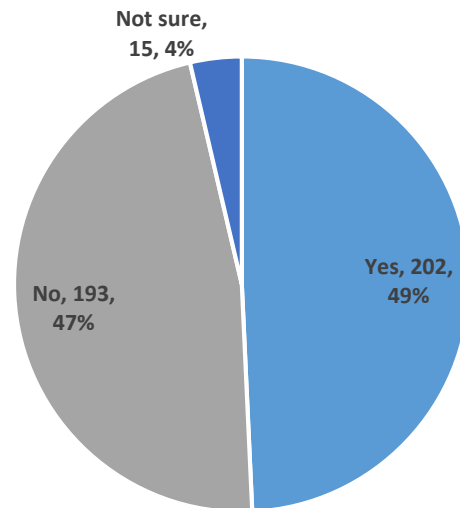
## Outcomes

Three hundred and ninety-four (394) survey submissions were received and 16 emails with responses.

### 1a. Do you support a 40 km/h speed limit across all or part of the City of Holdfast Bay's local streets?

410 participants completed this section:

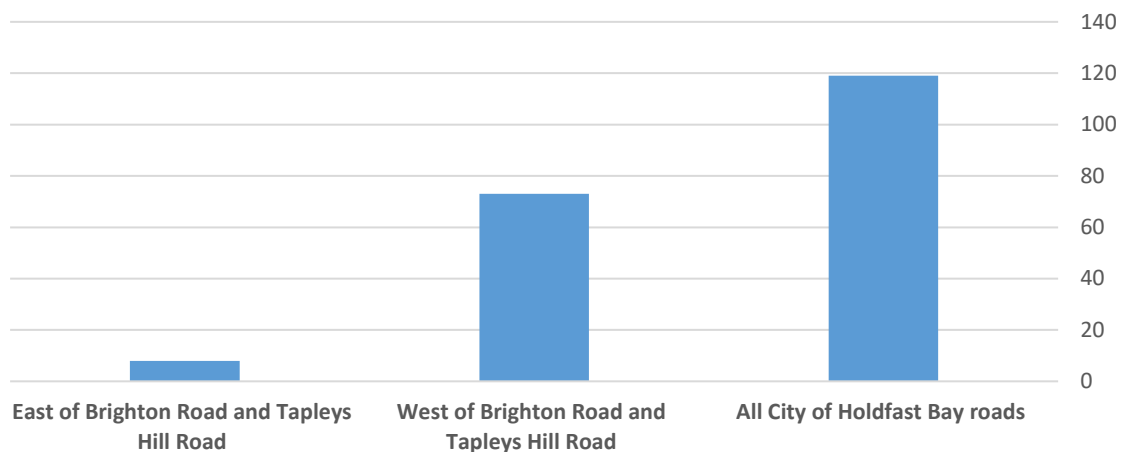
- 202 participants (49%) said *Yes*,
- 193 participants (47%) said *No*,
- 15 participants (4%) were *Unsure*



### 1b. If yes, where would like the 40 km/h speed limit to apply?

There were 200 people who responded to this.

- 119 (59%) said all of City of Holdfast Bay.
- 73 (37%) said west of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road.
- 8 (4%) said East of Brighton and Tapleys Hill Road.



### 1c. If no, what are your reasons?

There were 198 people who responded to this.

The reasons have been summarised in the following five main themes:

- 41 respondents were concerned it would slow traffic down.
- 36 respondents believed that traffic is already managed well enough without more control methods being in place.
- 31 respondents believed that people who speed will still speed regardless.
- 30 respondents were happy to see some streets reduced but not all.
- 21 respondents believed it would cause confusion to have varied speed zones in the area.

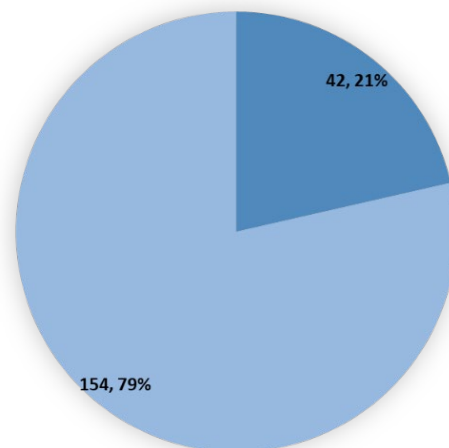
Other prominent themes were:

- 20 respondents raised concerns that it would cause congestions and traffic restrictions.
- 20 respondents didn't believe it would make the streets any safer.
- 20 respondents believed it will be done as a revenue raising exercise.
- 14 respondents thought the notion was redundant as there is no one to enforce the speed, and people who do the wrong thing will continue regardless.
- 14 respondents did not see any evidence regarding accidents in the area to support the need to bring in new measures.

### 2a. Are there any roads you would like to see remain 50 km/h?

There were 196 people who responded:

- 154 (78.6%) said no
- 42 (21.4%) said yes (see below for responses)



## 2b. If yes, Please specify which roads and why.

From the responses, 21 roads were named multiple times (includes responses from all surveys, emails and pins):

Name of street	Total	For	Neutral	Against
The Esplanade	20	15	4	1
King George Avenue, Somerton Park/Hove/Brighton	16	5	5	4
Colley Terrace, Glenelg	12	6	7	1
Broadway	9	4	4	1
Wheatland Street, Seacliff	8	5	2	1
Pier Street, Glenelg/Glenelg South	8	3	4	1
Myrtle Street, Seacliff	8	6	2	0
Anzac Highway, Glenelg/Glenelg North	7	3	4	0
Adelphi Terrace, Glenelg North	7	2	5	0
Whyte Street, Somerton Park	6	1	2	3
Wattle Avenue, Hove	6	3	0	3
Moseley Street, Glenelg/Glenelg South	5	1	0	4
Yacca Road, Seacliff	5	5	0	0
Old Tapleys Hill Road, Glenelg North	4	1	1	2
Partridge Street, Glenelg/Glenelg South	3	0	1	2
Patawalonga Frontage, Glenelg North	3	3	0	0
Jetty Road, Brighton	3	2	1	0
Marine Parade, Seacliff	3	2	1	0
Kauri Parade, Seacliff	3	2	1	0
Tarlton Street, Somerton Park	2	0	0	2
The Crecent, Brighton	2	2	0	0

## 3. General comments

Of the 394 participants, 283 participants provided comments.

These comments have been reviewed for common themes. Five main themes were identified:

- 67 respondents discussed safety. The most prominent theme was from those that would like to see a 40km speed limit in place as they believed it would create a safe environment/ community in particular for the elderly and school children.
- 44 respondents suggested the need for or to investigate alternative traffic management solutions such as speed humps, roundabouts and, pedestrian crossings. Many mentioned that while reducing the speed is a measure to increase safety, other measures need to be looked at in conjunction.
- 40 respondents discussed reviewing selected streets in the area rather than an entire section.
- 39 respondents that supported the idea of a 40km speed limit acknowledged that it would reduce speeds.
- 26 respondents discussed current concerns for walkers and cyclists and believed lowering the speed limit would help.



## Themes

Combining all comments from all survey answers and emails identified the following common themes:

### In favour of a change to 40 km/h:

- 71 Safety as an outcome
- 47 Speeding as an issue
- 41 Reduce traffic speeds
- 27 Safer for walking and cycling
- 21 Safer for schools

### Neutral:

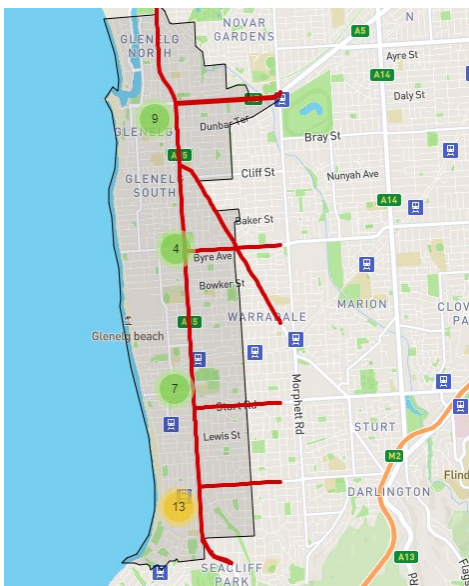
- 84 Suggested alternative traffic management or improving other infrastructure
- 28 Requested to see more evidence

### In favour of remaining at 50 km/h:

- 46 Not in favour of lowering traffic speeds
- 38 Believed traffic was already managed adequately
- 34 Participants were concerned about revenue raising
- 29 Multiple speed limits between councils would be confusing
- 27 Concerned it would cause congestion
- 25 Enforcement issue
- 25 Did not believe it would make the streets safer

## Mapping tool comments

There were 13 participants who pinned 31 comments pins to the interactive mapping tool. See map for main areas where feedback was provided, feedback available upon request.



## Summary

This engagement had one of the highest participation levels our community engagements have had with over 400 people actively participated and over 1000 people reviewed the information. The engagement process increase the overall registrations on YourHoldfast by over 300 people.

Due to this topic being of high interest to the community it is strongly recommended that all comments in the appendix be read in full to gain a full comprehension of the community's sentiments.

The comments received included comments directly relating to the 40 km/h speed limit as well as comments enquiring about separate traffic related matters. The feedback obtained outside the scope of the 40 km/h speed limit will be reviewed by the traffic team as well as considered in the development of the Integrated Transport Strategy.

Due to the high volume of feedback *the appendix available upon request for full submissions.*

# Attachment 2



# SHARE YOUR VIEW

ON A 40 km/h SPEED LIMIT FOR RESIDENTIAL STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY.

ALL CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY STREETS 40 km/h

## KEY

-  Department for Infrastructure and Transport streets (60 km/h limit remains)
-  City of Holdfast Bay boundary
-  All City of Holdfast Bay streets






# SHARE YOUR VIEW

ON A 40 km/h SPEED LIMIT FOR RESIDENTIAL STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY.

WEST OF BRIGHTON ROAD AND TAPLEYS HILL ROAD 40 km/h

## KEY

-  Department for Infrastructure and Transport streets (60 km/h limit remains)
-  City of Holdfast Bay boundary
-  City of Holdfast Bay streets west of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road potential 40 km/h speed limit






# SHARE YOUR VIEW

ON A 40 km/h SPEED LIMIT FOR RESIDENTIAL STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY.

EAST OF BRIGHTON ROAD AND TAPLEYS HILL ROAD 40 km/h

## KEY

-  Department for Infrastructure and Transport streets (60 km/h limit remains)
-  City of Holdfast Bay boundary
-  City of Holdfast Bay streets east of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road potential 40 km/h speed limit



# Attachment 3








# SHARE YOUR VIEW

ON A 40 km/h SPEED LIMIT FOR RESIDENTIAL STREETS WITHIN THE CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY.

WEST OF BRIGHTON ROAD AND TAPLEYS HILL ROAD 40 km/h

## KEY

-  Department for Infrastructure and Transport streets (60 km/h limit remains)
-  City of Holdfast Bay boundary
-  City of Holdfast Bay streets west of Brighton Road and Tapleys Hill Road potential 40 km/h speed limit





Item No: 16.5

Subject: **KAURI SPORTING COMPLEX – EXELOO INSTALLATION**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: Manager, Buildings and Facilities

General Manager: Assets and Delivery, Mr M de Heus

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### **SUMMARY**

Council allocated \$50,000 to install a toilet at Kauri Sporting Complex using a refurbished Exeloo. A detailed investigation on suitable locations considering site constraints and in particular sub-surface contamination has been undertaken. A suitable location has been determined to locate a public toilet immediately east of the playground adjacent to the disabled carpark. Installation is expected to cost between \$65,000 - \$80,000. This report identifies site constraints and seeks approval to proceed noting the additional cost. Subject to approval, construction will be completed prior to summer.

---

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **That Council:**

- 1. approves the proposed location of the Exeloo adjacent the playground and provide land owner consent for the Development Application; and**
  - 2. approves the additional cost to be funded through savings in the 2021/22 capital renewal budget.**
- 

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Installation of a public toilet at the Kauri Community and Sports Complex is referenced in the 2020-21 Annual Business Plan along with a budget allocation of \$50,000.

Our Holdfast 2050+

Wellbeing, Aspirations 2030 – Our beaches and Council-controlled public areas are accessible and inclusive.

Strategic alignments with the following documents:

OpenSpace and Public Realm Strategy 2018-2030

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

**COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

**STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

As 1428.1:2021 Design for access and mobility, Part 1: General requirements for access – New Building work.

**BACKGROUND**

An Exeloo public toilet was installed at John Mathwin Reserve, now the Kauri Sports Complex prior to 2004. The toilet was removed from service as part of the Kauri Sports Complex upgrade project and the toilet has been in storage since. Prior to the site redevelopment this toilet provided public toilet facilities from 5.30am to 10pm, 7 days a week to users of the reserve or playground and complemented the clubroom facilities.

Users of the playground and public tennis courts currently do not have access to toilet facilities if the Kauri Sporting Complex clubrooms are closed as there are no external public amenities.

A budget of \$50,000 was allocated in 2020/21 to determine a suitable location to reinstate the facility. Administration explored alternative locations in an effort to avoid the increased cost and complexity working with a landfill site and provide a location with good visible sightlines to place the toilet.

Options explored:

- South of the public courts off Scholefield Road – Good visibility and security, poor distance to playground and high sewer connection costs as nearest gravity main connection point was 150m away.
- Paved area adjacent to clubrooms - Good sightlines, central between playground and courts, good proximity to services, required costly upgrade to the building footings and structure to handle the load.
- North-western end of lower carpark – Poor visibility, short sewer and water connections minimised disruption to landfill, disability access/pathway to toilet needed to be added.
- Immediately east of the playground adjacent the disabled carpark. This site being close to the playground and accessible parking bays (disabled parking) and has reasonable sight lines and reduced cost for sewerage connection.

## REPORT

The preferred location based on a detailed assessment and value for money is to locate the toilet immediately east of the playground adjacent the accessible parking bays (disabled parking) as shown in the schematic below.



Preliminary designs have been completed and quotes sought. There are a few unknowns and risks associated with the current proposed location centered around the sewer installation. It is proposed to directionally drill the sewer main to avoid open trenching within the former landfill. As the SA Water sewer connection is shallow, there is limited flexibility to achieve minimum sewer grades and depths required and a risk of the directional drill hitting something solid within the former landfill. If the gravity drain cannot be achieved, Council will revert to a pumped sewerage system and this is identified in the budget. A pumped system is less desirable than a gravity main due to increased power costs and maintenance costs. In addition, footing costs include bored piers due to the former landfill.

The total cost is around \$65,000 to \$80,000 depending on excavation and trenching within the site.

Components	Estimate ex GST	Comment	Possible variations
Sewer	\$16,000	Directional drilled 110mm diameter ~80m run for gravity drain at 1.8% grade	Sewer pump system plus \$10,000
Plumbing	\$8,000	Connections and commissioning	
Electrical	\$3000	Connections and commissioning	
Footings / Piers	\$25,000	Poor soil grade required upgraded footing design usually \$12,000 for single Exeloo footing (contaminated site)	Contaminated material assessment allowance \$5,000
Crane Hire	\$2500		
Roof	\$7000	Skillion roof	
External paint, signage	\$1500		Vinyl wrap at additional cost
<b>Contingency</b>	\$2,000		
<b>Total</b>	\$65,000		0-\$15,000

It is considered appropriate to install a new toilet in this location to service the playground and also to service the increased local population of the proposed Cement Hill development on Scholefield Road. The nearest toilets are at Kingston Park and Kingston House, although these locations are not as convenient to accessible car parking.

Council has allowed to paint the refurbished Exeloo. If works come in under budget, there is an opportunity to install a vinyl wrap skin to the side of the Exeloo as shown in the schematic and this will be assessed post construction. The additional cost of this is around \$6,000.

## BUDGET

Current budget allocation in 2021/22 is \$50,000 to install the toilet. This amount was carried over to the current financial year.

The additional \$15,000 to \$30,000 will be funded through savings in the capital renewal budget in the current financial year.

The annual operational budget will need to be increased by approximately \$15,000 to cover cleaning, maintenance etc. if the toilet is installed. This will be included in the operational budget in the 2023/2024 financial year.

### **LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

The Exeloo is 60% through its estimated life of 25 years. The infrastructure (footings, electrical, sewer) will be installed so that the Exeloo can be cost effectively replaced at the end of its life based on the modern equivalent Exeloo model.

Item No: 16.6

Subject: **POLICY UPDATES AS A RESULT OF THE CESSATION OF THE MAJOR EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: Strategy and Governance Lead

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

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## **SUMMARY**

In March 2020, in response to the Directions in place under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* at the time, the then-Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government issued Notices under Section 302B of the *Local Government Act 1999* (Notices No. 1 – 4) to enable councils to continue to conduct certain activities required by the Local Government Act while emergency measures were in place.

In particular, on the basis that face-to-face council meetings were either effectively prohibited or impractical due to the existence of the Directions, the Minister determined it was ‘reasonably necessary’ to vary/suspend a number of provisions in the Local Government Act to allow for meetings to be held by electronic means.

The major emergency declaration underpinning the Ministerial Notices made under the Local Government Act was revoked on Tuesday 24 May 2022. All Notices made under section 302B of the Local Government Act will cease to have effect 28 days from 24 May 2022. That is, the last day the Notices will be in effect will be 21 June 2022 and after that time Council meetings will no longer be able to be conducted via electronic means.

The cessation of the Emergency Declaration affects a number of Council Policies as outlined in this report.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **That Council:**

- 1. approves the updated Code of Practice Meeting Procedures (Attachment 3), and authorise Administration to make minor formatting or typographical amendments as needed from time to time;**
- 2. approves the updated Financial Hardship Policy (Attachment 5); and**

3. notes the cessation of the emergency provisions that are recorded in light blue text within the Code of Practice – Access to Meetings and Documents (Attachment 6) and the Community Consultation and Engagement Policy (Attachment 7), which will be deleted as of 22 June 2022.
- 

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Statutory compliance

## **COUNCIL POLICY**

Code of Practice – Access to Meetings and Documents  
Code of Practice Meeting Procedures and Financial Hardship

## **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

*Emergency Management Act 2004*  
*Local Government Act 1999*

## **BACKGROUND**

In March 2020, in response to the Directions in place under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* at the time, the then-Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government issued Notices under Section 302B of the *Local Government Act 1999* (Notices No. 1 – 4) to enable councils to continue to conduct certain activities required by the Local Government Act while emergency measures were in place.

In particular, on the basis that face-to-face Council meetings were either effectively prohibited or impractical due to the existence of the Directions, the Minister determined it was 'reasonably necessary' to vary/suspend a number of provisions in the Local Government Act to allow for meetings to be held by electronic means.

The Local Government Association provided advice regarding this in late May, which is provided as Attachment 1.

*Refer Attachment 1*

## **REPORT**

The Emergency Declaration underpinning the Ministerial Notices made under the Local Government Act was revoked on Tuesday 24 May 2022. All Notices made under section 302B of the Local Government Act will cease to have effect 28 days from 24 May 2022. That is, the last day the Notices will be in effect will be 21 June 2022 and after that time Council meetings will no longer be able to be conducted via electronic means.

There is no prohibition in relation to information or briefing sessions being held electronically, subject to compliance with requirements set out in section 90A of the Local Government Act. No policy changes are required.

Furthermore, it is assumed that Council may wish to reserve the right to conduct committee meetings electronically, therefore suggested amendments are proposed to the Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures to enable this. A marked up version is provided as Attachment 2.

*Refer Attachment 2*

A clean final copy is provided for endorsement as Attachment 3.

*Refer Attachment 3*

All of the other temporary variations and suspensions made by the Notices will cease as of 21 June 2022. As a result of the cessation of the Emergency Declaration, Council Policies that were previously updated to reflect the Notices made under section 302B require amendment as follows.

The Financial Hardship Policy included specific provisions related to COVID-19. While the policy foreshadowed that these provisions were only to be in effect during the period of the Emergency Declaration, the provisions are not marked as temporary and therefore Council is asked to amend the policy formally. The opportunity has been taken to make minor administrative corrections at the same time. The marked up version is provided as Attachment 4.

*Refer Attachment 4*

A clean final copy is provided for endorsement as Attachment 5.

*Refer Attachment 5*

A resolution of Council is not required to remove provisions that no longer have legal effect, therefore, the policies that contained temporary provisions, marked in light blue, will be amended to remove those temporary provisions. There are two policies this applies to, namely the Code of Practice – Access to Meetings and Documents (Attachment 6) and the Community Consultation and Engagement Policy (Attachment 7). These are provided as they stand for noting.

The light blue text will be removed on 22 June 2022.

*Refer Attachments 6 and 7*

## **BUDGET**

Not applicable

## **LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

Not applicable



# Attachment 1



## Electronic council meetings and the Major Emergency declaration

Council meetings are currently able to be held via electronic means by virtue of Notices issued by the Minister in response to the current major emergency declaration. The ability to hold electronic meetings will cease 28 days after the emergency declaration ends. The LGA is advocating for legislative change to provide councils with the ability to conduct electronic council meetings in certain circumstances.

### Current arrangements

The current ability to conduct council meetings by electronic means is directly linked to the declaration of a major emergency in respect of the outbreak of COVID-19 made under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* (Emergency Management Act), which was recently extended for the 28<sup>th</sup> time to the end of May 2022. The State Government has reiterated its 30 June 2022 deadline for the cessation of the major emergency declaration and has introduced a Bill into Parliament to provide an alternative legislative mechanism for managing COVID-19 within the community which no longer relies on the Emergency Management Act framework.

Section 302B of the *Local Government Act 1999* (Local Government Act) allows the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to vary or suspend the operation of specified provisions of the Local Government Act if a relevant declaration has been made in relation to a public health emergency **and** the Minister is satisfied that the variation or suspension of the provisions is **reasonably necessary** as a result of the emergency.

In March 2020, in response to the Directions in place under the Emergency Management Act at the time, the then-Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government issued notices under Section 302B of the Local Government Act (Notices No. 1 – 4) to enable councils to continue to conduct certain activities required by the Local Government Act during the emergency. In particular, on the basis that face-to-face council meetings were either effectively prohibited or impractical due to the existence of the Directions, the Minister determined it was ‘reasonably necessary’ to vary/suspend a number of provisions in the Local Government Act to allow for meetings to be held by electronic means.

In November 2021, following commencement of a range of reforms to the Local Government Act arising from the passage of the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* (the Review Act) new Notices (Notices No. 5-6) were issued by the then-Minister for Planning and Local Government in relation to council meetings and public access and public consultation requirements. Notice No 5 retained the ability for council meetings to be convened via electronic means.

In light of the State Government’s stated intention to end the major emergency and its expected pending cessation, it is important to highlight that the current Notices issued by the Minister for Planning and Local Government **will cease to have effect** twenty-eight days following the cessation of the major emergency declaration, in accordance with section 302B of the Local Government Act. Given the State Government is working towards a 30 June cessation timeframe (which may be brought forward), it is expected that councils will not be able to conduct electronic council meetings beyond July 2022. It should be noted that if the major emergency is not extended beyond its current scheduled cessation of 27 May 2022, all notices will cease to have effect at 24 June 2022.

## Existing Item of Business

At the LGA AGM held on 29 October 2020 an item of business requested the LGA lobby the State Government to review the legislation to include provisions for attendance at council meetings and informal gatherings by electronic means. Consultation was undertaken with member councils with general support expressed for the ability to conduct meetings electronically in certain circumstances and with a range of limitations, rather than a blanket support for council meetings to be able to be convened electronically.

## Office of Local Government

Preliminary discussions were held with the Office of Local Government (OLG) in 2020, as part of progressing the above item of business. However, in light of both the major emergency declaration in place and the status of local government reforms progressing through Parliament at the time, the State Government preferred to defer the issue.

More recently, the matter has been raised with OLG and there is a willingness to discuss amendments to the Local Government Act in relation to the conduct of council meetings, noting that it would be a substantial piece of work and warrants careful consideration (i.e. it is not just a matter of 'continuing' or 'extending' current emergency arrangements. The current arrangements are only possible because of the declared emergency).

The LGA will consult with member councils on the potential scope of future amendments when this issue is pursued. This is likely to occur in 2023, after the majority of local government reform amendments have commenced.

In his previous term as Minister for Local Government, Hon Geoff Brock was a strong supporter of council meetings being held face to face, in a manner that enabled the public to see and hear council deliberations. The current flexible provisions for council meetings would not have been supported by the State Parliament, in the absence of a global pandemic.

The COVID-19 experience has changed attitudes to electronic meetings. The LGA understands that the State Government is open to exploring amendments to the provisions in the Local Government Act, relating to face-to-face council meetings. Such amendments are likely to focus on situations where attendance at a council meeting could put a council member or other council members or staff at risk.

## Actions for councils

From 28 days after the cessation of the major emergency declaration under the Emergency Management Act, councils may no longer conduct council meetings via electronic means. Outside a public health related major emergency, electronic council meetings are prohibited under the Local Government Act and the *Legislation Interpretation Regulations 2021*.

Councils should note however that there is no prohibition in relation to conducting information or briefing sessions electronically, subject to compliance with requirements set out in section 90A. In addition, councils who have set up appropriate procedures may conduct committee meetings electronically under Section 90(7a) of the Local Government Act.

It is noted that all of the other temporary variations and suspensions made by the Notices will cease as at the expiry of the 28 day period set out above.

Following the issuing of Notices by the Minister, the LGA provided councils with a range of resources to reflect the variation/suspension of legislative provisions in relevant policies/council documents (e.g. Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures and Code of Practice for Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents). The variations/suspensions set out in the LGA resources only have effect whilst the Notices are current, despite any reference to the changes within relevant documents. Councils who have adopted the LGA's templates are not required to immediately modify the relevant documents. Councils should, however, seek to update the documents to reflect the cessation of the major emergency as their resources allow.

It is possible that a further major emergency in relation to COVID-19 may be declared in future. In such circumstances, the Minister's Notice making power would again be enlivened. The LGA will continue to monitor developments and provide advice to members accordingly.

**For more information please contact:**

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Phone: 8224 2037

# Attachment 2





# Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures

Adopted by Council ~~27 January 2021~~ 28  
September 2021

~~Updated by Council 28 September  
2021~~ 14 June 2022

Review by 30 June 20224

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## Introduction

The City of Holdfast Bay is committed to the principles of honest, open and accountable government and encourages community participation in the business of Council.

The *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* (the 'Regulations') stipulate the statutory procedures to be undertaken during the operation of Council and Committee meetings. Under the Regulations, Council may adopt a Code of Practice for its own meetings, which varies the provisions that are capable of variation.

Sections 86(8) and 89(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) provides that where a procedure is not prescribed by regulation, Council (or a Council Committee when Council does not determine the procedures for the Committee) can determine its own procedures, provided it is not inconsistent with the Act or Regulations.

This document is the City of Holdfast Bay's Code of Practice for Procedures at Meetings, which provides for:

- variations to the meeting procedures prescribed in the Regulations which have been adopted by Council (inserted in **red** text to enable them to be read in conjunction with the formal requirements of the Regulations);
- supplementary City of Holdfast Bay meeting procedures that apply to both Council and Committee meetings (unless stated otherwise)- see grey shaded areas and the 'Miscellaneous Meeting Procedures';
- guidelines on how Council and Committee meetings are to be conducted; and
- guidance to the community on how meetings of Council are conducted.

As recommended by the Regulations (Regulation 6(2)), this Code of Practice should be reviewed at least once in every financial year and the Council may at any time, by resolution supported by at least two-thirds of members, alter, substitute or revoke the Code of Practice (Regulation 6(3)).

~~Section 302B of the Act empowered the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government to vary or suspend the operation of provisions of the Act. Changes to the Regulations have been implemented by the *Electronic Participation in Council Meetings Notice (No 1) 2020* provisions, which have been incorporated into this Code and are shown in **blue**.~~

~~The additional provisions in **blue** will remain in operation during any public health emergency (COVID-19) declarations, and whilst the Minister's Notice remains in operation and particularly where meetings are required to be held by electronic means. Where meetings are by physical attendance then the initial provisions will apply and prevail.~~



# **Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013** **(including Variations)**

## **Part 1—Preliminary**

### **Regulation 1—Short title**

These regulations may be cited as the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*.

### **Regulation 2—Commencement**

These regulations will come into operation on 1 January 2014.

### **Regulation 3—Interpretation**

(1) In these regulations, unless the contrary intention appears—

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;

**clear days** (see subregulations (2) and (3));

**deputation** means a person or group of persons who wish to appear personally before a council or council committee in order to address the council or committee (as the case may be) on a particular matter;

**electronic means** includes a telephone, computer or other electronic device used for communication;

**formal motion** means a motion—

(a) that the meeting proceed to the next business; or

(b) that the question be put; or

(c) that the question lie on the table; or

(d) that the question be adjourned; or

(e) that the meeting be adjourned 1;

**Guiding Principles**—see regulation 4;

**member** means a member of the council or council committee (as the case may be);

**point of order** means a point raised to draw attention to an alleged breach of the Act or these regulations in relation to the proceedings of a meeting;

**presiding member** means the person who is the presiding member of a council or council committee (as the case may be) and includes any person who is presiding at a particular meeting;

**written notice** includes a notice given in a manner or form determined by the council;

(2) In the calculation of **clear days** in relation to the giving of notice before a meeting—

(a) the day on which the notice is given, and the day on which the meeting occurs, will not be taken into account; and

(b) Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays will be taken into account.

(3) For the purposes of the calculation of **clear days** under subregulation (2), if a notice is given after 5 p.m. on a day, the notice will be taken to have been given on the next day.

(4) For the purposes of these regulations, a vote on whether **leave of the meeting** is granted may be conducted by a show of hands (but nothing in this subregulation prevents a division from being called in

relation to the vote).

**OR**

- ~~(4) For the purposes of these regulations, a vote on whether leave of the meeting is granted may be conducted by—~~
- ~~(a) a show of hands; or~~
  - ~~(b) where a member is participating in a meeting by electronic means which has audio only, a verbal indication of voting in the affirmative or voting in the negative,~~
- ~~(but nothing in this subregulation prevents a division from being called in relation to the vote).~~
- ~~(5) For the purposes of subregulation (1), a reference to “appear personally” includes to appear by electronic means.~~
- ~~(6) For the purposes of these regulations, a member participating in a meeting by electronic means is taken to be present at the meeting provided that the member:~~
- ~~(a) can hear all other members present at the meeting;~~
  - ~~(b) can be heard by all other members present at the meeting; and~~
  - ~~(c) can be heard by the person recording the minutes of the meeting.~~

**Note—**

- 1 See regulation 12 for specific provisions about formal motions.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (7) For the purposes of the definition of ‘written notice’ in Regulation 3 above, the Council has determined that written notice will include a legibly hand written or typed document provided in either hard copy or electronic format.

### **Regulation 4—Guiding Principles**

The following principles (the *Guiding Principles*) should be applied with respect to the procedures to be observed at a meeting of a council or a council committee:

- (a) procedures should be fair and contribute to open, transparent and informed decision-making;
- (b) procedures should encourage appropriate community participation in the affairs of the council;
- (c) procedures should reflect levels of formality appropriate to the nature and scope of responsibilities exercised at the meeting;
- (d) procedures should be sufficiently certain to give the community and decision-makers confidence in the deliberations undertaken at the meeting.

## **Part 2—Meetings of councils and key committees**

### **Regulation 5—Application of Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to or in relation to—

- (a) the meetings of a council; and

- (b) the meetings of a council committee performing regulatory activities; and
- (c) the meetings of any other council committee if the council has, by resolution, determined that this Part should apply to that committee.

#### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- ( ) This Part 2 applies to the Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee.

### Regulation 6—Discretionary procedures

- (1) Subject to the requirements of the Act, if a provision of this Part is expressed to be capable of being varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to this regulation, then a council may, by a resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, determine that a code of practice prepared or adopted by the council that establishes its own procedures for the relevant matter or matters will apply in substitution for the relevant provision (and such a determination will have effect according to its terms).
  - (2) A council should, at least once in every financial year, review the operation of a code of practice under this regulation.
  - (3) A council may at any time, by resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, alter a code of practice, or substitute or revoke a code of practice.
  - ~~(3a) Without limiting subregulation (3), a council may at any time, by resolution supported by the prescribed number of members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, alter a code of practice to facilitate participation by council members in council meetings by electronic means.~~
  - ~~(3b) For the purposes of subregulation (3a), the prescribed number of members of a council is a number ascertained by dividing the total number of members of the council for the time being in office by 2, ignoring any fraction resulting from the division, and adding one.~~
  - (4) A council must, in considering the exercise of a power under this regulation, take into account the Guiding Principles.
  - (5) A person is entitled to inspect (without charge) the code of practice of a council under this regulation at the principal office of the council during ordinary office hours.
  - (6) A person is entitled, on payment of a fee fixed by the council, to a copy of the code of practice.
  - (7) Regulation 12(4) does not apply to a motion under subregulation (3).
- OR**
- ~~(7) Regulation 12(4) does not apply to a motion under subregulation (3) or subregulation (3a).~~
  - (8) This regulation does not limit or derogate from the operation of regulation 20<sup>1</sup>.

#### Note—

- 1 Furthermore, if a matter is not dealt with by the Act or these regulations (including under a code of practice under this regulation), then the relevant procedure will be—
  - (a) as determined by the council; or
  - (b) in the case of a council committee where a determination has not been made by the council— as determined by the committee.(See sections 86(8) and 89(1) of the Act.)

## Regulation 7—Commencement of meetings and quorums

- (1) A meeting will commence as soon after the time specified in the notice of meeting as a quorum is present.
- (2) If the number of apologies received by the chief executive officer indicates that a quorum will not be present at a meeting, the chief executive officer may adjourn the meeting to a specified day and time.
- (3) If at the expiration of 30 minutes from the time specified in the notice of meeting as the time of commencement a quorum is not present, the presiding member or, in the absence of a presiding member, the chief executive officer, will adjourn the meeting to a specified day and time.
- (4) If a meeting is adjourned for want of a quorum, the chief executive officer will record in the minute book the reason for the adjournment, the names of any members present, and the date and time to which the meeting is adjourned.
- (5) If a meeting is adjourned to another day, the chief executive officer must—
  - (a) give notice of the adjourned meeting to each member setting out the date, time and place of the meeting; and
  - (b) give notice of the adjourned meeting to the public by causing a notice setting out the date, time and place of the meeting to be placed on display at the principal office of the council.

**OR**

~~(b) give notice of the adjourned meeting to the public by causing a notice setting out the date, time and place of the meeting to be published on a website determined by the chief executive officer.~~

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (6) The following will appear at the beginning of all Council and Committee Meetings and will be read by the presiding member at the commencement of each meeting:

#### **Kurna Acknowledgement**

*We acknowledge Kurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.*

*We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kurna People today.*

#### **Service to Country Acknowledgement**

*The City of Holdfast Bay would like to acknowledge all personnel who have served in the Australian forces and services, including volunteers, for our country.*

#### **Council Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, we pray for your presence and guidance at our Council Meeting.*

*Grant us your wisdom and protect our integrity as we carry out the powers and responsibilities entrusted to us on behalf of the community that we serve.*

- (7) At the appropriate place on the agenda the presiding member will draw the attention of members to the Disclosure Statement relating to sections 73, 74, 75 and 75A of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Any disclosure of interest will be recorded in the Minutes.
- (8) The Chair of a Committee or any member of a Committee may provide apologies to the relevant Council officer at a meeting of a section 41 Committee, in which case, the apologies will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (9) The proceedings of a Council or Committee meeting are not permitted to be photographed or recorded

in any way by members of the public unless permission is specifically sought and given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting.

## Regulation 8—Minutes

- (1) The minutes of the proceedings at a meeting must be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting or, if that is omitted, at a subsequent meeting.
- (2) No discussion on the minutes may occur before confirmation, except as to the accuracy of the minutes as a record of proceedings.
- (3) On the confirmation of the minutes, the presiding member will—
  - (a) initial each page of the minutes, which pages are to be consecutively numbered; and
  - (b) place his or her signature and the date of confirmation at the foot of the last page of the minutes.

~~(3a) — For the purposes of subregulation (3), the presiding member may initial or sign the minutes in hardcopy or electronically.~~

- (4) The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting must include—
  - (a) the names of the members present at the meeting; and
  - (b) in relation to each member present—
    - (i) the time at which the person entered or left the meeting; and
    - (ii) unless the person is present for the whole meeting, the point in the proceedings at which the person entered or left the meeting; ~~and~~

~~(iii) — the method of attendance by the person; and~~  
~~Example —~~

~~The following are examples of methods of attendance:~~

- ~~(a) — physical attendance;~~
- ~~(b) — by an audio-visual link;~~
- ~~(c) — by an audio link;~~
- ~~(d) — by telephone.~~

- (c) each motion or amendment, and the names of the mover and seconder; and
- (d) any variation, alteration or withdrawal of a motion or amendment; and
- (c) whether a motion or amendment is carried or lost; and
- (d) any disclosure of interest made by a member ; and
- (e) an account of any personal explanation given by a member; and
- (f) details of the making of an order under subsection (2) of section 90 of the Act (see subsection (7) of that section); and
- (g) a note of the making of an order under subsection (7) of section 91 of the Act in accordance with the requirements of subsection (9) of that section; and
- (h) details of any adjournment of business; and
- (i) a record of any request for documents to be tabled at the meeting; and
- (j) a record of any documents tabled at the meeting; and

- (k) a description of any oral briefing given to the meeting on a matter of council business; and
- (l) any other matter required to be included in the minutes by or under the Act or any regulation.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (5) Minutes will be made available electronically to members and placed on Council's website within 5 days of the meeting.
- (6) Minutes will include any Apologies, Leave of Absences granted and Absences.
- (7) The name(s) of person(s) wishing to appear as a deputation and the subject matter will be recorded in the minutes of a Council or Committee meeting, but the details of the content of the deputation will not be included.
- (8) The minutes of Council and Committee meetings will not include voting patterns, or record the names of individuals voting for and against, other than in the case of a division.
- (9) For the purposes of Regulation 8(4)(f), in the case of a material conflict of interest, the minutes must record the details specified under section 74(5) of the Act, and in the case of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, the details specified under section 75A(4) of the Act.

#### **Regulation 9—Questions**

- (1) A member may ask a question on notice by giving the chief executive officer written notice of the question at least 75 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the question is to be asked.
- (2) If notice of a question is given under subregulation (1)—
  - (a) the chief executive officer must ensure that the question is placed on the agenda for the meeting at which the question is to be asked; and
  - (b) the question and the reply must be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting.
- (3) A member may ask a question without notice at a meeting.
- (4) The presiding member may allow the reply to a question without notice to be given at the next meeting.
- (5) A question without notice and the reply will not be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting unless the members present at the meeting resolve that an entry should be made.
- (6) The presiding member may rule that a question with or without notice not be answered if the presiding member considers that the question is vague, irrelevant, insulting or improper.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (7) Questions on notice are required to be received by the Chief Executive Officer no later than 5.00pm, 75 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the question is to be asked (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior-~~Monday~~Wednesday).
- (8) A question received after the timeframe specified in City of Holdfast Bay provision 7 above will be treated as a question for a subsequent meeting of the Council.
- (9) The answer to a question on notice is to be circulated in writing at the Council Meeting at which the

question is asked. If it is not possible for the Administration to compile an answer in the time prior to the Council Meeting, the reason is to be recorded in the minutes and the answers provided at the next available Council Meeting.

- (10) For the purposes of Regulation 9(6), the presiding member must give reasons for ruling that a question with or without notice not be answered at the time the determination is made. The reasons will be communicated to the member who asked the question.
- (11) A member may ask a question prior to the moving of a motion or during debate on a motion (or an amendment) for clarification purposes only, without losing their right to speak to the motion (or the amendment). Questions should be succinct and relevant to the matter and not a statement.
- (12) Questions asked during the course of discussion or debate in a meeting that requires an answer will be directed to the presiding member, and will not be asked directly to a member or officer. Answers given in response to such questions will also be directed to the presiding member.

## Regulation 10—Petitions

- (1) A petition to the council must—
  - (a) be legibly written or typed or printed; and
  - (b) clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners; and
  - (c) include the name and address of each person who signed or endorsed the petition; and
  - (d) be addressed to the council and delivered to the principal office of the council.
- ~~(d) be addressed to the council and delivered to the council by means determined by the chief executive officer.~~
- (2) If a petition is received under subregulation (1), the chief executive officer must ensure that the petition or, if the council has so determined as a policy of the council, a statement as to the nature of the request or submission and the number of signatures or the number of persons endorsing the petition, is placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the council or, if so provided by a policy of the council, a committee of the council.
- (3) Subregulation (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (4) Each page of a petition is to be presented by the head petitioner to Council's Administration and identify the name and contact details of the head petitioner.
- (5) Each page of a petition presented to Council is to restate the whole of the request or submission of the petitioners.
- (6) Where a page of a petition does not comply with City of Holdfast Bay provision 5 above, the signatures on that page are not to be taken into account by the Council when considering the petition.
- (7) A petition to the Council must be received no less than 6 clear days prior to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Tuesday), or the date at which the head petitioner requests that the petition be presented to the Council. Petitions received less than 6 clear days will be tabled at the next subsequent meeting.

- (8) On receipt of a petition, a summary report providing the statement as to the nature of the request or submission of the petitioners, and the number of signatures with name and address details (address includes street name and/or suburb name) on the petition, will be placed on the agenda for the next ordinary council meeting, subject to provision 7 above. A full copy of the petition will be available for viewing upon request, but will not be placed on the agenda.
- (9) Signatures without name and address details will not be counted as valid signatories.
- (10) Online petitions will be dealt with as above and must meet the following requirements to be presented to Council:
  - the petition must clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners
  - the names and addresses of each signatory must be clearly identified (in the case of an address, this must be by reference to at least a street and suburb)
  - the petition must be provided to Council either by mail (including email) or in person.

### Regulation 11—Deputations

- (1) A person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must deliver (to the principal office of the council) a written request to the council.

**OR**

~~(1) A person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must deliver (to the council by means determined by the chief executive officer) a written request to the council.~~

- (2) The chief executive officer must transmit a request received under subregulation (1) to the presiding member.
- (3) The presiding member may refuse to allow the deputation to appear at a meeting.
- (4) The chief executive officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that the person or persons who requested a deputation are informed of the outcome of the request.
- (5) If the presiding member refuses to allow a deputation to appear at a meeting, the presiding member must report the decision to the next meeting of the council or council committee (as the case may be).
- (6) The council or council committee may resolve to allow a deputation to appear despite a contrary ruling by the presiding member.
- (7) A council may refer the hearing of a deputation to a council committee.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (8) A request for a deputation to the Council must be received no less than 6 clear days prior to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Tuesday). Any request for a deputation received after this time will be treated as a request to appear at the next subsequent meeting.
- (9) Any person(s) wishing to appear as a deputation on behalf of an organisation, must, prior to the Council or Committee meeting at which they wish to appear, advise the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the date of formation and/or incorporation of their organisation, provide a copy of the Constitution and/or Rules of the organisation, a list of members, and evidence in the form of a minute that the organisation and/or body has approved the deputation.



- (10) Where an organisation has provided its incorporation details as outlined in provision 8 above, it will not be required to provide this information again for the term of the current Council.
- (11) A deputation may not exceed 3 people and must not exceed 5 minutes in total, not including questions from members at the end of the deputation, except with the consent of the presiding member.

## Regulation 12—Motions

- (1) A member may bring forward any business in the form of a written notice of motion.
- (2) The notice of motion must be given to the chief executive officer at least 75 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be moved.
- (3) A motion the effect of which, if carried, would be to revoke or amend a resolution passed since the last general election of the council must be brought by written notice of motion.
- (4) If a motion under subregulation (3) is lost, a motion to the same effect cannot be brought—
  - (a) until after the expiration of 12 months; or
  - (b) until after the next general election, whichever is the sooner.
- (5) Subject to the Act and these regulations, a member may also bring forward any business by way of a motion without notice.
- (6) The presiding member may refuse to accept a motion without notice if, after taking into account the Guiding Principles, he or she considers that the motion should be dealt with by way of a written notice of motion.
- (7) The presiding member may refuse to accept a motion if the subject matter is, in his or her opinion, beyond the power of the council or council committee (as the case may be).
- (8) A motion will lapse if it is not seconded at the appropriate time.
- (9) A member moving or seconding a motion will speak to the motion at the time of moving or seconding the motion, **unless the seconder reserves their right to speak to the motion at a later stage of the debate, in which case the seconder will not be considered to have spoken to the motion.**
- (10) A member may only speak once to a motion (**which includes speaking to an amendment to a motion**) except—
  - (a) to provide an explanation in regard to a material part of his or her speech, but not so as to introduce any new matter; or
  - (b) with leave of the meeting; or
  - (c) as the mover in reply.
- (11) A member who has spoken to a motion **or has reserved their right to speak to the motion at a later stage pursuant to sub-regulation (9)** may not at a later stage of the debate move or second an amendment to the motion.
- (12) A member who has not spoken in the debate on a question may move a formal motion.
- (13) A formal motion must be in the form of a motion set out in subregulation (14) (and no other formal motion to a different effect will be recognised).
- (14) If the formal motion is—

- (a) that ***the meeting proceed to the next business***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is, in the case of an amendment, that the amendment lapses and the meeting proceeds with the consideration of the motion before the meeting without further reference to the amendment and, in the case of a motion, that the motion lapses and the meeting proceeds to the next item of business; or
  - (b) that ***the question be put***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that debate is terminated and the question put to the vote by the presiding member without further debate; or
  - (c) that ***the question lie on the table***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the meeting immediately moves to the next item of business and the question can then only be retrieved at a later time by resolution (and, if so retrieved, debate is then resumed at the point of interruption); or
  - (d) that ***the question be adjourned***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the question is disposed of for the time being but debate can be resumed at the later time (at the point of interruption); or
  - (e) that ***the meeting be adjourned***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the meeting is brought to an end immediately without the consideration of further business.
- (15) If seconded, a formal motion takes precedence and will be put by the presiding member without discussion unless the motion is for an adjournment (in which case discussion may occur (but only occur) on the details for resumption).
- (16) A formal motion does not constitute an amendment to a substantive motion.
- (17) If a formal motion is lost—
- (a) the meeting will be resumed at the point at which it was interrupted; and
  - (b) if the formal motion was put during debate (and not at the end of debate) on a question, then a similar formal motion (ie a motion to the same effect) cannot be put until at least 1 member has spoken on the question.
- (18) A formal motion for adjournment must include the reason for the adjournment and the details for resumption.
- (19) Any question that lies on the table as a result of a successful formal motion under subregulation (14)(c) lapses at the next general election.
- (20) The chief executive officer must report on each question that lapses under subregulation (19) to the council at the first ordinary meeting of the council after the general election.
- (21) Subregulations (9), (10) and (11) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (22) All notices of motion are required to be received by the Chief Executive Officer no later than 5.00pm ~~75~~ clear days before the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be moved (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior ~~Monday~~ Wednesday).
- (23) A notice of motion received after the time specified in City of Holdfast Bay provision 22 above will be treated as a notice of motion for a subsequent meeting of the Council.

- (24) When placing a motion with notice in an agenda, the Chief Executive Officer may take the opportunity to provide written comments to assist the Council to make an informed decision in relation to the item (Administrative comments).
- (25) A member may ask a question prior to the moving of a motion, or during debate on a motion (including debate on an amendment to the motion), for clarification purposes only, without losing their right to speak to the motion. Questions should be succinct and relevant to the matter and not a statement.
- (26) A motion without notice (unrelated to an agenda item of business) will not be accepted for debate at the meeting at which it is brought forward unless:
- the presiding member determines that the matter is one of urgency; and
  - in the opinion of the presiding member, the motion relates to an issue that does not require additional information in order to make an informed decision on the motion.
- (27) A member wishing to move a motion that is different from that recommended in a Council report is encouraged to make available a written copy of their proposed motion to assist the presiding member in the conduct of the meeting.
- (28) Where a member who has given notice of motion in accordance with Regulation 12(2) is absent from the meeting at which the motion is to be considered, the motion will be adjourned to the next meeting, unless the presiding member has received written authority from the member in advance of the meeting for a different member to move the notice of motion.
- (29) For the purposes of Regulation 12(8), the presiding member is to ask for a seconder before declaring that an amendment has lapsed.
- (30) For the purposes of Regulation 12(10), an amendment to a motion is an alteration to the wording of a motion. It is a procedural device for the purposes of refining the motion, it is not a motion in its own right. As such, a member speaking to an amendment will be taken to have spoken to the motion. Similarly, a member that has spoken to a motion prior to the proposed amendment is not permitted to speak to the amendment, in the absence of leave of the meeting.

### **Regulation 13—Amendments to motions**

- (1) A member who has not spoken to a motion at an earlier stage of the debate may move or second an amendment to the motion.
- (2) An amendment will lapse if it is not seconded at the appropriate time.
- (3) A person who moves or seconds an amendment (and, if he or she chooses to do so, speaks to the amendment) will, in so doing, be taken to have spoken to the motion to which the amendment relates, **unless at the time of moving or seconding the amendment, the mover or seconder reserves their right to speak to later in the debate, in which case the mover or seconder will not be taken to have spoken to the amendment, or the motion to which the amendment relates.**
- (4) If an amendment is lost, only 1 further amendment may be moved to the original motion.
- (5) If an amendment is carried, only 1 further amendment may be moved to the original motion.
- (6) Subregulations (1), (3), (4) and (5) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (6) Where possible, amendments are to be provided to the minute taker in writing to ensure accuracy of recording in the minutes.
- (7) For the purposes of Regulation 13(2), the presiding member is to ask for a seconder before declaring that an amendment has lapsed.

### Regulation 14—Variations etc

- (1) The mover of a motion or amendment may, with the consent of the seconder, request leave of the meeting to vary, alter or withdraw the motion or amendment.
- (2) The presiding member must immediately put the question for leave to be granted and no debate will be allowed on that question.

### Regulation 15—Addresses by members etc

- (1) A member must not speak for longer than **3 minutes** at any 1 time without leave of the meeting.
- (2) A member may, with leave of the meeting, raise a matter of urgency.
- (3) A member may, with leave of the meeting, make a personal explanation.
- (4) The subject matter of a personal explanation may not be debated.
- (5) The contribution of a member must be relevant to the subject matter of the debate.
- (6) Subregulations (1) and (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (1) A member at a Council meeting held in person (as opposed to electronically) is to stand at the meeting to make an address to other members unless:
  - 7.1 that member is prevented from doing so due to physical disability;
  - 7.2 the item is discussed in Confidence; or
  - 7.3 the presiding member determines otherwise.
- (2) A member who wishes to speak at a Council meeting held electronically is required to raise their hand ~~electronically~~ to indicate to the presiding member that they wish to speak, who will then call upon them in turn.
- (3) The presiding member shall reserve their contribution to the end of the debate (but before the mover speaks in reply) so as to avoid any suggestion of 'leading' the meeting. Noting that the role of the presiding member is to enhance the debate and that they can ask questions and add valuable information to the debate that the meeting may not be fully aware of.

### Regulation 16—Voting

- (1) The presiding member, or any other member, may ask the chief executive officer to read out a motion

before a vote is taken.

- (2) The presiding member will, in taking a vote, ask for the votes of those members in favour of the question and then for the votes of those members against the question (and may do so as often as is necessary to enable him or her to determine the result of the voting), and will then declare the outcome.
- (3) A person who is not in his or her seat is not permitted to vote.
- (4) Subregulation (3)—
  - (a) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6; and
  - (b) does not apply in relation to a member participating in a council committee meeting by telephone or electronic means approved in accordance with procedures determined by the council or council committee for the purposes of section 89 of the Act.

**OR**

- ~~(4) Subregulation (3)—~~
- ~~(a) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6;~~
  - ~~(b) does not apply in relation to a member participating in a council committee meeting by telephone or electronic means approved in accordance with procedures determined by the council or council committee for the purposes of section 89 of the Act; and~~
  - ~~(c) is varied in relation to a member participating in a council meeting by electronic means such that the reference to “not in his or her seat” is taken to include a disconnection of the electronic means.~~
- ~~(5) In this regulation—~~
- ~~**disconnection of the electronic means** includes—~~
- ~~(a) ending a telephone connection such that the discussion and voting at the meeting cannot be heard;~~
  - ~~(b) ending a video conferencing connection such that the discussion and voting at the meeting cannot be seen or heard;~~
  - ~~(c) logging out of a virtual meeting room or space such that the discussion and voting at the meeting cannot be seen or heard;~~
  - ~~(d) signing out of a virtual meeting room or space such that the discussion and voting at the meeting cannot be seen or heard; or~~
  - ~~(e) disconnecting any other electronic means such that the discussion and voting at the meeting cannot be seen or heard.~~

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (6) Each item of business on the agenda is to be voted on separately.
- (7) A member who is unable to stand due to injury, illness, infirmity, disability or other cause, must advise the presiding member that they require special arrangements to be made in order for their vote to be adequately signaled to those persons present, and it is accurately recorded in the minutes (particularly relevant in the case of a division being called). The presiding member may, in consultation with the member concerned, determine the manner in which the member is to signal their vote and will communicate this to the meeting.

#### **Regulation 17—Divisions**

- (1) A division will be taken at the request of a member.

- (2) If a division is called for, it must be taken immediately and the previous decision of the presiding member as to whether the motion was carried or lost is set aside.
- (3) The division will be taken as follows:
  - (a) the members voting in the affirmative will, until the vote is recorded, stand in their places;
  - (b) the members voting in the negative will, until the vote is recorded, sit in their seats;
  - (c) the presiding member will count the number of votes and then declare the outcome.

**OR**

- ~~(3) The division will be taken as follows:~~
- ~~(a) subject to subregulation (3a), the members voting in the affirmative will, until the vote is recorded, stand in their places;~~
  - ~~(b) subject to subregulation (3a), the members voting in the negative will, until the vote is recorded, sit in their seats;~~
  - ~~(c) the presiding member will count the number of votes and then declare the outcome.~~
- ~~(3a) Where a member is participating in a meeting by electronic means which has audio only, the member will provide a verbal indication of voting in the affirmative or voting in the negative.~~
- (4) The chief executive officer will record in the minutes the names of members who voted in the affirmative and the names of the members who voted in the negative (in addition to the result of the vote).
  - (5) Subregulation (3) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation

## 6. Regulation 18—Tabling of information

- (1) A member may require the chief executive officer to table any documents of the council relating to a motion that is before a meeting (and the chief executive officer must then table the documents within a reasonable time, or at a time determined by the presiding member after taking into account the wishes of the meeting, and if the member who has required the tabling indicates that he or she is unwilling to vote on the motion until the documents are tabled, then the matter must not be put to the vote until the documents are tabled).
- (2) The chief executive officer may, in tabling a document, indicate that in his or her opinion consideration should be given to dealing with the document on a confidential basis under section 90 or 91 of the Act.

## Regulation 19—Adjourned business

- (1) If a formal motion for a substantive motion to be adjourned is carried—
  - (a) the adjournment may either be to a later hour of the same day, to another day, or to another place; and
  - (b) the debate will, on resumption, continue from the point at which it was adjourned.
- (2) If debate is interrupted for want of a quorum and the meeting is then adjourned, the debate will, on resumption, continue from the point at which it was interrupted.
- (3) Business adjourned from a previous meeting must be dealt with before any new business at a subsequent meeting.
- (4) The provisions of this regulation may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

## **Regulation 20—Short-term suspension of proceedings**

- (1) If the presiding member considers that the conduct of a meeting would benefit from suspending the operation of all or some of the provisions of this Division for a period of time in order to allow or facilitate informal discussions, the presiding member may, with the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting, suspend the operation of this Division (or any part of this Division) for a period determined by the presiding member.
- (2) The Guiding Principles must be taken into account when considering whether to act under subregulation (1).
- (3) If a suspension occurs under subregulation (1)—
  - (a) a note of the suspension, including the reasons for and period of suspension, must be entered in the minutes; and
  - (b) the meeting may proceed provided that a quorum is maintained but, during the period of suspension—
    - (i) the provisions of the Act must continue to be observed<sup>1</sup>; and
    - (ii) no act or discussion will have any status or significance under the provisions which have been suspended; and
    - (iii) no motion may be moved, seconded, amended or voted on, other than a motion that the period of suspension should be brought to an end; and
  - (c) the period of suspension should be limited to achieving the purpose for which it was declared; and
  - (d) the period of suspension will come to an end if—
    - (i) the presiding member determines that the period should be brought to an end; or
    - (ii) at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting resolve that the period should be brought to an end.

**Note—**

- 1 See particularly Part 4 of Chapter 5, and Chapter 6, of the Act.

## **Regulation 21 —Chief executive officer may submit report recommending revocation or amendment of council decision**

- (1) The chief executive officer may submit a report to the council recommending the revocation or amendment of a resolution passed since the last general election of the council.
- (2) The chief executive officer must ensure that the report is placed on the agenda for the meeting at which the report is to be considered.
- (3) The provisions of this regulation may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

## **Part 3—Meetings of other committees**

### **Regulation 22—Application of Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to or in relation to the meetings of any council committee that is not subject to the

operation of Part 2.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (1) A member at a Council Committee meeting may remain seated when speaking to a matter being considered at a Committee meeting.
- ~~(2)~~ This Part 3 applies to the Alwyndor Management Committee, Audit Committee, Executive Committee and the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee.
- ~~(2)~~(3) In accordance with section 90 (7a) of the Act, Committee members are able to attend the meeting electronically or via phone provided that members of the public can hear the discussion between all committee members.

### Regulation 23—Notice of meetings for members

Pursuant to section 87(15) of the Act, section 87 is modified in its application in relation to the meetings of a committee to which this Part applies as if subsections (4) and (7) to (10) of that section provided as follows:

- (a) that notice of a meeting of the committee may be given in a form determined by the committee after taking into account the nature and purpose of the committee;
- (b) that notice need not be given for each meeting separately;
- (c) that if ordinary meetings of the committee have a set agenda then notice of such a meeting need not contain, or be accompanied by, the agenda for the meeting;
- (d) that it is not necessary for the chief executive officer to ensure that each member of the committee at the time that notice of a meeting is given is supplied with a copy of any documents or reports that are to be considered at the meeting.

### Regulation 24—Public notice of committee meetings

Pursuant to section 88(7) of the Act, section 88 is modified in its application in relation to the meetings of a committee to which this Part applies as if subsections (2), (3) and (4) provided as follows:

- (a) that public notice need not be given for each meeting separately; and
- (b) that public notice may be given by displaying a notice and agenda in a place or places determined by the chief executive officer after taking into account the nature and purpose of the committee.

### Regulation 25—Minutes

- (1) The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting must include—
  - (a) the names of the members present at the meeting; and
  - (b) each motion carried at the meeting; and
  - (c) any disclosure of interest made by a member; and
  - (d) details of the making of an order under subsection (2) of section 90 of the Act (see subsection (7) of that section); and
  - (e) a note of the making of an order under subsection (7) of section 91 of the Act in accordance with the requirements of subsection (9) of that section.
- (2) The minutes of the proceedings at a meeting must be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting or, if that is omitted, at a subsequent meeting.



## **Part 4—Miscellaneous**

### **Regulation 26—Quorum for committees**

- (1) The prescribed number of members of a council committee constitutes a quorum of the committee and no business can be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) For the purposes of this regulation, the ***prescribed number*** of members of a council committee is—
  - (a) unless paragraph (b) applies—a number ascertained by dividing the total number of members of the committee by 2, ignoring any fraction resulting from the division, and adding 1; or
  - (b) a number determined by the council.

#### **Note—**

See also section 41(6) of the Act.

### **Regulation 27—Voting at committee meetings**

- (1) Subject to the Act and these regulations, a question arising for decision at a meeting of a council committee will be decided by a majority of the votes cast by the members present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the question.
- (2) Each member of a council who is a member of a council committee and who is present at a meeting of the committee must, subject to a provision of the Act to the contrary, vote on a question arising for decision at that meeting.
- (3) The presiding member of a council committee has a deliberative vote on a question arising for decision at the meeting but does not, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (4) Each member of a Council Committee who is present at a meeting of the Committee, must, subject to a provision of the Act to the contrary, vote on a question for decision at that meeting.
- (5) If a vote is tied and cannot be resolved by the Committee the matter is to be considered as lost.

### **Regulation 28—Points of order**

- (1) The presiding member may call to order a member who is in breach of the Act or these regulations.
- (2) A member may draw to the attention of the presiding member a breach of the Act or these regulations, and must state briefly the nature of the alleged breach.
- (3) A point of order takes precedence over all other business until determined.
- (4) The presiding member will rule on a point of order.
- (5) If an objection is taken to the ruling of the presiding member, a motion that the ruling not be agreed with must be moved immediately.
- (6) The presiding member is entitled to make a statement in support of the ruling before a motion under subregulation (5) is put.
- (7) A resolution under subregulation (5) binds the meeting and, if a ruling is not agreed with—
  - (a) the ruling has no effect; and

- (b) the point of order is annulled.

### **Regulation 29—Interruption of meetings by members**

- (1) A member of a council or council committee must not, while at a meeting—
  - (a) behave in an improper or disorderly manner; or
  - (b) cause an interruption or interrupt another member who is speaking.
- (2) Subregulation (1)(b) does not apply to a member who is—
  - (a) objecting to words used by a member who is speaking; or
  - (b) calling attention to a point of order; or
  - (c) calling attention to want of a quorum.
- (3) If the presiding member considers that a member may have acted in contravention of subregulation (1), the member must be allowed to make a personal explanation.
- (4) Subject to complying with subregulation (3), the relevant member must leave the meeting while the matter is considered by the meeting.
- (5) If the remaining members resolve that a contravention of subregulation (1) has occurred, those members may, by resolution—
  - (a) censure the member; or
  - (b) suspend the member for a part, or for the remainder, of the meeting.
- (6) A member who—
  - (a) refuses to leave a meeting in contravention of subregulation (4); or
  - (b) enters a meeting in contravention of a suspension under subregulation (5), is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$1 250.

### **Regulation 30—Interruption of meetings by others**

A member of the public who is present at a meeting of a council or council committee must not—

- (c) behave in a disorderly manner; or
- (d) cause an interruption.

Maximum penalty: \$500.

## **City of Holdfast Bay - Miscellaneous Meeting Procedures**

### **1. Pre-Meeting**

- 1.1 Members are required to submit their activity reports in writing to the Chief Executive Officer no less than 6 clear days prior to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Tuesday).

- 1.2 A member's activity report less than 6 clear days after the time specified in paragraph 1.1

above will be treated as an item at the next subsequent meeting.

## **2. Agenda**

- 2.2 There will be no Item of “Other business” on the agenda for meetings. Sufficient opportunity is afforded to members to raise any issue in accordance with this Code of Practice, the Act and the Regulations.
- 2.3 The presiding member may alter the order of the agenda, subject to the leave of the Council or Committee, where it is expedient to do so e.g. if there are public in the gallery interested in a particular item in the agenda.

## **3. Fire Evacuation Process**

A copy of the Fire Evacuation process will be displayed in the Council chamber.

## **4. Meeting Protocols**

Council and Committee meetings will conclude no later than 10.30pm, unless the meeting formally resolves on each specific occasion to continue beyond that time. When a meeting is likely to continue beyond 10.30pm a motion is to be put to the meeting whether to continue or adjourn to another date and time.

## **5. Appointment to External Bodies**

- 5.1 The presiding member is to call for nominations before debate on a motion to appoint members to Committees and/or organisations (Council and external) can occur. If there are more nominations than positions a ballot will be conducted.
- 5.2 All elected members (including the presiding member) will indicate which member(s) they wish to vote for on the ballot paper (or where the meeting is by electronic means through electronic voting methods).
- 5.3 A senior council officer will conduct the count and provide the vote outcome to the Chief Executive Officer, who is to report the numbers to the presiding member and confirm the vote count.
- 5.4 In the case of a tied ballot, elected members are to cast a further vote for their preferred candidate from the candidates who are tied (repeat paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 above). In the event that a revote cannot determine a clear winner (there is a continuing tie), then lots must be drawn to determine which candidate(s) will be excluded.
- 5.5 The presiding member will then announce the successful candidate.
- 5.6 The meeting will then make the appointment by resolution.

## **6. Mobile Telephones**

- 6.1 Mobile telephones may not be used during a Council or Committee meeting by members or Council officers.
- 6.2 Mobile telephones may not be used during a Council workshop by members or Council officers for non-Council or non-emergency use [Council resolution C280921/2420].
- 6.3 Mobile telephones must be switched off or turned to silent mode before a meeting commences.

# Attachment 3





# **Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures**

**Adopted by Council 28 September 2021  
Updated by Council 14 June 2022**

**Review by 30 June 2024**

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## Introduction

The City of Holdfast Bay is committed to the principles of honest, open and accountable government and encourages community participation in the business of Council.

The *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* (the 'Regulations') stipulate the statutory procedures to be undertaken during the operation of Council and Committee meetings. Under the Regulations, Council may adopt a Code of Practice for its own meetings, which varies the provisions that are capable of variation.

Sections 86(8) and 89(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) provides that where a procedure is not prescribed by regulation, Council (or a Council Committee when Council does not determine the procedures for the Committee) can determine its own procedures, provided it is not inconsistent with the Act or Regulations.

This document is the City of Holdfast Bay's Code of Practice for Procedures at Meetings, which provides for:

- variations to the meeting procedures prescribed in the Regulations which have been adopted by Council (inserted in **red** text to enable them to be read in conjunction with the formal requirements of the Regulations);
- supplementary City of Holdfast Bay meeting procedures that apply to both Council and Committee meetings (unless stated otherwise)- see grey shaded areas and the 'Miscellaneous Meeting Procedures';
- guidelines on how Council and Committee meetings are to be conducted; and
- guidance to the community on how meetings of Council are conducted.

As recommended by the Regulations (Regulation 6(2)), this Code of Practice should be reviewed at least once in every financial year and the Council may at any time, by resolution supported by at least two-thirds of members, alter, substitute or revoke the Code of Practice (Regulation 6(3)).

# **Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013** **(including Variations)**

## **Part 1—Preliminary**

### **Regulation 1—Short title**

These regulations may be cited as the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013*.

### **Regulation 2—Commencement**

These regulations will come into operation on 1 January 2014.

### **Regulation 3—Interpretation**

(1) In these regulations, unless the contrary intention appears—

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*;

**clear days** (see subregulations (2) and (3));

**deputation** means a person or group of persons who wish to appear personally before a council or council committee in order to address the council or committee (as the case may be) on a particular matter;

**electronic means** includes a telephone, computer or other electronic device used for communication;

**formal motion** means a motion—

(a) that the meeting proceed to the next business; or

(b) that the question be put; or

(c) that the question lie on the table; or

(d) that the question be adjourned; or

(e) that the meeting be adjourned 1;

**Guiding Principles**—see regulation 4;

**member** means a member of the council or council committee (as the case may be);

**point of order** means a point raised to draw attention to an alleged breach of the Act or these regulations in relation to the proceedings of a meeting;

**presiding member** means the person who is the presiding member of a council or council committee (as the case may be) and includes any person who is presiding at a particular meeting;

**written notice** includes a notice given in a manner or form determined by the council;

(2) In the calculation of **clear days** in relation to the giving of notice before a meeting—

(a) the day on which the notice is given, and the day on which the meeting occurs, will not be taken into account; and

(b) Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays will be taken into account.

(3) For the purposes of the calculation of **clear days** under subregulation (2), if a notice is given after 5 p.m. on a day, the notice will be taken to have been given on the next day.

(4) For the purposes of these regulations, a vote on whether **leave of the meeting** is granted may be conducted by a show of hands (but nothing in this subregulation prevents a division from being called in



relation to the vote).

**Note—**

1 See regulation 12 for specific provisions about formal motions.

**City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (7) For the purposes of the definition of ‘written notice’ in Regulation 3 above, the Council has determined that written notice will include a legibly hand written or typed document provided in either hard copy or electronic format.

**Regulation 4—Guiding Principles**

The following principles (the *Guiding Principles*) should be applied with respect to the procedures to be observed at a meeting of a council or a council committee:

- (a) procedures should be fair and contribute to open, transparent and informed decision-making;
- (b) procedures should encourage appropriate community participation in the affairs of the council;
- (c) procedures should reflect levels of formality appropriate to the nature and scope of responsibilities exercised at the meeting;
- (d) procedures should be sufficiently certain to give the community and decision-makers confidence in the deliberations undertaken at the meeting.

**Part 2—Meetings of councils and key committees**

**Regulation 5—Application of Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to or in relation to—

- (a) the meetings of a council; and
- (b) the meetings of a council committee performing regulatory activities; and
- (c) the meetings of any other council committee if the council has, by resolution, determined that this Part should apply to that committee.

**City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- ( ) This Part 2 applies to the Strategic Planning and Development Policy Committee.

## Regulation 6—Discretionary procedures

- (1) Subject to the requirements of the Act, if a provision of this Part is expressed to be capable of being varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to this regulation, then a council may, by a resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, determine that a code of practice prepared or adopted by the council that establishes its own procedures for the relevant matter or matters will apply in substitution for the relevant provision (and such a determination will have effect according to its terms).
- (2) A council should, at least once in every financial year, review the operation of a code of practice under this regulation.
- (3) A council may at any time, by resolution supported by at least two-thirds of the members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, alter a code of practice, or substitute or revoke a code of practice.
- (4) A council must, in considering the exercise of a power under this regulation, take into account the Guiding Principles.
- (5) A person is entitled to inspect (without charge) the code of practice of a council under this regulation at the principal office of the council during ordinary office hours.
- (6) A person is entitled, on payment of a fee fixed by the council, to a copy of the code of practice.
- (7) Regulation 12(4) does not apply to a motion under subregulation (3).
- (8) This regulation does not limit or derogate from the operation of regulation 20<sup>1</sup>.

### Note—

- 1 Furthermore, if a matter is not dealt with by the Act or these regulations (including under a code of practice under this regulation), then the relevant procedure will be—
  - (a) as determined by the council; or
  - (b) in the case of a council committee where a determination has not been made by the council— as determined by the committee.

(See sections 86(8) and 89(1) of the Act.)

## Regulation 7—Commencement of meetings and quorums

- (1) A meeting will commence as soon after the time specified in the notice of meeting as a quorum is present.
- (2) If the number of apologies received by the chief executive officer indicates that a quorum will not be present at a meeting, the chief executive officer may adjourn the meeting to a specified day and time.
- (3) If at the expiration of 30 minutes from the time specified in the notice of meeting as the time of commencement a quorum is not present, the presiding member or, in the absence of a presiding member, the chief executive officer, will adjourn the meeting to a specified day and time.
- (4) If a meeting is adjourned for want of a quorum, the chief executive officer will record in the minute book the reason for the adjournment, the names of any members present, and the date and time to which the meeting is adjourned.
- (5) If a meeting is adjourned to another day, the chief executive officer must—
  - (a) give notice of the adjourned meeting to each member setting out the date, time and place of the meeting; and
  - (b) give notice of the adjourned meeting to the public by causing a notice setting out the date, time and place of the meeting to be placed on display at the principal office of the council.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (6) The following will appear at the beginning of all Council and Committee Meetings and will be read by the presiding member at the commencement of each meeting:

#### **Kurna Acknowledgement**

*We acknowledge Kurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.*

*We respect their spiritual relationship with country that has developed over thousands of years, and the cultural heritage and beliefs that remain important to Kurna People today.*

#### **Service to Country Acknowledgement**

*The City of Holdfast Bay would like to acknowledge all personnel who have served in the Australian forces and services, including volunteers, for our country.*

#### **Council Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, we pray for your presence and guidance at our Council Meeting.*

*Grant us your wisdom and protect our integrity as we carry out the powers and responsibilities entrusted to us on behalf of the community that we serve.*

- (7) At the appropriate place on the agenda the presiding member will draw the attention of members to the Disclosure Statement relating to sections 73, 74, 75 and 75A of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Any disclosure of interest will be recorded in the Minutes.
- (8) The Chair of a Committee or any member of a Committee may provide apologies to the relevant Council officer at a meeting of a section 41 Committee, in which case, the apologies will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (9) The proceedings of a Council or Committee meeting are not permitted to be photographed or recorded in any way by members of the public unless permission is specifically sought and given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting.

## Regulation 8—Minutes

- (1) The minutes of the proceedings at a meeting must be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting or, if that is omitted, at a subsequent meeting.
- (2) No discussion on the minutes may occur before confirmation, except as to the accuracy of the minutes as a record of proceedings.
- (3) On the confirmation of the minutes, the presiding member will—
  - (a) initial each page of the minutes, which pages are to be consecutively numbered; and
  - (b) place his or her signature and the date of confirmation at the foot of the last page of the minutes.
- (4) The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting must include—
  - (a) the names of the members present at the meeting; and
  - (b) in relation to each member present—
    - (i) the time at which the person entered or left the meeting; and
    - (ii) unless the person is present for the whole meeting, the point in the proceedings at which the person entered or left the meeting; and
  - (c) each motion or amendment, and the names of the mover and seconder; and
  - (d) any variation, alteration or withdrawal of a motion or amendment; and
  - (e) whether a motion or amendment is carried or lost; and
  - (f) any disclosure of interest made by a member ; and
  - (g) an account of any personal explanation given by a member; and
  - (h) details of the making of an order under subsection (2) of section 90 of the Act (see subsection (7) of that section); and
  - (i) a note of the making of an order under subsection (7) of section 91 of the Act in accordance with the requirements of subsection (9) of that section; and
  - (j) details of any adjournment of business; and
  - (k) a record of any request for documents to be tabled at the meeting; and
  - (l) a record of any documents tabled at the meeting; and
  - (m) a description of any oral briefing given to the meeting on a matter of council business; and
  - (n) any other matter required to be included in the minutes by or under the Act or any regulation.

### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (5) Minutes will be made available electronically to members and placed on Council's website within 5 days of the meeting.
- (6) Minutes will include any Apologies, Leave of Absences granted and Absences.
- (7) The name(s) of person(s) wishing to appear as a deputation and the subject matter will be recorded in the minutes of a Council or Committee meeting, but the details of the content of the deputation will not be included.
- (8) The minutes of Council and Committee meetings will not include voting patterns, or record the names of individuals voting for and against, other than in the case of a division.
- (9) For the purposes of Regulation 8(4)(f), in the case of a material conflict of interest, the minutes must record the details specified under section 74(5) of the Act, and in the case of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, the details specified under section 75A(4) of the Act.

### **Regulation 9—Questions**

- (1) A member may ask a question on notice by giving the chief executive officer written notice of the question at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the question is to be asked.
- (2) If notice of a question is given under subregulation (1)—
  - (a) the chief executive officer must ensure that the question is placed on the agenda for the meeting at which the question is to be asked; and
  - (b) the question and the reply must be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting.
- (3) A member may ask a question without notice at a meeting.
- (4) The presiding member may allow the reply to a question without notice to be given at the next meeting.
- (5) A question without notice and the reply will not be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting unless the members present at the meeting resolve that an entry should be made.
- (6) The presiding member may rule that a question with or without notice not be answered if the presiding member considers that the question is vague, irrelevant, insulting or improper.

### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (7) Questions on notice are required to be received by the Chief Executive Officer no later than 5.00pm, 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the question is to be asked (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Monday).
- (8) A question received after the timeframe specified in City of Holdfast Bay provision 7 above will be treated as a question for a subsequent meeting of the Council.
- (9) The answer to a question on notice is to be circulated in writing at the Council Meeting at which the

question is asked. If it is not possible for the Administration to compile an answer in the time prior to the Council Meeting, the reason is to be recorded in the minutes and the answers provided at the next available Council Meeting.

- (10) For the purposes of Regulation 9(6), the presiding member must give reasons for ruling that a question with or without notice not be answered at the time the determination is made. The reasons will be communicated to the member who asked the question.
- (11) A member may ask a question prior to the moving of a motion or during debate on a motion (or an amendment) for clarification purposes only, without losing their right to speak to the motion (or the amendment). Questions should be succinct and relevant to the matter and not a statement.
- (12) Questions asked during the course of discussion or debate in a meeting that requires an answer will be directed to the presiding member, and will not be asked directly to a member or officer. Answers given in response to such questions will also be directed to the presiding member.

## **Regulation 10—Petitions**

- (1) A petition to the council must—
  - (a) be legibly written or typed or printed; and
  - (b) clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners; and
  - (c) include the name and address of each person who signed or endorsed the petition; and
  - (d) be addressed to the council and delivered to the principal office of the council.
- (2) If a petition is received under subregulation (1), the chief executive officer must ensure that the petition or, if the council has so determined as a policy of the council, a statement as to the nature of the request or submission and the number of signatures or the number of persons endorsing the petition, is placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the council or, if so provided by a policy of the council, a committee of the council.
- (3) Subregulation (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (4) Each page of a petition is to be presented by the head petitioner to Council's Administration and identify the name and contact details of the head petitioner.
- (5) Each page of a petition presented to Council is to restate the whole of the request or submission of the petitioners.
- (6) Where a page of a petition does not comply with City of Holdfast Bay provision 5 above, the signatures on that page are not to be taken into account by the Council when considering the petition.
- (7) A petition to the Council must be received no less than 6 clear days prior to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Tuesday), or the date at which the head petitioner requests that the petition be presented to the Council. Petitions received less than 6 clear days will be tabled at the next subsequent meeting.

- (8) On receipt of a petition, a summary report providing the statement as to the nature of the request or submission of the petitioners, and the number of signatures with name and address details (address includes street name and/or suburb name) on the petition, will be placed on the agenda for the next ordinary council meeting, subject to provision 7 above. A full copy of the petition will be available for viewing upon request, but will not be placed on the agenda.
- (9) Signatures without name and address details will not be counted as valid signatories.
- (10) Online petitions will be dealt with as above and must meet the following requirements to be presented to Council:
  - the petition must clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners
  - the names and addresses of each signatory must be clearly identified (in the case of an address, this must be by reference to at least a street and suburb)
  - the petition must be provided to Council either by mail (including email) or in person.

### **Regulation 11—Deputations**

- (1) A person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must deliver (to the principal office of the council) a written request to the council.
- (2) The chief executive officer must transmit a request received under subregulation (1) to the presiding member.
- (3) The presiding member may refuse to allow the deputation to appear at a meeting.
- (4) The chief executive officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that the person or persons who requested a deputation are informed of the outcome of the request.
- (5) If the presiding member refuses to allow a deputation to appear at a meeting, the presiding member must report the decision to the next meeting of the council or council committee (as the case may be).
- (6) The council or council committee may resolve to allow a deputation to appear despite a contrary ruling by the presiding member.
- (7) A council may refer the hearing of a deputation to a council committee.

### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (8) A request for a deputation to the Council must be received no less than 6 clear days prior to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Tuesday). Any request for a deputation received after this time will be treated as a request to appear at the next subsequent meeting.
- (9) Any person(s) wishing to appear as a deputation on behalf of an organisation, must, prior to the Council or Committee meeting at which they wish to appear, advise the Chief Executive Officer in writing of the date of formation and/or incorporation of their organisation, provide a copy of the Constitution and/or Rules of the organisation, a list of members, and evidence in the form of a minute that the organisation and/or body has approved the deputation.

- (10) Where an organisation has provided its incorporation details as outlined in provision 8 above, it will not be required to provide this information again for the term of the current Council.
- (11) A deputation may not exceed 3 people and must not exceed 5 minutes in total, not including questions from members at the end of the deputation, except with the consent of the presiding member.

## Regulation 12—Motions

- (1) A member may bring forward any business in the form of a written notice of motion.
- (2) The notice of motion must be given to the chief executive officer at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be moved.
- (3) A motion the effect of which, if carried, would be to revoke or amend a resolution passed since the last general election of the council must be brought by written notice of motion.
- (4) If a motion under subregulation (3) is lost, a motion to the same effect cannot be brought—
  - (a) until after the expiration of 12 months; or
  - (b) until after the next general election, whichever is the sooner.
- (5) Subject to the Act and these regulations, a member may also bring forward any business by way of a motion without notice.
- (6) The presiding member may refuse to accept a motion without notice if, after taking into account the Guiding Principles, he or she considers that the motion should be dealt with by way of a written notice of motion.
- (7) The presiding member may refuse to accept a motion if the subject matter is, in his or her opinion, beyond the power of the council or council committee (as the case may be).
- (8) A motion will lapse if it is not seconded at the appropriate time.
- (9) A member moving or seconding a motion will speak to the motion at the time of moving or seconding the motion, **unless the seconder reserves their right to speak to the motion at a later stage of the debate, in which case the seconder will not be considered to have spoken to the motion.**
- (10) A member may only speak once to a motion (**which includes speaking to an amendment to a motion**) except—
  - (a) to provide an explanation in regard to a material part of his or her speech, but not so as to introduce any new matter; or
  - (b) with leave of the meeting; or
  - (c) as the mover in reply.
- (11) A member who has spoken to a motion **or has reserved their right to speak to the motion at a later stage pursuant to sub-regulation (9)** may not at a later stage of the debate move or second an amendment to the motion.
- (12) A member who has not spoken in the debate on a question may move a formal motion.
- (13) A formal motion must be in the form of a motion set out in subregulation (14) (and no other formal motion to a different effect will be recognised).
- (14) If the formal motion is—



- (a) that ***the meeting proceed to the next business***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is, in the case of an amendment, that the amendment lapses and the meeting proceeds with the consideration of the motion before the meeting without further reference to the amendment and, in the case of a motion, that the motion lapses and the meeting proceeds to the next item of business; or
  - (b) that ***the question be put***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that debate is terminated and the question put to the vote by the presiding member without further debate; or
  - (c) that ***the question lie on the table***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the meeting immediately moves to the next item of business and the question can then only be retrieved at a later time by resolution (and, if so retrieved, debate is then resumed at the point of interruption); or
  - (d) that ***the question be adjourned***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the question is disposed of for the time being but debate can be resumed at the later time (at the point of interruption); or
  - (e) that ***the meeting be adjourned***, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the meeting is brought to an end immediately without the consideration of further business.
- (15) If seconded, a formal motion takes precedence and will be put by the presiding member without discussion unless the motion is for an adjournment (in which case discussion may occur (but only occur) on the details for resumption).
- (16) A formal motion does not constitute an amendment to a substantive motion.
- (17) If a formal motion is lost—
- (a) the meeting will be resumed at the point at which it was interrupted; and
  - (b) if the formal motion was put during debate (and not at the end of debate) on a question, then a similar formal motion (ie a motion to the same effect) cannot be put until at least 1 member has spoken on the question.
- (18) A formal motion for adjournment must include the reason for the adjournment and the details for resumption.
- (19) Any question that lies on the table as a result of a successful formal motion under subregulation (14)(c) lapses at the next general election.
- (20) The chief executive officer must report on each question that lapses under subregulation (19) to the council at the first ordinary meeting of the council after the general election.
- (21) Subregulations (9), (10) and (11) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (22) All notices of motion are required to be received by the Chief Executive Officer no later than 5.00pm 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be moved (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Monday).
- (23) A notice of motion received after the time specified in City of Holdfast Bay provision 22 above will be treated as a notice of motion for a subsequent meeting of the Council.

- (24) When placing a motion with notice in an agenda, the Chief Executive Officer may take the opportunity to provide written comments to assist the Council to make an informed decision in relation to the item (Administrative comments).
- (25) A member may ask a question prior to the moving of a motion, or during debate on a motion (including debate on an amendment to the motion), for clarification purposes only, without losing their right to speak to the motion. Questions should be succinct and relevant to the matter and not a statement.
- (26) A motion without notice (unrelated to an agenda item of business) will not be accepted for debate at the meeting at which it is brought forward unless:
  - the presiding member determines that the matter is one of urgency; and
  - in the opinion of the presiding member, the motion relates to an issue that does not require additional information in order to make an informed decision on the motion.
- (27) A member wishing to move a motion that is different from that recommended in a Council report is encouraged to make available a written copy of their proposed motion to assist the presiding member in the conduct of the meeting.
- (28) Where a member who has given notice of motion in accordance with Regulation 12(2) is absent from the meeting at which the motion is to be considered, the motion will be adjourned to the next meeting, unless the presiding member has received written authority from the member in advance of the meeting for a different member to move the notice of motion.
- (29) For the purposes of Regulation 12(8), the presiding member is to ask for a seconder before declaring that an amendment has lapsed.
- (30) For the purposes of Regulation 12(10), an amendment to a motion is an alteration to the wording of a motion. It is a procedural device for the purposes of refining the motion, it is not a motion in its own right. As such, a member speaking to an amendment will be taken to have spoken to the motion. Similarly, a member that has spoken to a motion prior to the proposed amendment is not permitted to speak to the amendment, in the absence of leave of the meeting.

### **Regulation 13—Amendments to motions**

- (1) A member who has not spoken to a motion at an earlier stage of the debate may move or second an amendment to the motion.
- (2) An amendment will lapse if it is not seconded at the appropriate time.
- (3) A person who moves or seconds an amendment (and, if he or she chooses to do so, speaks to the amendment) will, in so doing, be taken to have spoken to the motion to which the amendment relates, **unless at the time of moving or seconding the amendment, the mover or seconder reserves their right to speak to later in the debate, in which case the mover or seconder will not be taken to have spoken to the amendment, or the motion to which the amendment relates.**
- (4) If an amendment is lost, only 1 further amendment may be moved to the original motion.
- (5) If an amendment is carried, only 1 further amendment may be moved to the original motion.
- (6) Subregulations (1), (3), (4) and (5) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (6) Where possible, amendments are to be provided to the minute taker in writing to ensure accuracy of recording in the minutes.
- (7) For the purposes of Regulation 13(2), the presiding member is to ask for a seconder before declaring that an amendment has lapsed.

### Regulation 14—Variations etc

- (1) The mover of a motion or amendment may, with the consent of the seconder, request leave of the meeting to vary, alter or withdraw the motion or amendment.
- (2) The presiding member must immediately put the question for leave to be granted and no debate will be allowed on that question.

### Regulation 15—Addresses by members etc

- (1) A member must not speak for longer than **3 minutes** at any 1 time without leave of the meeting.
- (2) A member may, with leave of the meeting, raise a matter of urgency.
- (3) A member may, with leave of the meeting, make a personal explanation.
- (4) The subject matter of a personal explanation may not be debated.
- (5) The contribution of a member must be relevant to the subject matter of the debate.
- (6) Subregulations (1) and (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

### City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures

- (1) A member at a Council meeting held in person (as opposed to electronically) is to stand at the meeting to make an address to other members unless:
  - 7.1 that member is prevented from doing so due to physical disability;
  - 7.2 the item is discussed in Confidence; or
  - 7.3 the presiding member determines otherwise.
- (2) A member who wishes to speak at a Council meeting held electronically is required to raise their hand to indicate to the presiding member that they wish to speak, who will then call upon them in turn.
- (3) The presiding member shall reserve their contribution to the end of the debate (but before the mover speaks in reply) so as to avoid any suggestion of 'leading' the meeting. Noting that the role of the presiding member is to enhance the debate and that they can ask questions and add valuable information to the debate that the meeting may not be fully aware of.

### Regulation 16—Voting

- (1) The presiding member, or any other member, may ask the chief executive officer to read out a motion

before a vote is taken.

- (2) The presiding member will, in taking a vote, ask for the votes of those members in favour of the question and then for the votes of those members against the question (and may do so as often as is necessary to enable him or her to determine the result of the voting), and will then declare the outcome.
- (3) A person who is not in his or her seat is not permitted to vote.
- (4) Subregulation (3)—
  - (a) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6; and
  - (b) does not apply in relation to a member participating in a council committee meeting by telephone or electronic means approved in accordance with procedures determined by the council or council committee for the purposes of section 89 of the Act.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (6) Each item of business on the agenda is to be voted on separately.
- (7) A member who is unable to stand due to injury, illness, infirmity, disability or other cause, must advise the presiding member that they require special arrangements to be made in order for their vote to be adequately signaled to those persons present, and it is accurately recorded in the minutes (particularly relevant in the case of a division being called). The presiding member may, in consultation with the member concerned, determine the manner in which the member is to signal their vote and will communicate this to the meeting.

#### **Regulation 17—Divisions**

- (1) A division will be taken at the request of a member.
- (2) If a division is called for, it must be taken immediately and the previous decision of the presiding member as to whether the motion was carried or lost is set aside.
- (3) The division will be taken as follows:
  - (a) the members voting in the affirmative will, until the vote is recorded, stand in their places;
  - (b) the members voting in the negative will, until the vote is recorded, sit in their seats;
  - (c) the presiding member will count the number of votes and then declare the outcome.
- (4) The chief executive officer will record in the minutes the names of members who voted in the affirmative and the names of the members who voted in the negative (in addition to the result of the vote).
- (5) Subregulation (3) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

## **Regulation 18—Tabling of information**

- (1) A member may require the chief executive officer to table any documents of the council relating to a motion that is before a meeting (and the chief executive officer must then table the documents within a reasonable time, or at a time determined by the presiding member after taking into account the wishes of the meeting, and if the member who has required the tabling indicates that he or she is unwilling to vote on the motion until the documents are tabled, then the matter must not be put to the vote until the documents are tabled).
- (2) The chief executive officer may, in tabling a document, indicate that in his or her opinion consideration should be given to dealing with the document on a confidential basis under section 90 or 91 of the Act.

## **Regulation 19—Adjourned business**

- (1) If a formal motion for a substantive motion to be adjourned is carried—
  - (a) the adjournment may either be to a later hour of the same day, to another day, or to another place; and
  - (b) the debate will, on resumption, continue from the point at which it was adjourned.
- (2) If debate is interrupted for want of a quorum and the meeting is then adjourned, the debate will, on resumption, continue from the point at which it was interrupted.
- (3) Business adjourned from a previous meeting must be dealt with before any new business at a subsequent meeting.
- (4) The provisions of this regulation may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

## **Regulation 20—Short-term suspension of proceedings**

- (1) If the presiding member considers that the conduct of a meeting would benefit from suspending the operation of all or some of the provisions of this Division for a period of time in order to allow or facilitate informal discussions, the presiding member may, with the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting, suspend the operation of this Division (or any part of this Division) for a period determined by the presiding member.
- (2) The Guiding Principles must be taken into account when considering whether to act under subregulation (1).
- (3) If a suspension occurs under subregulation (1)—
  - (a) a note of the suspension, including the reasons for and period of suspension, must be entered in the minutes; and
  - (b) the meeting may proceed provided that a quorum is maintained but, during the period of suspension—
    - (i) the provisions of the Act must continue to be observed<sup>1</sup>; and
    - (ii) no act or discussion will have any status or significance under the provisions which have been suspended; and
    - (iii) no motion may be moved, seconded, amended or voted on, other than a motion that the period of suspension should be brought to an end; and

- (c) the period of suspension should be limited to achieving the purpose for which it was declared; and
- (d) the period of suspension will come to an end if—
  - (i) the presiding member determines that the period should be brought to an end; or
  - (ii) at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting resolve that the period should be brought to an end.

**Note—**

- 1 See particularly Part 4 of Chapter 5, and Chapter 6, of the Act.

**Regulation 21 —Chief executive officer may submit report recommending revocation or amendment of council decision**

- (1) The chief executive officer may submit a report to the council recommending the revocation or amendment of a resolution passed since the last general election of the council.
- (2) The chief executive officer must ensure that the report is placed on the agenda for the meeting at which the report is to be considered.
- (3) The provisions of this regulation may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.

**Part 3—Meetings of other committees**

**Regulation 22—Application of Part**

The provisions of this Part apply to or in relation to the meetings of any council committee that is not subject to the operation of Part 2.

**City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (1) A member at a Council Committee meeting may remain seated when speaking to a matter being considered at a Committee meeting.
- (2) This Part 3 applies to the Alwyndor Management Committee, Audit Committee, Executive Committee and the Jetty Road Mainstreet Committee.
- (3) In accordance with section 90 (7a) of the Act, Committee members are able to attend the meeting electronically or via phone provided that members of the public can hear the discussion between all committee members.

### **Regulation 23—Notice of meetings for members**

Pursuant to section 87(15) of the Act, section 87 is modified in its application in relation to the meetings of a committee to which this Part applies as if subsections (4) and (7) to (10) of that section provided as follows:

- (a) that notice of a meeting of the committee may be given in a form determined by the committee after taking into account the nature and purpose of the committee;
- (b) that notice need not be given for each meeting separately;
- (c) that if ordinary meetings of the committee have a set agenda then notice of such a meeting need not contain, or be accompanied by, the agenda for the meeting;
- (d) that it is not necessary for the chief executive officer to ensure that each member of the committee at the time that notice of a meeting is given is supplied with a copy of any documents or reports that are to be considered at the meeting.

### **Regulation 24—Public notice of committee meetings**

Pursuant to section 88(7) of the Act, section 88 is modified in its application in relation to the meetings of a committee to which this Part applies as if subsections (2), (3) and (4) provided as follows:

- (a) that public notice need not be given for each meeting separately; and
- (b) that public notice may be given by displaying a notice and agenda in a place or places determined by the chief executive officer after taking into account the nature and purpose of the committee.

### **Regulation 25—Minutes**

- (1) The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting must include—
  - (a) the names of the members present at the meeting; and
  - (b) each motion carried at the meeting; and
  - (c) any disclosure of interest made by a member; and
  - (d) details of the making of an order under subsection (2) of section 90 of the Act (see subsection (7) of that section); and
  - (e) a note of the making of an order under subsection (7) of section 91 of the Act in accordance with the requirements of subsection (9) of that section.
- (2) The minutes of the proceedings at a meeting must be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting or, if that is omitted, at a subsequent meeting.

## **Part 4—Miscellaneous**

### **Regulation 26—Quorum for committees**

- (1) The prescribed number of members of a council committee constitutes a quorum of the committee and no business can be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) For the purposes of this regulation, the ***prescribed number*** of members of a council committee is—
  - (a) unless paragraph (b) applies—a number ascertained by dividing the total number of members of the committee by 2, ignoring any fraction resulting from the division, and adding 1; or
  - (b) a number determined by the council.

#### **Note—**

See also section 41(6) of the Act.

### **Regulation 27—Voting at committee meetings**

- (1) Subject to the Act and these regulations, a question arising for decision at a meeting of a council committee will be decided by a majority of the votes cast by the members present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the question.
- (2) Each member of a council who is a member of a council committee and who is present at a meeting of the committee must, subject to a provision of the Act to the contrary, vote on a question arising for decision at that meeting.
- (3) The presiding member of a council committee has a deliberative vote on a question arising for decision at the meeting but does not, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.

#### **City of Holdfast Bay Meeting Procedures**

- (4) Each member of a Council Committee who is present at a meeting of the Committee, must, subject to a provision of the Act to the contrary, vote on a question for decision at that meeting.
- (5) If a vote is tied and cannot be resolved by the Committee the matter is to be considered as lost.

### **Regulation 28—Points of order**

- (1) The presiding member may call to order a member who is in breach of the Act or these regulations.
- (2) A member may draw to the attention of the presiding member a breach of the Act or these regulations, and must state briefly the nature of the alleged breach.
- (3) A point of order takes precedence over all other business until determined.
- (4) The presiding member will rule on a point of order.
- (5) If an objection is taken to the ruling of the presiding member, a motion that the ruling not be agreed with must be moved immediately.
- (6) The presiding member is entitled to make a statement in support of the ruling before a motion under subregulation (5) is put.
- (7) A resolution under subregulation (5) binds the meeting and, if a ruling is not agreed with—
  - (a) the ruling has no effect; and



- (b) the point of order is annulled.

### **Regulation 29—Interruption of meetings by members**

- (1) A member of a council or council committee must not, while at a meeting—
  - (a) behave in an improper or disorderly manner; or
  - (b) cause an interruption or interrupt another member who is speaking.
- (2) Subregulation (1)(b) does not apply to a member who is—
  - (a) objecting to words used by a member who is speaking; or
  - (b) calling attention to a point of order; or
  - (c) calling attention to want of a quorum.
- (3) If the presiding member considers that a member may have acted in contravention of subregulation (1), the member must be allowed to make a personal explanation.
- (4) Subject to complying with subregulation (3), the relevant member must leave the meeting while the matter is considered by the meeting.
- (5) If the remaining members resolve that a contravention of subregulation (1) has occurred, those members may, by resolution—
  - (a) censure the member; or
  - (b) suspend the member for a part, or for the remainder, of the meeting.
- (6) A member who—
  - (a) refuses to leave a meeting in contravention of subregulation (4); or
  - (b) enters a meeting in contravention of a suspension under subregulation (5), is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$1 250.

### **Regulation 30—Interruption of meetings by others**

A member of the public who is present at a meeting of a council or council committee must not—

- (c) behave in a disorderly manner; or
- (d) cause an interruption.

Maximum penalty: \$500.

## **City of Holdfast Bay - Miscellaneous Meeting Procedures**

### **1. Pre-Meeting**

- 1.1 Members are required to submit their activity reports in writing to the Chief Executive Officer no less than 6 clear days prior to the date of the next ordinary meeting of the Council (in this case as the Council meets on a Tuesday, the deadline is 5.00pm the prior Tuesday).

- 1.2 A member's activity report less than 6 clear days after the time specified in paragraph 1.1

above will be treated as an item at the next subsequent meeting.

## **2. Agenda**

- 2.2 There will be no Item of “Other business” on the agenda for meetings. Sufficient opportunity is afforded to members to raise any issue in accordance with this Code of Practice, the Act and the Regulations.
- 2.3 The presiding member may alter the order of the agenda, subject to the leave of the Council or Committee, where it is expedient to do so e.g. if there are public in the gallery interested in a particular item in the agenda.

## **3. Fire Evacuation Process**

A copy of the Fire Evacuation process will be displayed in the Council chamber.

## **4. Meeting Protocols**

Council and Committee meetings will conclude no later than 10.30pm, unless the meeting formally resolves on each specific occasion to continue beyond that time. When a meeting is likely to continue beyond 10.30pm a motion is to be put to the meeting whether to continue or adjourn to another date and time.

## **5. Appointment to External Bodies**

- 5.1 The presiding member is to call for nominations before debate on a motion to appoint members to Committees and/or organisations (Council and external) can occur. If there are more nominations than positions a ballot will be conducted.
- 5.2 All elected members (including the presiding member) will indicate which member(s) they wish to vote for on the ballot paper (or where the meeting is by electronic means through electronic voting methods).
- 5.3 A senior council officer will conduct the count and provide the vote outcome to the Chief Executive Officer, who is to report the numbers to the presiding member and confirm the vote count.
- 5.4 In the case of a tied ballot, elected members are to cast a further vote for their preferred candidate from the candidates who are tied (repeat paragraph 5.2 and 5.3 above). In the event that a revote cannot determine a clear winner (there is a continuing tie), then lots must be drawn to determine which candidate(s) will be excluded.
- 5.5 The presiding member will then announce the successful candidate.
- 5.6 The meeting will then make the appointment by resolution.

## **6. Mobile Telephones**

- 6.1 Mobile telephones may not be used during a Council or Committee meeting by members or Council officers.
- 6.2 Mobile telephones may not be used during a Council workshop by members or Council officers for non-Council or non-emergency use [Council resolution C280921/2420].
- 6.3 Mobile telephones must be switched off or turned to silent mode before a meeting commences.

# Attachment 4



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**1. PREAMBLE**

**1.1 Purpose**

The City of Holdfast Bay understands that members of our community sometimes face challenging times. The purpose of the Financial Hardship Policy (“the Policy”) is to enable ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship the ability to make application to Council for assistance relating to rates and charges levied on a property under the *Local Government Act 1999* (“the Act”).

The Policy defines hardship and provides the framework, in accordance with the Act, for the possible granting of a deferral of the payment of rates or changes, or waiver of part or all of those rates and changes.

**1.2 Scope**

This policy applies to all ratepayers who apply for financial relief. It addresses the principles, eligibility criteria, assistance options, general assessment principles and delegations for dealing with financial hardship.

**1.4 Definitions**

**Act** – refers to the *Local Government Act 1999*

**Ratepayer** – a person or entity whose name appears in the assessment record as the owner, or occupier of a rateable property.

**Seniors** – a person who holds a State Seniors Card.

**Hardship** – refers to financial hardship which occurs when a ratepayer is unable to meet their financial commitments due to an unforeseen change in circumstances.

**Serious Financial Hardship** – refers to personal financial hardship when a ratepayer is unable to provide for basic necessities for themselves and/or their dependents.

# COUNCIL POLICY: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ~~POLICY~~

**Financial Counselling Service** – an accredited organisation or individual professionally qualified to provide financial counselling.

**Financial Hardship Procedures** – approved documented guidelines for administering Council’s Financial Hardship Policy.

## 1.5 Strategic Reference

~~Culture: Providing customer-centered services~~

~~Culture: Being financially accountable~~

~~Culture: Supporting excellent, efficient operations~~

~~Economy: Making it easier to do business~~

~~Economy: Supporting and growing local business~~

~~Community: Fostering and engaged and contributing community~~

Wellbeing: the Financial Hardship Council Policy contributes to good health and economic success in an environment and a community that supports wellbeing.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Objective

The objective of this policy is to:

- Provide assistance to ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.
- Provide a mechanism that enables people to feel comfortable approaching Council about outstanding debts and current financial hardship circumstances.
- Provide ratepayers with assurance they will be treated in a consistent, equitable and confidential manner.
- Ensure the policy is fair to all ratepayers.
- Ensure Council’s debt collection practices are sensitive, responsive to financial hardship issues and considered as a last resort.
- Demonstrate Council’s constructive culture and core values.

### 2.2 General Principles

Municipal rates constitute a majority of Council’s annual income. Council’s powers to raise rates are contained in Chapter 10 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act). Section 182 of the Act provides for the remission and postponement of rate payments.

In receiving an application for financial relief, Council will consider the following general principles:

.....

## **COUNCIL POLICY: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP-POLICY**

- a) The payment of rates will cause hardship having regard to the ratepayer's individual circumstances.
- b) The nature of the hardship, whether it is temporary due to unusual personal or economic circumstances, or hardship caused by permanent changes in life circumstances and/or financial situation, and the most appropriate measures to support the ratepayer.
- c) The additional support that could be provided to the ratepayer, including encouraging financial counselling and other support services.
- d) The extent the assistance does not have an unfair impact on other ratepayers.

Hardship does not include circumstances where a ratepayer chooses not to meet a liability for an unpaid debt.

Additional support will be considered in instances where hardship is endemic, as in the case of a pandemic or financial crisis.

### **2.3 Financial Hardship**

For the purpose of this policy, financial hardship is considered a change in circumstances which will affect the ability of a ratepayer to pay rates and charges.

Council recognises that not all circumstances are alike, and that financial hardship may arise from a range of individual circumstances, including but not limited to, the following situations:

- Unemployment
- Sickness or injury
- Family break down
- Low income or loss of income

Applications are to be assessed in a consistent manner while retaining the flexibility to respond to individual circumstances.

All relevant factors are taken into consideration and each application is assessed on its merit.

The following additional general principles apply:

- a) Privacy and confidentiality is preserved.

## COUNCIL POLICY: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP POLICY

- b) Applicants are informed on the progress of their application in a timely manner.
- c) Additional information requests may be made when necessary.
- d) Referrals may be made to a financial counselling service provider to assist with completing the application.
- e) In situations of an unsuccessful application, applicants will be advised of reasons for refusal and their complaint and appeal rights.
- f) Successful applicants are advised of agreed terms and conditions including what action will be taken if the applicant defaults on the payment arrangement.

### **2.4 COVID-19 Impact**

~~Council understands that many in our community are experience financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.~~

~~Priority for assistance will be considered for:~~

~~Commercial ratepayers who have been required to close due to COVID-19;~~

~~Commercial ratepayers eligible for the 'JobKeeper' payments;~~

~~Non-commercial ratepayers eligible for the 'JobSeeker' or 'JobKeeper' payments; and~~

~~Any other ratepayers experiencing financial hardship due to income dropping by 15 per cent or more.~~

~~This measure will remain in place for the period the COVID-19 emergency is declared by the Government of South Australia.~~

### **2.5 Financial Relief Options**

Financial relief options are covered within the Act and are summarised as follows:

- a) Payment arrangements including individually tailored time payment plans section 181(4)(b).
- b) Remission of finer-expiation notices and interest section 181(9).
- c) Postponement enables the deferral of payments in whole or part with or without recovery of interest section 182.
- d) Seniors postponement scheme section 182A – seniors can choose to postpone a portion of their rates on their principal place of residence

until the property is sold or any time of their choosing. The scheme is non-concessional and interest is charged on the postponed amount.

- e) Full remission [section 182\(1\)\(b\)](#) - considered in circumstances where the ratepayer can demonstrate long-term serious financial hardship and generally considered as a last resort.

Council's preference is to not waive rates on the basis it is considered equitable for the majority of ratepayers to subsidise the property assets of hardship applicants. A more equitable solution for the entire community is to defer rates and charges. However, Council will consider the waiving or reduction of rates for ratepayers where exceptional circumstances are experienced, and where severe impact can be demonstrated.

## 2.6 Council Delegations

Delegations are in place for the waiving of [fines-expiation notices](#) and/or interest incurred under [Section-section 181 \(9\)](#) to the Chief Executive Officer, General Manager ~~Strategy and Business Services~~[Strategy and Corporate](#) and Manager Financial Services.

Delegations are in place for remission and postponement of payment under [Section-section 182](#) to the General Manager Strategy ~~and Business Services~~[and Corporate](#) and, Manager Financial Services ~~and Manager Customer Experience & Library Services~~.

[Authorised Officers are authorized to withdraw expiation notices pursuant to section 8A and 16 of Expiation of Offences Act 1996.](#)

## 2.7 Financial Hardship Procedure

Financial Hardship procedures sit underneath this policy and outline the internal steps for Council staff to follow when processing an application.



# Attachment 5



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**1. PREAMBLE**

**1.1 Purpose**

The City of Holdfast Bay understands that members of our community sometimes face challenging times. The purpose of the Financial Hardship Policy (“the Policy”) is to enable ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship the ability to make application to Council for assistance relating to rates and charges levied on a property under the *Local Government Act 1999* (“the Act”).

The Policy defines hardship and provides the framework, in accordance with the Act, for the possible granting of a deferral of the payment of rates or changes, or waiver of part or all of those rates and changes.

**1.2 Scope**

This policy applies to all ratepayers who apply for financial relief. It addresses the principles, eligibility criteria, assistance options, general assessment principles and delegations for dealing with financial hardship.

**1.4 Definitions**

**Act** – refers to the *Local Government Act 1999*

**Ratepayer** – a person or entity whose name appears in the assessment record as the owner, or occupier of a rateable property.

**Seniors** – a person who holds a State Seniors Card.

**Hardship** – refers to financial hardship which occurs when a ratepayer is unable to meet their financial commitments due to an unforeseen change in circumstances.

**Serious Financial Hardship** – refers to personal financial hardship when a ratepayer is unable to provide for basic necessities for themselves and/or their dependents.

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**Financial Counselling Service** – an accredited organisation or individual professionally qualified to provide financial counselling.

**Financial Hardship Procedures** – approved documented guidelines for administering Council's Financial Hardship Policy.

## 1.5 Strategic Reference

Wellbeing: the Financial Hardship Council Policy contributes to good health and economic success in an environment and a community that supports wellbeing.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

### 2.1 Objective

The objective of this policy is to:

- Provide assistance to ratepayers experiencing financial hardship.
- Provide a mechanism that enables people to feel comfortable approaching Council about outstanding debts and current financial hardship circumstances.
- Provide ratepayers with assurance they will be treated in a consistent, equitable and confidential manner.
- Ensure the policy is fair to all ratepayers.
- Ensure Council's debt collection practices are sensitive, responsive to financial hardship issues and considered as a last resort.
- Demonstrate Council's constructive culture and core values.

### 2.2 General Principles

Municipal rates constitute a majority of Council's annual income. Council's powers to raise rates are contained in Chapter 10 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act). Section 182 of the Act provides for the remission and postponement of rate payments.

In receiving an application for financial relief, Council will consider the following general principles:

## COUNCIL POLICY: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- a) The payment of rates will cause hardship having regard to the ratepayer's individual circumstances.
- b) The nature of the hardship, whether it is temporary due to unusual personal or economic circumstances, or hardship caused by permanent changes in life circumstances and/or financial situation, and the most appropriate measures to support the ratepayer.
- c) The additional support that could be provided to the ratepayer, including encouraging financial counselling and other support services.
- d) The extent the assistance does not have an unfair impact on other ratepayers.

Hardship does not include circumstances where a ratepayer chooses not to meet a liability for an unpaid debt.

Additional support will be considered in instances where hardship is endemic, as in the case of a pandemic or financial crisis.

### **2.3 Financial Hardship**

For the purpose of this policy, financial hardship is considered a change in circumstances which will affect the ability of a ratepayer to pay rates and charges.

Council recognises that not all circumstances are alike, and that financial hardship may arise from a range of individual circumstances, including but not limited to, the following situations:

- Unemployment
- Sickness or injury
- Family break down
- Low income or loss of income

Applications are to be assessed in a consistent manner while retaining the flexibility to respond to individual circumstances.

All relevant factors are taken into consideration and each application is assessed on its merit.

The following additional general principles apply:

- a) Privacy and confidentiality is preserved.

## COUNCIL POLICY: FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- b) Applicants are informed on the progress of their application in a timely manner.
- c) Additional information requests may be made when necessary.
- d) Referrals may be made to a financial counselling service provider to assist with completing the application.
- e) In situations of an unsuccessful application, applicants will be advised of reasons for refusal and their complaint and appeal rights.
- f) Successful applicants are advised of agreed terms and conditions including what action will be taken if the applicant defaults on the payment arrangement.

### 2.4 Financial Relief Options

Financial relief options are covered within the Act and are summarised as follows:

- a) Payment arrangements including individually tailored time payment plans section 181(4)(b).
- b) Remission of expiation notices and interest section 181(9).
- c) Postponement enables the deferral of payments in whole or part with or without recovery of interest section 182.
- d) Seniors postponement scheme section 182A – seniors can choose to postpone a portion of their rates on their principal place of residence until the property is sold or any time of their choosing. The scheme is non-concessional and interest is charged on the postponed amount.
- e) Full remission section 182(1)(b) - considered in circumstances where the ratepayer can demonstrate long-term serious financial hardship and generally considered as a last resort.

Council's preference is to not waive rates on the basis it is considered equitable for the majority of ratepayers to subsidise the property assets of hardship applicants. A more equitable solution for the entire community is to defer rates and charges. However, Council will consider the waiving or reduction of rates for ratepayers where exceptional circumstances are experienced, and where severe impact can be demonstrated.

## **2.5 Council Delegations**

Delegations are in place for the waiving of expiation notices and/or interest incurred under section 181 (9) to the Chief Executive Officer, General Manager Strategy and Corporate and Manager Financial Services.

Delegations are in place for remission and postponement of payment under section 182 to the General Manager Strategy and Corporate, Manager Financial Services and Manager Customer Experience & Library Services.

Authorised Officers are authorized to withdraw expiation notices pursuant to section 8A and 16 of the *Expiation of Offences Act 1996*.

## **2.6 Financial Hardship Procedure**

Financial Hardship procedures sit underneath this policy and outline the internal steps for Council staff to follow when processing an application.

# Attachment 6





# Code of Practice – Access to Meetings and Documents

Adopted by Council 22 February 2022  
Review by 1 November 2023



## **1.1 Preamble**

The City of Holdfast Bay supports the principle that the procedures to be observed at a meeting of Council or a Council Committee should contribute to open, transparent and informed decision-making and encourage appropriate community participation in the affairs of Council.

## **1.2 Background**

1.2.1 The *Local Government Act 1999* sets out arrangements for meetings and requires that all Council and Council Committee meetings are held in public except where special circumstances exist.

1.2.2 Section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1999* outlines the circumstances in which a document or discussion considered in a Council or Committee meeting can be kept confidential.

## **1.3 Purpose**

1.3.1 The Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents sets out the commitment of City of Holdfast Bay to provide public access to Council and Council committee meetings and documents (s92 of the Act) and outlines the policies and procedures contained within the Act, to restrict public access.

1.3.2 This Code has been supplemented to include the provisions made by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government on 31 March 2020 to take into account the *Local Government (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020* (which inserted section 302B in to the Act) and the *Electronic Participation in Council Meetings Notice (No 1) 2020*, which provides variations to the Act to enable all council members to participate in a council meeting by electronic means. These provisions are shown in blue and will remain in operation during the current public health emergency (COVID-19) and whilst the Minister's Notice No. 1 remains in operation.

### **1.3.3 Notice No 1:**

- (a) provides that a Council is not required to adopt any provision in a code of practice that would prevent or inhibit members from participating in Council meetings or Council committee meetings by electronic means;
- (b) provides that Council members may meet by electronic means to alter the code of practice of the Council, or substitute a new code of practice of the Council, even if the existing code of practice prevents or inhibits the Council members from meeting by electronic means; and
- (c) suspends the requirement in section 92(5) that before a Council adopts, alters or substitutes a code of practice it make copies of the

proposed code, alterations or substitute code (as the case may be) available for inspection and purchase at the principal office of the Council and on a website determined by the Council and that the Council follow the steps set out in its public consultation policy.

#### **1.4 Scope**

1.4.1 The Code includes information about the relevant provisions of the Act and Council's policy and procedures for:

- access to the agenda for meetings;
- public access to meetings;
- the process to exclude the public from meetings;
- matters for which the Council or a Council Committee can order that the public be excluded;
- how the Council will approach the use of confidentiality provisions of the Act;
- public access to documents including minutes;
- review of confidentiality orders;
- accountability and reporting to the community, and the availability of the code; and
- grievance procedures to be followed if a member of the public believes that the Council has unreasonably restricted public access on a particular matter.

#### **1.5 Definitions**

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 1999*

**Code** means this Code of Practice for Access to Meetings and Documents

**Notice No 1** means the *Electronic Participation in Council Meetings Notice (No 1) 2020*

#### **2.1 Public Access to the Agenda for Council or Council Committee Meetings**

2.1.1 At least three clear days before the Council or Council committee meeting (unless a Special Meeting has been called) the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) must give written notice of the meeting to all Council/Committee members setting out the date, time and place of the meeting. The notice must contain or be accompanied by the agenda for the meeting.

2.1.2 [Subject to clause 2.1.7](#), the notice and agenda will be placed on public display at the principal office of the Council (Brighton Civic Centre, 24 Jetty Road Brighton) and on Council's website [www.holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://www.holdfast.sa.gov.au). Copies will also be available at the Council's Library's.

2.1.3 [Subject to clause 2.1.8](#), copies of the agenda documents and non-confidential reports will be available for public inspection at the Brighton Civic Centre and the Council Libraries. A reasonable number of copies will be available for public inspection as soon as practicable after they are supplied to the Members of the Council.

- 2.1.4 Members of the public may obtain a copy of the agenda and non-confidential reports for a fee to cover the costs of photocopying, in accordance with the Council's schedule of fees and charges.
- 2.1.5 Copies of the Agenda documents and non-confidential reports that are to be considered at a meeting will be made available to members of the public in attendance.
- 2.1.6 Where the CEO of the Council believes that a document or report on a particular matter should be considered in confidence with the public to be excluded, the basis under which the order could be made in accordance with section 90(3) of the Act will be specified. Refer to sections 83(5)(Council) and 87(10) (Committees) of the Act.
- 2.1.7 For the period of the operation of Notice No 1 the requirement that the Chief Executive Officer give notice to the public of the times and places of council meetings by placing the notice of meeting and agenda on public display at each office of the Council that is open to the public for the general administration of Council business within its area is **suspended**.
- 2.1.8 For the period of the operation of Notice No 1:
- 2.1.8.1 the requirement that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a reasonable number of copies of any document or report supplied to members of the Council for consideration at a meeting of the Council are available for inspection by members of the public at the principal office of the Council or at the meeting is **suspended**.
- 2.1.8.2 the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) will ensure that any document or report supplied to members of the Council for consideration at a meeting of the Council is available for inspection by members of the public -
- (a) in the case of a document or report supplied to members of the Council *before* the meeting - on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer as soon as practicable after the time when the document or report is supplied to members of the Council; or
- (b) in the case of a document or report supplied to members of the Council *at the* meeting - on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer as soon as practicable after the time when the document or report is supplied to members of the Council.

## **2.2 Public Access to Council or Committee Meetings**

- 2.2.1 Council and Council committee meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged, except where Council (or Council committee) has grounds (section 90 of the Act) to exclude the public from the discussion (and, if necessary, decision) of a particular matter (see 2.4).

- 2.2.2 The public will only be excluded when there are grounds in the Act for properly doing so.
- 2.2.3 Notice No 1 provides that a Council meeting will be taken to be conducted in a place open to the public even if one (1) or more Council members participate in the meeting by electronic means provided that -
- (a) the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) makes available to the public a live stream (the transmission of audio and/or video from a meeting at the time that the meeting is occurring) of the meeting on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer and ensures that members of the public can hear the discussion between all Council members present at the meeting via the live stream; or
  - (b) if the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) has taken reasonable steps to make available a live stream of the meeting but is unable to make available a live stream of the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) makes available to the public a recording of the meeting as soon as practicable after the meeting on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer and ensures that members of the public can hear the discussion between all Council members present at the meeting via the recording.

If the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) has taken reasonable steps to make available to the public a live stream of the meeting or, (if unable to make available a live stream of the meeting) a recording of the meeting but is unable to comply, the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) must publish on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer the steps taken to comply.

### **2.3 *Process to Exclude the Public from a Meeting***

- 2.3.1 The practice of the City of Holdfast Bay is as follows:
- 2.3.1.1 to deal with the agenda items in the order listed in the agenda, or
  - 2.3.1.2 for the convenience of the public present at a meeting, where it is resolved to consider a matter in confidence, this matter may be adjourned until all other business has been dealt with to allow the public to leave the meeting once all public business has been concluded.
- 2.3.2 Before a meeting orders that the public be excluded to enable the receipt, discussion and consideration of a particular matter, the meeting must, in public, formally determine if this is necessary and appropriate and then pass a resolution to exclude the public while dealing with that particular matter. If this occurs the public must leave the room. For the operation of 90(2) a member of the public does not include an employee of the council.

- 2.3.3 Notice No 1 provides that the Council or council committee must disconnect any live stream or recording of a meeting for the period that the meeting is closed to the public pursuant to an order made under section 90(2).
- 2.3.4 Once Council or Council committee has made the order, it is an offence for a person, who knowing that an order is in force, enters or remains in a room in which such a meeting is being held. It is lawful for an employee of Council or a member of the police to use reasonable force to remove the person from the room if they fail to leave on request.
- 2.3.5 Further, Notice 1 provides that it is also an offence for a person who, knowing that an order is in force under section 90(2), to connect (i.e. able to hear and/or see the meeting, including via a live stream recording or recording of the meeting) to a meeting of the Council or Council committee by electronic means, or fail to disconnect (i.e. remove the connection so as to be able to hear and see the meeting) from a meeting of the Council or Council committee.
- 2.3.6 Once discussion on that particular matter is concluded, the public are then permitted to re-enter or reconnect to the meeting.
- 2.3.7 Council or Council committee can by inclusion within the resolution permit a particular person or persons to remain in a meeting.
- 2.3.8 Notice No 1 provides that a Council meeting will be taken to be conducted in a place open to the public even if one (1) or more Council members participate in the meeting by electronic means provided that –
- 2.3.8.1 the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) makes available to the public a live stream of the meeting on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer and ensures that members of the public can hear the discussion between all Council members present at the meeting via the live stream; or
- 2.3.8.2 if the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) has taken reasonable steps to make available a live stream of the meeting but is unable to make available a live stream of the meeting, the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) makes available to the public a recording of the meeting as soon as practicable after the meeting on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer and ensures that members of the public can hear the discussion between all Council members present at the meeting via the recording.

If the Chief Executive Officer (or a person nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) has taken reasonable steps to make available to the public a live stream of the meeting or,(if unable to make available a live stream of the meeting) a recording of the meeting but is unable to comply, the Chief Executive Officer (or a person

nominated in writing by the Chief Executive Officer) must publish on a website determined by the chief executive officer the steps taken to comply and the requirement will be suspended.

## **2.4 Matters from which the Public can be Excluded**

2.4.1 In accordance with the requirements of section 90(3) of the Act, Council, or a Council committee, may order the public be excluded from the Meeting to allow confidential discussion of matters where there are grounds under the following provisions:

- (a) *information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);*
- (b) *information the disclosure of which—*
  - (i) *could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and*
  - (ii) *would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;*
- (c) *information the disclosure of which would reveal a trade secret;*
- (d) *commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which—*
  - (i) *could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and*
  - (ii) *would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;*
- (e) *matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person;*
- (f) *information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the maintenance of law, including by affecting (or potentially affecting) the prevention, detection or investigation of a criminal offence, or the right to a fair trial;*
- (g) *matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty;*
- (h) *legal advice;*
- (i) *information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council;*
- (j) *information the disclosure of which—*
  - (i) *would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and*

(ii) *would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;*

(k) *tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works;*

(m) *information relating to a proposed amendment to a Development Plan under the Development Act 1993 before a Development Plan Amendment proposal relating to the amendment is released for public consultation under that Act;*

(n) *information relevant to the review of a determination of a council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991.*

(o) *information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award.*

2.4.2 The Act provides for a definition of ‘personal affairs’, being a person’s financial affairs, criminal records, marital or other personal relationships, personal qualities, attributes or health status, or that person’s employment records, employment performance or suitability for a particular position, or other personnel matters relating to the person, but does not include the personal affairs of a body corporate. This is an inclusive (not exhaustive) list of personal matters.

2.4.3 In considering whether an order should be made under section 90(2), it is irrelevant that discussion of a matter in public may—

(a) cause embarrassment to the council or council committee concerned, or to members or employees of the council; or

(b) cause a loss of confidence in the council or council committee.

2.4.4 If a decision to exclude the public is taken, the Council or Council committee is required to make a note in the minutes of the making of the order and the grounds on which it was made. Sufficient detail of the grounds on which the order was made will be included in the minutes.

2.4.5 Where a person provides information to the Council and requests that it be kept confidential, Council is not able to consider this request unless the matter is one that falls within section 90(3). If this is the case, Council will then be in a position to consider the request on its merits.

## **2.5 Information or Briefing Sessions**

2.5.1 Members of Council, Committee members and staff may participate in information or briefing sessions provided that a matter which would ordinarily form part of the agenda for a formal meeting is not dealt with in such a way as to obtain or effectively obtain, a decision outside of a formally constituted meeting of Council or Committee.

2.5.2 An information or briefing session pursuant to section 90A is one that is:

- arranged by the Council or the Chief Executive Officer

- includes an invitation to attend or be involved to more than one member of the Council/Council Committee
- is convened for the purpose of providing information or a briefing to attendees.

2.5.3 Information or briefing sessions must be conducted in a place open to the public when a matter is, or is intended to be, on the agenda for a formal meeting of the Council to be discussed (s.90A(3)). It is not required that all meetings be open to the public only those that are or intended to be on the agenda for a meeting.

2.5.4 Information or briefing sessions may be closed to the public to allow attendees to receive, discuss or consider any information or matter listed in section 90(3) of the Act (on confidential grounds). The decision can be made by the CEO before or at the session. The CEO must make an order to close an information or briefing session – s.90A(4) (unless order is made by the Council) and record:

- (a) the grounds on which the order was made
- (b) the basis on which the information falls within the ambit of each ground of s.90(3)
- (c) the reasons that the receipt, consideration or discussion of the information public would be contrary to the public interest.

2.5.5 Attendance at Information or Briefing Sessions Electronically

Members of the Council or a Council Committee may participate in an information or briefing session by electronic means (an electronic information or briefing session). A member of the Council or Council Committee participating in electronic information or briefing session is taken to be present at the information or briefing session provided that the member:

- (a) can hear all other members present at the information or briefing session; and
- (b) can be heard by all other members present at the information or briefing session.

For the application of ‘electronic means’ for information sessions or briefing sessions this includes a telephone, computer or other electronic device used for communication.

2.5.6 Form of Participation by Electronic Means

Where:

- (a) a Council or Committee member is to participate in an information or briefing session by electronic means;
- (b) the electronic means has the functionality to allow the member to participate in electronic information or briefing session by being heard but not seen or by being both seen and heard; and



- (c) the electronic means of the Council has the functionality to allow the council member to be heard but not seen or to be both seen and heard, the member must participate by being both seen and heard.

2.5.7 Council will make available to the public a live stream of any electronic information or briefing session which must be conducted in a place open to the public so that members of the public can hear the discussions between all persons participating in the information or briefing session.

The live stream will be published on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer, provided that this requirement will not apply to any part of the electronic information or briefing session that has been closed to the public.

2.5.8 Council will publish information about information and briefing sessions in accordance with Regulation 8AB of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013*. Without a specific decision of the Council or Chief Executive Officer to the contrary, documents presented to information or briefing sessions are not publicly available and documents presented to information or briefing sessions that are closed to the public are confidential.

## **2.6 Public Access to Minutes**

2.6.1 Minutes of a meeting of Council or Council committee, apart from confidential material, will be publicly available, including the internet, within five days after the meeting.

2.6.2 [Notice No 1 provides that a copy of the minutes of a meeting of the Council must be placed on public display on a website determined by the Chief Executive Officer within five days after the meeting and kept on display for a period of one month.](#)

## **2.7 Use of Confidentiality Provisions**

2.7.1 Any consideration of the use of confidentiality provisions to exclude the public from the discussion of a particular matter at a meeting will require the identification of one or more of the grounds listed within section 90(3) of the Act and the factual reasons for the relevance and application of the ground(s) in the circumstances. The grounds are listed in paragraph 2.4.1 of this Code.

2.7.2 The policy approach of the City of Holdfast Bay is:

2.7.2.1 Information regarding the grounds on which an order to exclude the public is made will be conveyed to the public at the time of them being ordered to leave or disconnect from the meeting. The public will not be excluded until after a confidentiality motion has been carried and sufficient reasons for the need to exclude the public given.

- 2.7.2.2 Once discussion of the matter is concluded, and while the meeting is still in confidential session, the meeting will consider if it is necessary to make an order that a document associated with that agenda item (including minutes) remain confidential. In determining this, the meeting will have regard to the provisions of section 91 and in particular section 91(8) which details when a Council must not order that a document remain confidential.
- 2.7.2.3 If the meeting determines that it is proper and necessary to keep a document confidential, then a resolution for an order to this effect is required in accordance with section 91(7) of the Act.
- 2.7.2.4 The Council will determine the matter of confidentiality on each item separately, determining the relevant grounds for confidentiality for each item.
- 2.7.2.5 Where keeping a document confidential is considered proper and necessary, a resolution to this effect is required which shall include:
- the grounds for confidentiality;
  - the duration of the order or the circumstances in which the order will cease to apply;
  - if the duration of the order is for more than 12 months, the order must be reviewed at least once in every year; and
  - whether the power to revoke the order will be delegated to an employee of the Council (s.91(9)).
- 2.7.2.6 In accordance with section 91(8) the Council or Council committee must not make an order:
- to prevent the disclosure of the remuneration or conditions of service of an employee of the council after the remuneration or conditions have been set or determined;
  - to prevent the disclosure of the identity of a successful tenderer for the supply of goods or the provision of services (including the carrying out of works), or of any reasons adopted by the council as to why a successful tenderer has been selected;
  - to prevent the disclosure of the amount or amounts payable by the council under a contract for the supply of goods or the provision of services (including the carrying out of works) to, or for the benefit of, the council after the contract has been entered into by all parties to the contract; and
  - to prevent the disclosure of the identity of land that has been acquired or disposed of by the council, or of any reasons adopted by the council as to why land has been acquired or disposed of by the council.

2.7.3 In all cases the objective is that the information be made publicly available at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **2.8 Public Access to Documents**

- 2.8.1 In accordance with section 132 and schedule 5 of the Act, various documents are available for inspection and purchase (for a fee) by the public at the Brighton Civic Centre. Council may also make available a document in electronic form and place it on the internet for public access
- 2.8.2 The Council or Council committee will only order that a document associated with a discussion from which the public are excluded is to remain confidential if it is considered proper and necessary and meets the test(s) for one of the grounds in the Act.
- 2.8.3 The Council or Council committee can only resolve to retain minutes and/or documents confidential under section 91(7) if they were considered in confidence pursuant to sections 90(2) and 90(3).
- 2.8.4 Inquiries in relation to the process for seeking access to documents held by Council and which are not publicly available, should be directed to Council's accredited Freedom of Information Officer.

## **2.9 Review of Confidentiality Orders**

- 2.9.1 A confidentiality order made under section 91(7) of the Act must specify the duration of the order or the circumstances in which the order will cease to apply.
- 2.9.2 An order will lapse if the time or event specified has been reached or carried out. There is no need for the Council to resolve for the confidential order to be lifted. Once an order has lapsed, the minutes and/or documents automatically become public.
- 2.9.3 Orders that exceed 12 months must be reviewed annually and the council must assess whether the grounds for non-disclosure are still relevant and, if so, provide the relevant grounds and reasons for the minutes and/or documents remaining confidential.
- 2.9.4 If there is no longer a need for the confidentiality order then the Council or Council committee may delegate to an employee of the Council the power to revoke an order made in accordance with section 91(7) of the Act. The Council or Council committee may also include in the resolution whether any delegation is given to an employee to revoke the order and if relevant, any conditions associated with the delegation.

## **2.10 Accountability and Reporting to the Community**

- 2.10.1 A report on the use of the sections 90(2) and 91(7) by the Council and Council committees must be included in the annual report of a Council as required by Schedule 4 of the Act. This supports commitment to the principle of accountability to the community.

2.10.2 The reporting should include the following information in the annual report:

- 2.10.2.1 number of orders made under s.90(2) excluding the public from attendance at a meeting in the financial year;
- 2.10.2.2 date and subject of each order made under s.90(2) in the financial year;
- 2.10.2.3 number of orders under each ground for s.90(2) in the financial year;
- 2.10.2.4 number of retain in confidence orders (s.91(7) in the financial year, including date and subject;
- 2.10.2.5 number of retain in confidence orders (s.91(7) that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked during the financial year; and
- 2.10.2.6 number of retain in confidence orders (s.91(7) that remained operative at the end of the financial year including date and subject.

### **2.11 Availability of the Code**

The public may inspect a copy of this Code, without charge, at the Civic Centre during office hours, and may obtain a copy for a fee fixed by Council. The Code is also available on the internet [www.holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://www.holdfast.sa.gov.au).

### **2.12 Grievance**

2.12.1 Council has established procedures under section 270 of the Act for the review of decisions by:

- Council and its committees;
- employees of the Council; and
- other persons acting on behalf of the Council

2.12.2 People who have a complaint about public access to either a formal Council or Committee meeting, or the Council Agendas, and their attached documents or Minutes, can lodge an application for review of the decision under the procedures established by Council. The procedures are available on Council's website [www.holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://www.holdfast.sa.gov.au).

## **3 References**

### **Legislation**

- *Electronic Participation in Council Meetings Notice (No 1) 2020*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1991*
- *Local Government Act 1999*

### **Policies and Procedures**

- Code of Practice- Meeting Procedures
- Customer Feedback and Complaints Procedure
- Internal Review of Council Decisions (s270) Policy

# Attachment 7



Trim Container:	FOL/17/1049
First Issued / Approved:	22/06/2010
Last Reviewed:	14/07/2020
	C140720/1963
Next Review:	13/07/2022
Responsible Officer	Manager City Activation

## 1. PREAMBLE

The City of Holdfast Bay is committed to open, accountable and responsive decision making, which is informed by effective communication and consultation between the council and the community.

### 1.1 Background

Community engagement, critical in the successful development of sustainable policies and decisions in government, the private sector and the community, is also critical in the ongoing planning, implementation, evaluation and decision making processes of Council services and the management of community resources.

Community consultation supports our Value of Engaging with, developing and recognising the valuable contribution of members of our community to the well-being of our City.

### 1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 The objectives of this Policy are to:

- a. Promote positive relations between the Council and the community.
- b. Guide effective engagement between the Council and the community.
- c. Enable the community to be informed about and participate in Council planning and decision making.
- d. Provide the framework for appropriately structured, targeted and delivered community engagement as part of Council's decision making.
- e. Support Council decision making which is open, transparent, responsive, inclusive and accountable to the community.

1.2.2 [This Policy has been supplemented to include provisions made on 8 April 2020 by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government who issued a notice pursuant to section 302B of the Local Government Act 1999, the Public Access and Public Consultation Notice \(No 2\) 2020 \(Notice No 2\) varying or suspending the operation of the specified provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 as set out in Schedule 1 to Notice No 2. Notice No 2 commenced operation on 8 April 2020.](#)

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

For the period Notice No 2 has effect (as provided for in Notice No 2), this Public Consultation Policy is altered as set out below and those alterations have effect notwithstanding any other provision in this Policy to the contrary.

For the avoidance of doubt, save for the alterations to the Policy as set out below, the Policy otherwise applies to public consultation undertaken by the Council for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1999.

These provision are shown in blue and will remain in operation during the current public health emergency (COVID-19) and whilst the Minister's Notice No 2 remains in operation.

Pursuant to Section 45(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, as substituted under the *Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020*, being satisfied that it is reasonably necessary as a result of the public health emergency declared by the Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing on 15 March 2020 (and the related major emergency declared under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* on 22 March 2020 and extended on 2 April 2020), the Council, for the period the *Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020* has effected the closure of the principal office of the Council effective from *Friday 27 March 2020*.

### 1.3 Scope

Policy applies to Elected Members, employees, contractors and agents or consultants acting on behalf of Council.

### 1.4 Definitions

*Act* means the *Local Government Act 1999*.

*Community* means all people who, own property, live, work, study or conduct business in, or who visit, use or enjoy the services, facilities and public places of the City of Holdfast Bay.

*Community Engagement* means the community in decision making processes, which is critical in the successful development of acceptable policies and decisions in government, the private sector and the community.

*Consultation* means two way communications designed to obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives and proposals to inform decision making.

*Council* means the City of Holdfast Bay. For the purposes of these alterations **the Council** includes an officer or employee of the Council acting within the scope of that person's ordinary functions and duties except in circumstances where these alterations expressly require a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council.

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

*Policy* means this Community Consultation & Engagement Policy.

*Regulations* means the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013*.

## 1.5 Strategic Reference

Community: Fostering an engaged and contributing community

## 2. PRINCIPLES

**2.1** The City of Holdfast Bay is committed to effective, ongoing and timely community engagement as an integral part of local governance and key decision making.

**2.2** Council will be proactive in informing and seeking the views of its community, taking into account the specific needs of different sections of the community, ensuring appropriate strategies, including digital engagement, are developed to maximise the opportunities for participation of all members of the community.

**2.3** Council will be honest about the degree of influence the community is able to exercise in any particular community engagement event or process.

- a. Council acknowledges that different sections of the community will have different levels of interest in an individual issue and will tailor its engagement strategies accordingly.
- b. Council's desire to engage the community will be balanced with other influences such as budgetary constraints.
- c. Council will define the parameters of the community engagement process for each specific topic, in line with legislative requirements and best practice, and will use community engagement techniques selected to fulfil the "promise" of the defined engagement process.

**2.4** Council will incorporate the principles of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) in all of its community engagement practices, both in those areas affected by legislation and in those areas where employees or Council have determined, as a matter of good practice, to consult with the community.

**2.4.1** The Council will determine whether or not to undertake face-to-face or in person public consultation activity (including without limitation a door knock, focus group, forum, briefing session, workshop, open house, community panel, conversation café, round table or symposium) in relation to any matter for which the *Local Government Act 1999* requires the Council to follow the steps set out in its public consultation policy, on a case by case basis with a view to the relative safety of the proposed activity and having regard to any relevant emergency directives in place, taking a risk based approach. For clarity, where the *Local Government Act 1999* has been modified by Notice No 2 to preclude face to face consultation, activities will be limited to those deemed safe, for example, such as attendance at Council meetings within the constraints of the relevant COVID-Safe Plan pertaining to the public gallery.

The Council will determine whether or not to undertake face-to-face or in person public consultation activity (including items listed above) in relation to any matter



## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

for which this Policy would, but for this provision, require the Council to hold such an activity, on a case by case basis with a view to the relative safety of the proposed activity and having regard to any relevant emergency directives in place, taking a risk based approach.

To the extent this Policy would otherwise require the Council to hold a face-to-face or in person public consultation activity in relation to a matter, the Council will instead publish a notice on its website and on the council notice board inviting interested persons to make written submissions in relation any matter within the period stated in the notice where legislatively required to do so (which will not be less than 21 days after the publication of the notice, unless the matter is considered by the Council to require urgent consideration and it is not otherwise contrary to the *Local Government Act 1999* to consult for a lesser period). The Council will consider the submissions.

### 2.5 For the purpose of this policy the following promises apply:

- a. Inform – One way communication providing balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen
- b. Consult – two way communications designed to obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives and proposals to inform decision making – Council will listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback.
- c. Involve – participatory process designed to help identify issues and views to ensure that concerns and aspirations are understood and considered prior to decision making – Council will work with the community to ensure that its concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed.
- d. Collaborate – working together to develop understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions – Council will look to the community for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions.

### 2.6 Where required by the Local Government Act, or any other Act, Council will at all times meet at least the minimum requirements for public consultation as identified in the Act.

For Legislative consultations only, temporary arrangements will be made for the duration of this period for Council to provide summary documents to be made available at selected Supermarkets located with City of the Holdfast Bay.

In relation to any obligation under the *Local Government Act 1999* to make a document available for inspection at the principal office of the Council, a summary of the document (with details on how to obtain the full document) will be made available to collect at *the local Foodlands' and Romeo's Foodland:*

Romeo's Foodland, 101-103 Partridge St, Glenelg South SA 5045  
Foodland Hove 349 Brighton Rd, Hove SA 5048  
Foodland Seacliff 228 Seacombe Rd, Seacliff Park SA 5049

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

OR

Full documentation is available on the Council website to download at [www.holdfast.sa.gov.au](http://www.holdfast.sa.gov.au), or via phone, mail or email request.

**2.7** The publication in a newspaper circulating within the area of the council and on the Council's website of a notice describing the matter under consideration and inviting interested persons to make submissions in relation to the matter within a period stated in the notice. This period must be consistent with at least the minimum period of time as stated in the relevant section of the Act.

**2.7.1** The Council will not publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the area of the Council inviting interested persons to attend a public meeting or meeting of the Council in relation to any matter within the scope of Sections 123, 151 or 156 of the *Local Government Act 1999* for which public consultation is required under the *Local Government Act 1999*. The Council will ~~not~~ hold such a public meeting or invite persons to attend a meeting of the Council to ask questions or make submissions on the matter if, taking a risk-based approach, it deems it safe to do so at the relevant time.

The Council will publish a notice on the council website and on the public notice board inviting interested persons to make written submissions within the period stated in the notice (which will not be less than 21 days after the publication of the notice) in relation any matter within the scope of Sections 123, 151 or 156 of the *Local Government Act 1999* for which public consultation is required under the *Local Government Act 1999*. The Council will consider the submissions at a meeting of the Council.

**2.8.** For the purposes of determining the period of public consultation, the time between the 15 December and the 15 January inclusive in any year, will not be counted when determining the consultation period; and

**2.9** The Council will consider any submissions received from the public during a consultation period.

## **3. REFERENCES**

### **3.1 Legislation**

- *Local Government Act 1999*

### **3.2 Other References**

- Local Government Association (SA) Community Engagement Handbook – a Model Framework for Leading Practice in Local Government in South Australia. (2008)
- Community Consultation and Engagement Procedure
- [Public Access and Public Consultation Notice \(No 2\) 2020 \(Notice No 2\)](#)

Item No: 16.7

Subject: **AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: Manager, Strategy and Governance

General Manager: Strategy and Corporate, Ms P Jackson

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### **SUMMARY**

Each year, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) holds a National General Assembly (Assembly) in Canberra where councils from around Australia can discuss current and emerging challenges and opportunities, and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing the sector. The next Assembly will be held on 19-22 June 2022 under the theme *Partners in Progress*.

Mayor Amanda Wilson (as the voting representative) and Councillor Rebecca Abley will be representing Council at the Assembly, in accordance with Council's resolution of 10 May 2022 (C100522/2596).

One hundred and six motions are to be discussed at the Assembly, which are recorded in the papers provided as Attachment 1. Suggested voting positions have been developed and are presented for Council's consideration as Attachment 2.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council endorses the proposed voting positions for the Mayor to take, as outlined in Attachment 2.**

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### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The proposed voting positions align with the strategic plan.

### **COUNCIL POLICY**

Not applicable

### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

Not applicable

## **BACKGROUND**

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) advocates on behalf of Australia's 537 councils for funding and policy outcomes that support local governments to deliver better results for their communities.

Each year a National General Assembly (the Assembly) is held in Canberra where councils from around Australia discuss current and emerging challenges and opportunities, and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing our sector.

The motions passed at the Assembly inform ALGA's strategic direction and national advocacy objectives. ALGA take the agreed message to Ministers, MPs and decision-makers in Canberra and around the country through Ministerial meetings, forums, budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

The Assembly will be held in Canberra from 19-22 June 2022 and will be an opportunity to clearly set and articulate the local government sector's agenda to a new Federal Government.

## **REPORT**

The theme for the Assembly is *Partners in Progress*, focusing on how partnerships can tackle the challenges facing communities and prepare for the future.

One hundred and six motions have been put forward for consideration at the Assembly.

*Refer Attachment 1*

Voting positions for each motion are provided, as contained in Attachment 2. Most motions are supported either fully or partially. Where a position does not impact the City of Holdfast Bay but is not objected to, support in principle is noted. In some instances, motions are proposed as not supported. This is either because the motion is against known Council positions or the motion is not considered appropriate. Rationale has been noted for each position.

*Refer Attachment 2*

## **BUDGET**

The costs of attendance are within budget.

## **LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

There are no life cycle cost associated with this report.

# Attachment 1





AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

**2022**  
NATIONAL  
**GENERAL**  
ASSEMBLY  
19 - 22 JUNE 2022

**BUSINESS PAPERS**

NGA22.COM.AU

For further information on the Business Papers, or other policy matters, please contact:

Australian Local Government Association

8 Geils Court

Deakin ACT 2600

Ph: (02) 6122 9400

Fax: (02) 6122 9401

Email: [alga.asn.au](mailto:alga.asn.au)

Website: [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au)

Published by:

Australian Local Government Association

ABN 31 008 613 876

8 Geils Court Deakin ACT 2600

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# RULES



# National General Assembly Debating Rules - 2022

## 1 - Interpretation

1.1 “Assembly” means: The National General Assembly of Local Government as constituted by the delegates present in person or attending virtually by the approved digital technology.

1.2 “Member” means: any local government council which is a financial member of and recognised by a state or territory local government association within the Commonwealth of Australia.

1.3 “Delegate” means: any person who has paid the designated administration fee.

1.4 “Voting Delegate” means: any person nominated as the delegate to speak on the behalf of a Member at the Assembly - each Member to be entitled to appoint one voting delegate only for each debate session.

1.5 “President” means: The President for the time being of the Australian Local Government Association who will act as President of the Assembly, or in his or her absence the Vice Presidents of the Association or a person appointed by the President to preside over the Assembly.

1.6 “Debate on Motions” means: Plenary or concurrent debating sessions of the Assembly which are held in accordance with these rules.

1.7 “Meeting” means: Plenary or concurrent debating sessions, forums and symposia of the Assembly which are held in accordance with these rules.

## 2 - President to Preside

2.1 The President shall preside over the Assembly.

2.2 A delegate wishing to speak shall direct comments to the President.

2.3 A voting delegate moving or seconding a motion or amendment or delegate taking part in a discussion thereon shall address the President.

## 3 - Resolutions

3.1 Motions will become Resolutions when passed by a majority of voting delegates at the Assembly.

3.2 Resolutions shall be permanently recorded and forwarded to the Australian Local Government Association for consideration and action as deemed to be appropriate.

3.3 Resolutions will be recorded and will be considered by the ALGA Board and used by the President for any purpose in the interest of local government.

## 4 - Priority of Speakers

If two or more delegates wish to speak at the same time the President shall decide who is entitled to priority.

## **5 - President to be Heard**

Whenever the President signifies a desire to speak during the Assembly, any delegate speaking or offering to speak is to be silent so that the President may be heard without interruption.

## **6 - President may call to order**

The President shall preserve order and may call any delegate to order when necessary.

## **7 - Ruling by President**

The President shall decide all questions of order or practice and his or her decision shall be final and be accepted by the Assembly without argument or comment unless in any particular case the Assembly resolved that a different ruling shall be substituted for the ruling given by the President. Discussion shall be permitted on any motion of dissent from the President's ruling.

## **8 - Point of Order**

A delegate who is addressing the President shall not be interrupted except on a point of order, in which event the delegate shall wait until the delegate raising the point of order has been heard and the point of order has been determined after which the delegate so interrupted may, if permitted, continue.

## **9 - Limitation of Debate**

9.1 Except for a mover of a motion who may speak for two (2) minutes, a delegate shall not speak upon any motion or amendment or in reply for a period longer than one-and-a-half (1.5) minutes without the consent of the President.

9.2 No delegate shall speak more than once on any motion except for the mover who may exercise a right to speak in closing the debate.

9.3 Any delegate of the Assembly who has not already spoken on the motion or amendment under discussion may formally propose: 'That the question be now put'.

9.4 The President shall not accept the motion 'That the question be now put' until at least one delegate has spoken in favour and one delegate has spoken against the motion or amendment.

9.5 If formally seconded, the proposal shall be put without further discussion and, if carried by a simple majority of the voting delegates of the Assembly present, the mover of the question shall have the Right of Reply, after which the motion must be put to the vote.

9.6 The mover of a motion shall be entitled to a Right of Reply. At the conclusion of the reply, the debate shall be deemed to have closed and the President shall put the question to the vote.

9.7 No delegate of the Assembly, other than the mover of a motion when exercising a Right of Reply, may speak more than once to each motion, amendment, or substantive

motion unless with the permission of the Assembly and/or the President. A delegate may be invited to speak by the President to explain a matter of a personal nature, or to explain him/herself in regard to some material part of his/her speech which has been misquoted or misunderstood but shall not introduce any new matter or interrupt any delegate in possession of the floor.

## **10 - Resolutions**

Except as otherwise provided in these Rules:

10.1 Only voting delegates may move or second a motion or an amendment. (Refer 14: Moving an Amendment)

10.2 Motions concerning the affairs of the Assembly shall be passed by a simple majority of those voting delegates present.

10.3 Motions on which there is an equal division of votes will be declared lost.

## **11 - Moving an amendment**

11.1 After a motion has been moved and seconded, any voting delegate of the Assembly representing a member may move an amendment. If such amendment is seconded, it shall become the subject of discussion.

11.2 Limitations:

Where the Assembly is conducted under a Covid Safety Plan, or other provisions or approved Plans required by the ACT Government that restrict voting delegate movement and access to microphones to be heard, members are required to submit amendments to motions in writing and in advance to the ALGA Secretariat at least 72 hours prior to the debate on the motion.

11.3 An amendment must be relevant to the motion, and so framed that it forms a sensible alternative proposal. It must not be a direct negation of the original motion.

11.4 No Right of Reply to Amendment:

The mover of an amendment shall not have the Right of Reply to the debate on such amendment.

11.5 Substantive Motion:

Should the amendment be carried, it then becomes a substantive motion upon which further amendments may be moved, always providing that there shall not be, at one time, more than one amendment before the Assembly.

11.6 Foreshadowed Amendment:

Any delegate during his/her speech on an amendment shall have the right to foreshadow a further amendment but such foreshadowed amendment shall not formally come before the Assembly until the motion or amendment before the President has been dealt with. The President may request the substance of the foreshadowed amendment.

## **12 - Debate**

Where there is no debate on a motion that has been moved and seconded the President may put the motion to the Assembly.

## **13 - Permissible motions during debate**

When a motion is under debate, no further motion shall be moved except the following:

that the motion be amended

that the speaker no longer be heard

that the question now be put

that the Debate on Motions proceed with the next business.

## **14 - Method of taking votes**

14.1 The President shall, in taking a vote on any motion or amendment, put the question first in the affirmative, and then in the negative. Voting will be by use of electronic keypads or by the approved technology. In the event of a technical failure of the electronic keypads manual voting cards will be issued to the holders of electronic keypads and a vote will be determined on a show of voting cards.

14.2 At the conclusion of a vote the President must declare the question resolved in the affirmative or the negative.

## **15 - Division**

In the event of the use of voting cards, upon a vote being taken, a voting delegate may call for a division.

## **16 - Withdrawal of a motion**

A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the Assembly, which shall be determined without debate. No delegate shall speak on a motion after it has been withdrawn.

## **17 - Quorum**

17.1 Determination of a Quorum - A quorum for debate on motion sessions at the 2022 National General Assembly will be set at half the number of voting delegates plus one. The quorum (number) will be declared by the President at the commencement of the debate on motions. This quorum will be determined by the ALGA Secretariat based on the number of councils registered by mid night Saturday immediately prior to the commencement of the NGA. It shall be equal to the number of eligible votes divided by 2 plus 1. For example, if there are X councils registered by mid night Saturday night immediately prior to the commencement of the NGA, the quorum will be set at  $x/2$  plus one. A majority of the quorum will be required to pass a resolution.

17.2 A Quorum Present at Commencement - At the commencement of each debate on motions session the President will determine if the quorum is present. At the commencement of each debating session, the President will invite all voting delegates to record a 'test' vote. A total number of 'test' votes will be displayed by the system and the President will determine whether a quorum is present for that session. If the number of 'test' votes is equal to or more than  $x/2$  plus one, a quorum will be declared, and voting will proceed.

17.3 Voting to Proceed - If a quorum is not present, a debate on motions will proceed at the discretion of the President. Outcomes of debate on motions when a quorum is not present will be considered as 'indicative only of the NGA' rather than a resolution of the NGA when the ALGA Board what determine the action to be taken on Resolutions.

### **18 - President's right to vote**

For the purposes of these Rules the President, subject to having been nominated as a voting delegate by a Member, shall have one deliberative vote only.

### **19 - Rescission of Resolution**

The Assembly, by two thirds majority, may rescind or alter an adopted resolution.

### **20 - Special urgent business**

At any time during Debate on Motions a voting delegate may, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of voting delegates present, introduce a motion relating to special urgent business which calls for an expression of opinion from the Assembly. In presenting an item of special urgent business a voting delegate shall have sufficient copies of the motion in writing for distribution to all voting delegates present at the Debate on Motions and give prior notice to the President of such intention.

### **21 - Suspension or amendment of rules**

21.1 In case of urgent necessity any of the Rules may be suspended on a motion duly moved and seconded, but that motion shall not be declared carried unless a two-thirds majority of the delegates of the Assembly voting on the motion have voted in favour.

21.2 Any voting delegate moving the suspension of a Rule shall state the object of the motion, but discussion shall not otherwise take place thereon.

### **22 - Motions**

#### **Strategic Motions**

For the purpose of efficient and effective debate, motions that have been submitted for debate by councils that are similar in subject matter have been compiled into composite motions. The strategic motions have either been drafted by ALGA or are based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

Debate will focus on the strategic motions numbered X. Motions numbered X.1, X.2 and so forth (that is, 1.1, 1.2 etc.) are associated motions and will be debated by exception only.

If the motion is carried, associated motions are considered to be redundant unless they have been highlighted in advance of the debate and debated by exception.

### **23 - Resolutions**

Motions that are carried at the National General Assembly become resolutions and will be referred to the ALGA Board to inform future policy initiatives and for consideration in the development of future work programs.

### **24 - Business Paper Notes**

At the discretion of ALGA, shall be organised to expedite debate on motions. In some instance motions that are generally consistent with ALGA current policy may be grouped in a separate section at the back of the business papers and may be voted upon en bloc to save time to focus debate on motions that re-affirm core ALGA policy or deal with new matter.

## Voting Procedures

Electronic keypads will be issued from a separate desk at the registration stand at the assembly at the following times:

Sunday 19 June 4.00pm – 7.00pm.

Monday 20 June 8.00am – 5.00pm.

Tuesday 21 June 8.00am – 5.00pm.

For debate on motions in debating sessions councils must select one voting delegate, as only one keypad will be issued per council, to facilitate issuing of keypads, councils should decide in advance who their voting delegate will be and appoint a representative to collect the keypad on behalf of the council.

Electronic keypads that are lost will incur a \$100 charge.

Please note that only councils that are financial members of their relevant State or Territory Association are entitled to nominate voting delegates.

Virtual delegates will be forwarded a separate package of information which will include voting instructions prior to the event.

# 2022 MOTIONS



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

## Motion number 1 City of Charles Sturt SA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Commonwealth Government and both major political parties to support a referendum on financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution.**

### OBJECTIVE

Financial recognition of local government can best be achieved through an amendment of Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution allowing the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws which provide financial assistance to the States. An amendment to Section 96 would clarify the words that funding can also be given to local government.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

The best way to protect direct federal funding for community services and infrastructure is to have local government financial recognition under the Australian Constitution.

Local councils across the nation would benefit from financial certainty.

If agreed by the Commonwealth Parliament, it will enable the Commonwealth to continue to provide direct funding to local government for vital community services and infrastructure. Without it – and by way of a direct example – funding road infrastructure programs are at risk because it is simply not clear if the Commonwealth can directly fund local councils.

Constitutional financial recognition would remove the legal uncertainty about the Commonwealth Government's ability to fund local communities directly through their local councils. This uncertainty was created by two High Court cases in the decisions of *Pape v Commissioner of Taxation* (2009) 238 CLR 1 [the Pape Case] and *Williams v Commonwealth* (2012) 248 CLR 156 [the Williams Case]. Both cases marked an important change in relation to the appropriation and spending powers under the Constitution and whether there existed a power for the Commonwealth to provide direct funding to entities not included in the Constitution.

A significant body of work has already occurred by the ALGA and State LGAs since 2008 to pursue this ambition of financial constitutional recognition. This motion simply seeks to resurrect that debate and continue to advance this position on the current agenda of the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government.

## Motion number 1.1 Strathfield Municipal Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to hold a referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to give the Australian federal government the power to fund local governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their council.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

To obtain constitutional recognition so as to achieve greater fiscal outcomes for local governments through funding by the Australian Federal Government. The funding will facilitate access to infrastructure, resources, and protections against cost-shifting relative to the increasing responsibilities of local governments. Currently, local governments receive funding through Financial Assistance Grants and schemes which are not proportionally or significantly covering all the services, administration and responsibilities that fall on local governments. The financial deficit not covered by the grants or schemes are ultimately covered by the revenue raised by local government in the form of rates, fines, interest, and development contributions. A significant portion of local governments fail to obtain sufficient or meaningful funding through grants and schemes that cover out of the ordinary operational needs. Therefore, Federal Government funding would help to bring a greater balance or opportunity nationally for inadequately funded local governments to provide greater infrastructure and services to constituents.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Constitutional recognition will remove the requirement of funding going to the State before it goes to third parties as per s96 of the Constitution, enabling more direct access to funding and a larger 'pot' of revenue being available to local governments from the Federal Government;

Ensure greater collaboration between all levels of government and understanding of the needs of communities which are met at the local level;

1. Access to funding that will create resources in line with the responsibilities of local government and needs of the communities; and
2. Greater financial security and improved prospects of opportunity and community outcomes

## **Motion number 2 Newcastle City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Note, with disappointment, that local government remains unrepresented on the National Cabinet and requests that First Ministers review the decision to exclude local government from the national decision-making table;**
- 2. Recognise the importance of having local government representation on National Cabinet and the value of partnerships with councils in achieving the objectives of the National Cabinet and the national reform agenda; and**
- 3. Include a representative from the Australian Local Government Association on the National Cabinet, to ensure local government's interests are strongly represented at the national level.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Local government has been excluded from the National Cabinet, despite strong representation of Federal and State Governments through First Ministers (the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers).

Australians expect their three levels of government to be working together, and to see evidence of that. Including local government on National Cabinet would demonstrate a strong unity of purpose and a combined commitment to promote and implement National Cabinet decisions across the broadest implementation platform available to government.

Local governments are willing and necessary partners in developing and implementing reform.

Councils facilitate, establish, and grow local businesses and economies. Economic development has always been at the core of every successful council. Councils support economic growth through regional development policies and initiatives, strategic and land use planning, targeted investment attraction, prioritisation of local procurement, and focusing their annual investment on infrastructure that serves the community and business alike. Many councils also provide business networking opportunities, business training, mentoring, and incubator facilities and employment hubs. It is local government that is best placed to drive the locally-led recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

On 13 March 2020, as the Coronavirus pandemic took hold around the world, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) met in Sydney to discuss a range of issues of national importance. At that meeting First Ministers (the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers) agreed to establish a National Cabinet to meet at least weekly to address the country's response to the coronavirus.

## **Motion number 3 Canterbury Bankstown Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reverse its decision to remove the Local Government Ministerial portfolio, and the position be reinstated in its entirety.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

With over 530 councils across Australia and more than half of those in remote, regional, or rural areas, local government requires appropriate Ministerial representation at the federal level. This can only be achieved through a Minister in Cabinet. A Minister can make policy statements, initiate bills, and be held to account at Question Time, something an Assistant Minister cannot do.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

Councils are the closest level of government to the community and are best placed to respond directly on important social issues and during times of crisis. Local governments provide direct leadership, communication, essential services, and support to their respective communities, demonstrating this consistently and effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, communities are looking to their councils for support and direction.

## FINANCE

**'There have been a number of motions related to Financial Assistance Grants. Following a review by the ALGA National General Assembly Sub-committee it has been agreed that essentially these motions fall into two opposing motions related to the distribution methodology for the Financial Assistance Grants. One group seeks to change the methodology in favour of regional and rural local government areas while the other group seeks no change in the methodology until the quantum of the Financial Assistance Grants is increased to at least 1 % of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue. These two motions will be debated concurrently. Two sides of the debate will be as follows – for a change in methodology versus against a change in methodology. The mover of the motion for the change will speak first.'**

Motion number 4

### **Gunnedah Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to conduct a review into the local government Financial Assistance Grant Act 1995 and the basis on which grant funding for roads is allocated, to create a more equitable approach to allocations and one that recognises the infrastructure managed by local government in the rural, regional and remote regions of Australia.**

Motion number 4

### **Forbes Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government NOT to make changes to the methodology of Financial Assistance Grants funding until it is valued back to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.**

**Motions and material broadly supporting a change to the methodology include: Gunnedah Shire Council (NSW), Leeton Shire Council (NSW) and Central Highlands Regional Council (NSW).**

## **Motion number 4 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW**

**(As above)**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to conduct a review into the local government Financial Assistance Grant Act 1995 and the basis on which grant funding for roads is allocated, to create a more equitable approach to allocations and one that recognises the infrastructure managed by local government in the rural, regional and remote regions of Australia.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

ALGA's policy priorities are to:

Preserve Financial Assistance Grants as the major source of federal funding to local government.

Strengthen the business case to support calls to restore FA Grants to at least 1 percent.

Advocate to restore the FA Grants funding lost in the 2014-15 indexation freeze as the first phase in restoring FA Grants funding levels.

Encourage councils to acknowledge the value of Financial Assistance Grants.

Support state and territory associations to engage councils in a united campaign to achieve 1 percent for FA Grants.

Increase the Australian Government's recognition of local government as a trusted partner.

In NSW, the primary function of the NSW Local Government Grants Commission (Commission) is to make recommendations for the allocation of the FA Grants to the NSW Minister for Local Government.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local government financial assistance grants (FA Grants) are general purpose grants paid to local councils under the provisions of the Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. This legislation details how the total amount of FA Grants is determined and how the funds are to be distributed between the States (including the ACT and the NT).

The NSW Local Government Grants Commission has been reporting on the Financial Assistance Grants allocation methodology review since 2012. The Productivity Commission and the Independent Local Government Review Panel found there is an increasing inequity between sparsely populated more remote and rural areas and metropolitan, more densely populated areas. Generally, remote councils have greater relative need, due to inherent factors, which is being compounded by depopulation.

In NSW, a shift in population has been trending from the west of the divide toward the eastern seaboard. This has resulted in long term population decline in many rural and remote council areas. Therefore, such councils have a diminishing capacity to raise revenue, while retaining responsibility for infrastructure and services, often including large local road networks in the area. They are also vulnerable to the impacts of drought, flood and bushfire, further disadvantages which all amount to a greater relative disadvantage, or need, due to factors beyond those councils' control.

The Commission and local governments in the Namoi recommended that a new approach/model to allocations for FA Grants is sought, that any revised model should include consideration of;

- genuine cost drivers;
- allocating a higher proportion of grant funding to councils with the greatest relative need;
- is robust, statistically verifiable and auditable;
- uses best practice financial modelling principles;
- is transparent and publishable.

#### **Motion number 4.1 Leeton Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and remove the requirement to allocate 30% of the General Purpose Component of Financial Assistance Grants on the basis of population increases/decreases.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective is to increase the level of financial support provided by the Federal Government through Local Government Financial Assistance Grants and to ensure the funds are allocated in such a way as to improve the sustainability of Councils with less revenue raising ability.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The roles and responsibilities of local governments have increased over time as a result of a number of factors including cost shifting from other levels of government and increasing community demand particularly in rural, regional and remote areas where there is more likely to be a need to provide essential services such as aged care or childcare which would otherwise not be available.

In the past 25 years local government expenditure has quadrupled in nominal terms. Over the period from 1994/95 to 2018/19, total local government expenditure increased from \$8.2 billion to \$38.8 billion ('Background in Local Government Funding', ALGA).

While local government expenditure has grown significantly over time, its revenue base has not. Many Councils are finding it difficult to remain financially sustainable and their reliance

on grants as a proportion of their income is high. For some rural and remote councils, grants can account for more than 50% of council revenue.

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants, which are broken into two components the General Purpose Component (GPC) and the Local Roads Component (LRC) are paid by the Federal Government to local councils to help them deliver services to their communities. In contrast to many grants, Federal Assistance Grants are untied; Councils are free to use the funds in the ways they believe will best serve their communities.

The level of Financial Assistance Grants as a proportion of Commonwealth tax revenue has been steadily declining since the year 2000. Financial Assistance Grants have declined by around 43% in relative terms, and now equal about 0.55% of Commonwealth tax revenue.

The impact of the relative reduction in Financial Assistance Grants is greater for some Councils than others because of the way in which the funds are allocated.

Funds are allocated on the basis of National Principles under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. Under the National Principles, a fixed 30% of the General Purpose Component of the grant must be allocated based on population increases/decreases. This favours Council's with a higher population, which generally have greater capacity to raise their own revenue. It further disadvantages rural and remote Councils with small and declining populations, limited capacity to raise revenue, financial responsibility for sizeable networks of local roads and other infrastructure, diminishing financial resources and relative isolation.

Many local governments across Australia have insufficient revenue-raising capacity to maintain or upgrade their significant infrastructure holdings or provide the level of services that their communities desire. Councils are faced with the prospect of having to retire community infrastructure that they cannot afford to renew infrastructure that is, in many cases, vital to community wellbeing and cohesion.

References

1. Background on local government funding, Australian Local Government Association
2. Financial Assistance Grants 2021 22: Fact Sheet September 2021, NSW Local Government Grant's Commission

**Motion number 4.2 Central Highlands Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Review and increase the amount of Financial Assistance Grants available through grants commissions.**
- 2. Review and amend the national principles of the local government Financial Assistance Grant to ensure no council is materially worse off in any changes made to the states' distribution methodologies.**
- 3. Advocate for state grants commissions to publish a full report when amending allocation methodologies, including 2021 methodology reviews and for the report to explain changes to formulas used to allocate Financial Assistance Grants.**

#### **4. Require that amended state allocation methodologies comply with the national principles for distribution of the grant.**

##### **OBJECTIVE**

The Commonwealth Government provides funding to local government councils through the allocation of financial assistance grants by the various state grant commissions.

There is a requirement for a review of the overall percentage from the national pool available to the states through the grants commission. Further to this the national principles require an amendment to ensure no council is materially worse off due to any changes made to the state grants commissions distribution methodologies. Allocation methodologies need to comply with the national principles which are prescribed by the Commonwealth Government primarily designed to support councils who are unable to provide the average level of services for local government.

The National General Assembly provides the opportunity to raise the issue of how changes to state grants commissions methodologies are managed and provide insight to members of potential issues arising from methodology reviews in their jurisdiction.

##### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In June 2021, the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (QLGGC) released a discussion paper relating to a major review of the method used to allocate the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants. The discussion paper posed a number of questions relating to the methodology in place at the time (which had remained largely unchanged since 2011) and sought input from councils on principles that would lead to a revised methodology.

The QLGGC received 31 submissions from individual councils including Central Highlands Regional Council and regional organisations of councils which covered a total of 69 (of 77) Queensland councils. The QLGGC completed the review and in December wrote to councils to advise of the outcome of the review and the expected impact on their funding allocation. The QLGGC advised that the new model will result in:

- 50 councils (65%) out of 77 councils in Queensland receiving a greater funding allocation;
- 35% of councils receiving a reduced allocation (which equates to an average reduction of 2% of operating revenue) and;
- Four additional councils being classified as minimum grant councils.

Limited information has been made to councils and no report has been published which details the processes undertaken in the review, the changes to the factors used in the allocation model, or the financial modelling behind the new calculations. Councils have not been provided with their individual calculations nor how the new calculations differ from the old model.

While the QLGGC has advised that the reductions are an average of 2% of operating revenue for the adversely impacted councils, in real terms the shortfall in grant funding will need to



be recovered from general rates, making the impact much more than 2%. Alternatively, the councils will need to reduce costs by reducing services which will also be unpalatable to communities which are already struggling from an economic decline due to the COVID 19 pandemic and reductions in services over a number of years at a federal and state level.

At a time when the Queensland Government is focussing on reviewing measures of financial sustainability and when councils and their communities are trying to recover from the pandemic, the change in the methodology would not appear to have considered long term impacts of such a significant reduction in funding as is the case for some councils.

**Motions and material broadly supporting no change to the methodology until the quantum is increased to at least 1 % of Commonwealth Taxation revenue which include: Forbes Shire Council (NSW), Tenterfield Shire Council (QLD), Redland City Council (QLD), Western Downs Regional Council (QLD), Canterbury Bankstown Council (NSW), Brimbank City Council (VIC), South Burnett Regional Council (QLD), Newcastle City Council (NSW), Mid Coast Council (NSW), North Burnett Regional Council (QLD), Maroondah City (VIC), Mitchell Shire (VIC) and Tweed Shire Council (NSW).**

## **Motion number 4 Forbes Shire Council NSW**

**(As above)**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government NOT to make changes to the methodology of Financial Assistance Grants funding until it is valued back to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Financial Assistance Grants provide vital untied funds for local government to upgrade infrastructure appropriate to their local circumstances and are generally one of the main external sources of funding for rural councils. The relative decline of FA grants over the past 20 years (a 43% decline) coupled with increased cost shifting (for example the recent Emergency Services Levy increases in NSW), and rate pegging has meant that many rural councils are struggling to provide the services their communities require.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The federal budget allocation for FA Grants is currently sitting at around 0.55% of Commonwealth tax revenue, which is a significant decrease from the 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue recorded in 1996. This relative reduction in FA grants over time seriously impacts the financial viability of smaller rural councils who are highly reliant on grant funding for their financial survival.

## Motion number 4.1 Tenterfield Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level of at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue by the 2022/23 financial year.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

This issue has been raised at a recent Country Mayors Association meeting, indicating that this motion addresses a common concern affecting a wide range of regions.

In order for councils, particularly regional and rural councils, to become more financially sustainable, these motions need to be adopted and accepted by the Federal Government.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Depreciation is one of the largest components of rural and regional councils' expenditure. Success in receiving Commonwealth and other grants is a double-edged sword, particularly in relation to new items of capital expenditure, as the inevitable depreciation increases as a result of new infrastructure results in higher depreciation, impacting on a council's bottom line. Financial Assistance Grants, which are untied funding for councils, need to increase in recognition that there are additional and ongoing life cycle costs associated with new grant-funded assets and it is impossible for councils to sustain such increased costs without additional funding. Further, it is unfair on ratepayers to have to bear these costs.

## Motion number 4.2 Redland City Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The allocation of Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) to councils provides an important source of funding so council can continue delivering the projects and services that are important to our community. Redland City Council, along with the Local Government Association of Queensland and Australia Local Government Association, is calling on the Federal Government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In 1996 FA Grants were equal to around one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. However, a freeze on the indexation of FA Grants has seen a 43 percent decline in relative terms over the past 20 years, with them now equating to approximately 0.55% (2018) of Commonwealth tax revenue.

Council is seeking a commitment from the Federal Government to restore FA Grants allocations to one percent of taxation revenue, which would provide an increase of approximately \$4 million to Redland City.

### Motion number 4.3 Western Downs Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase and maintain the national grant entitlement for Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1.0% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this motion is to secure reliable and equitable base level funding for local government services across Australia, thereby providing certainty of funding to support essential services and the maintenance of core public infrastructure such as roads.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local governments have three main sources of income: rates, fees and charges, and grant income from Federal and State Government. The Federal Government provides support to fund the activities of local government by payment of Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants), which has two untied components: general purpose and roads.

### Motion number 4.4 Canterbury Bankstown Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the local government Financial Assistance Grants to a minimum of 1% Commonwealth taxation revenue to better assist councils in post COVID-19 economic recovery.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Councils have experienced unprecedented financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis. These challenges, coupled with the growing range of services provided by councils that extend beyond their traditional role, are having a major impact on what services are provided by councils and how these are delivered to their communities.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The local government sector needs to be financially equipped and be appropriately geared towards economic recovery. In order to do so, financial certainty is required to plan for the future so as to ensure the continued financial longevity of councils. Failure to secure adequate federal funding will have a direct impact on the communities at a time when economic recovery is most needed.

### Motion number 4.5 Brimbank City Council VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Recognise the importance of Financial Assistance Grants to all councils.**
- 2. Increase the pool of funds available for the Financial Assistance Grants so that this equates to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.**
- 3. Ensure that the pool of funds is not decreased in future years.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

When an earlier version of the Financial Assistance Grants was introduced in the 1970's, it amounted to 2% of personal income tax transfers. This was then reduced to 1% of total Commonwealth tax revenue (CTR) and is now approximately 0.55% of CTR.

The current arrangements for Financial Assistance Grants are that they are indexed by a combination of the Consumer Price Index and the rate of population growth. However, this determination is that of the Treasurer alone.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The quantum of Financial Assistance Grants funding is too low for the increasing responsibilities of local government, and the indexation methodology does not sufficiently recognise the true cost pressures on councils.

In fact, in previous years the indexation has ceased, resulting in the amount distributed to Council's decreasing in real terms. This ultimately means less services and projects for the community.

### **Motion number 4.6 South Burnett Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to halt the decline in the Financial Assistance Grants and restore to 1% equivalent of the Commonwealth taxation revenue.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Financial Sustainability / A Fairer Tax Share

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Local Government Association of Queensland notes that local government receives 3% of Commonwealth taxation revenue, yet manages 33% of public assets, while the Federal Government collects 80% of taxes and manages 11% of public assets.

Councils need reliable funding transfers from other tiers of government to ensure communities have well maintained public infrastructure and services.

The restoration of revenue will match service delivery responsibilities and allow regional economies to operate in a way that sustains communities, creates jobs, and generates exports.

### **Motion number 4.7 Newcastle City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to return funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Financial Assistance Grants are a form of Federal Government funding provided to the states for the purposes of local government.

The total funding of the grant on an annual basis was equivalent to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue in 1996. That 1% figure has significantly reduced since that time to a level approximately half of that amount.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Financial Assistance Grant program is provided under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 and are granted from the federal government to councils in the form of untied financial assistance, allowing councils to spend the grants according to local priorities.

### **Motion number 4.8 MidCoast Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue**

### **Motion number 4.9 North Burnett Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore untied local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and distribute funds more equitably across local government communities who have limited capacity to raise or increase own-source revenue outside current rating streams.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

This is vital untied funding that Councils rely on to deliver core services to the community and maintain essential infrastructure. All local governments rely on this for funding certainty in budget planning and for financial sustainability in regional areas where the local government has limited capacity to earn revenue outside of rates and charges. Many regional areas have limited capacity to raise rates and charges due to the low socio-economic demographic of the region's ratepayers. This funding is a partnership between the federal, state and local government and is instrumental in the day-to-day service delivery for all Australians.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

North Burnett Regional Council is classified as a financially unsustainable Council, and under a recent methodology review of the Queensland Federal Assistance Grants, Council has received a significant reduction in its FA Grants allocation, which will reduce by \$2 million in total over 3 years. This is a major hit to Council's financial sustainability to deliver core

services and assets for its local community. To recoup this funding gap, Council would need to raise the general rate by 17%, which is not possible for our region. Residents of the North Burnett deserve no less in their basic service delivery than any other resident in a neighbouring LGA which has a higher earning capacity outside of rates and charges. Equality isn't the aim of this funding; the result should be equity. To reach equity, we first must know what standard we are trying to achieve (whose head is the highest over the fence currently – and is that the level we can all afford as Queenslanders/Australians). Equity means that local government should have a greater say in how the federal funding is distributed, not the state government. We want to see the Federal Government take ownership of their funding and ensure it gets to the Councils who need it the most, to deliver for all Australian's and especially those outside of core urban areas.

#### Motion number 4.10 Maroondah City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide an increase in the amount of Financial Assistance Grants made to local government for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 year in recognition of the catastrophic financial results for the sector due to substantial costs incurred and revenue losses for all councils as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and for which there has been extremely limited, if any, Federal and State Government assistance.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted all local government authorities and communities across the Nation. Many services and infrastructure will take many, many years into the future to recover, if at all, and hence, councils urgently need Federal Government assistance through the existing Federal Assistance Grants mechanism to assist.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had catastrophic impacts on local government and its ability to deliver key services including leisure and recreation. Councils usually run their facilities, such as leisure centres and performing art theatres, in a way that they are self-sufficient, with all the income associated with those facilities being derived via user fees to manage, improve, and maintain those facilities as well as deliver the services expected by our communities. There is little to no reliance on rate revenue to keep these facilities operational. Whilst closures have been in place because of the pandemic, this income has significantly diminished (millions of dollars) whilst still incurring significant costs associated with maintaining those facilities.

#### Motion number 4.11 Mitchell Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for an increase in Financial Assistance Grants to support local governments to deliver a range of services, including roads maintenance.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

For the Federal Government to increase the funding provided through the Financial Assistance Grants to support Councils to deliver a range of vital services including roads maintenance. The Financial Assistance Grants are a key source of funding which enables local government to ensure that the community have access to a range of appropriate, accessible, and fit-for-purpose services.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Since its introduction in 1974-75, the Federal Government has provided almost \$56 billion in funding to local government through the Financial Assistance Grants. These grants represented around 1 percent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The current base funding should be increased to better reflect the actual cost of local government services and infrastructure and should be restored to a level equal to at least 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

These grants are a vital source of funding for local governments across Australia, empowering them to deliver a range of vital services. Most notably, one of the key purposes for which the grants are provided is to ensure the appropriate maintenance and upkeep of local roads. In 2019-20 the Federal Government will provide \$773.6 million worth of funding solely for this road's maintenance. Whilst this funding is greatly appreciated, the increasing cost of this maintenance coupled with Australia's ever-expanding local road network requires a parallel increase in funding from the Federal Government. The maintenance of local roads is one of the primary concerns for communities across Australia, and without an increase in the Financial Assistance Grants local governments will have to carry an increasing financial burden to ensure the continuance of this work, potentially at the cost of other vital services.

## **Motion number 4.12 Tweed Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate additional funding to councils to enable additional resources to ensure the timely delivery of infrastructure and regulatory services.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

There is little doubt that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the delivery of local government services.

Whilst the federal and state governments focus on the economic recovery from the COVID pandemic, the historically low interest rates coupled with large government incentives/grants has resulted in a development boom. Councils do not have the capacity to deal with the heightened investment in infrastructure projects, the unprecedented increase in developments, and the significant increase in the number of development assessments. This has led to a number of impacts such as delivery issues. This has also led to the outsourcing of projects to the private sector, resulting in inflated prices across the country.

Additionally, the ability of councils to service the regulatory requirements of developments has created a bottleneck in the timely approvals process.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

With both Federal and State governments stimulating economic recovery through increased investments (grants) and the concurrent very low interest rates promoting borrowing for residential housing, has combined to stretch the resource capacity of local government in infrastructure project delivery and development assessment services. Temporary additional funding is required for local government to assist in delivering these economic recovery objectives.

### **Motion number 5 Tweed Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to significantly increase the roads component to an acceptable percentage of the council's cost of maintaining the local road network.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Australian residents across the country rely on local Councils to provide safe, well-maintained roads. The issue of funding these repairs is often greater for rural and regional councils that have large land areas with a low-rate base. This is a national issue as the road component of the Financial Assistance Grant is insignificant compared to the asset value and responsibilities of councils for the nation's local road network.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Currently the Financial Assistance Grants provide a very low percentage of the actual roads' asset value: for Tweed, this is 0.4%. There is an increased need, due to increasing natural disasters and high rainfall, to ensure our road network is safe not only for general use but also for emergency evacuations. An injection of funds is needed to be able to complete higher quality repairs to withstand heavy rainfall and extreme heat.

### **Motion number 6 Northern Midlands Council TAS**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to investigate a nationwide database of benchmarking projects for local government, where information can be stored and shared among local government organisations.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

All local Councils provide the same, or similar services, regardless of their location in the country. All local Councils face the same or similar challenges. An opportunity exists for the development of a national database where all participating Councils have access and can share information relevant to others.



The premise behind the database is to encourage the sharing of mutually beneficial information across local government areas around the nation, thus ultimately reducing the cost of duplication and encouraging collaboration between Councils to achieve economies of scale.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Relevant and reliable performance information is essential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council services and decision-making.

Local governments deliver a wide range of services to the community, such as recreational and cultural facilities, waste management, family and community services and local infrastructure.

Councils need relevant and reliable information about their service performance, allowing them to compare their performance against similar organisations and identify areas of improvement. It also encourages the sector to share ideas and resources to improve service delivery.

An online nationwide local government information benchmarking database service would allow registered users to access, compare and analyse data and present their findings online and achieve continuous improvement.

In 2015, the Tasmanian State Government requested local government within Tasmania to look at opportunities for voluntary amalgamation and/or other resource sharing/shared service opportunities.

The eight north-eastern Councils in Tasmania collectively undertook a benchmarking process whereby opportunities for a shared services approach in the region was analysed. One of the areas identified where savings could be realised was the joint procurement of legal services by the member Councils. Under this model one legal firm has been appointed and each Council has access to a shared database of legal advice provided to all of the participating Councils.

All Tasmanian Councils are governed by the same legislation and are faced with the same legal questions from time to time. Therefore, having access to the shared legal database means that staff can access advice which may have previously been provided to another Council, without the cost of seeking the legal advice again.

This suggestion is for a similar model but on a larger scale, and applicable to opportunities such flood modelling or recycling initiatives.

## **Motion number 7 North Burnett Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide local government communities classified as rural or remote that have limited capacity to raise or increase own source revenue outside current rating streams to have access to federal**

**grant funding with a co-contribution of 10% or less for capital works projects including planning/scoping of these works.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The financial sustainability of local governments across Australia is a national priority, to ensure that grass-roots services and infrastructure support everyday Australians. Many regional areas have limited capacity to raise rates and charges due to the low socio-economic demographic of the region's ratepayers to have sufficient reserves to co-contribute at required levels for essential projects. The Federal Government offers a range of funding programs that are of great benefit to local governments, however, the capital cash contribution required by local government can be a barrier to applying and a barrier to investment in their region through federal funding.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local governments across Australia require significant investment to maintain and upgrade key infrastructure to support their communities. A major barrier to this investment in regional and remote Australia is local government's ability to co-invest alongside the Federal Government on key projects. Reducing the level of co-contribution will allow more investment in regional and remote Australia, delivering for all Australians, especially those in disadvantaged communities.

#### **Motion number 7.1 Tenterfield Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to either cease the practice of expecting council co-contributions when applying for federal government grants or allow a council's in-kind contributions to be eligible towards the co-contribution from councils.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

In order for Councils, particularly Regional and Rural Councils, to become more financially sustainable, these motions need to be adopted and accepted by the Federal Government.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Depreciation is one of the largest components of such Rural and Regional Councils expenditure. Success in receiving Commonwealth and other grants is a double-edged sword, particularly in relation to new items of capital expenditure, as the inevitable depreciation increases as a result of new infrastructure results in higher depreciation, impacting on a Council's bottom line. Financial Assistance Grants which are untied funding for councils need to increase in recognition that there are additional and ongoing lifestyle costs associated with new grant funded assets and it is impossible for Councils to sustain such increased costs without additional funding. Further, it is unfair on ratepayers to have to bear these costs.

The above motions, if accepted, will require changes to the Federal Government's grant guidelines in some instances and will also require changes to the Federal Governments budget policy in relation to the Financial Assistance Grants.

## **Motion number 8 Tenterfield Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide grant funding in advance to regional and rural councils and not in arrears so as to avoid impacting unfavourably on said council's cash flow.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

In order for Councils, particularly Regional and Rural Councils to become more financially sustainable, these motions need to be adopted and accepted by the Federal Government.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Depreciation is one of the largest components of such Rural and Regional Councils' expenditure. Success in receiving Commonwealth and other grants is a double-edged sword, particularly in relation to new items of capital expenditure, as the inevitable depreciation increases as a result of new infrastructure results in higher depreciation, impacting on Council's bottom line. Financial Assistance Grants which are untied funding for councils need to increase in recognition that there are additional and ongoing lifestyle costs associated with new grant-funded assets and it is impossible for Councils to sustain such increased costs without additional funding. Further, it is unfair for ratepayers to have to bear these costs.

The above motions, if accepted, will require changes to the Federal Government's grant guidelines in some instances and will also require changes to the Federal Governments budget policy in relation to the Financial Assistance Grants.

## **Motion number 9 Tenterfield Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allow councils to use new grant funding opportunities for projects already contained within their operational plan that would have otherwise been funded from loans (currently they are excluded).**

### **OBJECTIVE**

In order for Councils, particularly Regional and Rural Councils to become more financially sustainable, these motions need to be adopted and accepted by the Federal Government.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Depreciation is one of the largest components of such Rural and Regional Councils expenditure. Success in receiving Commonwealth and other grants is a double-edged sword,

particularly in relation to new items of capital expenditure, as the inevitable depreciation increases as a result of new infrastructure results in higher depreciation, impacting on Council's bottom line. Financial Assistance Grants which are untied funding for councils need to increase in recognition that there are additional and ongoing lifestyle costs associated with new grant funded assets and it is impossible for Councils to sustain such increased costs without additional funding. Further, it is unfair for ratepayers to have to bear these costs.

The above motions, if accepted, will require changes to the Federal Government's grant guidelines in some instances and will also require changes to the Federal Government's budget policy in relation to the Financial Assistance Grants.

## TRANSPORT

### Motion number 10 Canterbury Bankstown Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the Roads to Recovery Program funding from \$500 million to \$1 billion per year and extend the program beyond 30 June 2024.**

#### OBJECTIVE

The Roads to Recovery Program has provided vital financial support to councils across the country to maintain and support the nation's local roads infrastructure assets. With close to 80 percent of Australia's road network owned and managed by local councils, it is critical that the program be extended beyond June 2024, and additional funds be injected into the program to further assist councils with this critically important function.

#### KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia's middle-range population projection of 35.9 million by 2050 emphasises major changes to our population in the coming decades. In NSW alone, the population is set to increase by over 30 percent in the next 20 years. This population projection suggests a possible increase to the number of motor vehicles on our roads, given driving still remains the most dominant form of travel.

As of January 2021, a total of 20.1 million motor vehicles were registered in Australia, an increase of close to 2 percent from the previous year. With more motor vehicles on our roads, there is increasing pressure placed on councils to not only maintain the current roads infrastructure, but to consider and plan for the construction of much-needed roads for the future.

With close to 700,000km of sealed and unsealed roads owned or managed by councils, permanent funding of local roads infrastructure is required. This permanent funding,

coupled with an increase to the Roads to Recovery Program funding provided, is imperative to ensure the safety of the community when using our roads and help reduce road fatalities.

Councils cannot generate taxation revenue like other tiers of government and rely on grant funding to provide much-needed financial support for road maintenance and construction. This, coupled with serious expenditure gaps, highlights the importance of ongoing and increased funding for our local roads. Canterbury-Bankstown Council alone has an annual funding gap of \$8 million. The consequence of this funding gap is that the average condition of all of Council's roads has been decreasing over time.

Climate change with increases in temperature and UV reaching the surface due to decreased stratospheric ozone, contributes to accelerated ageing of bitumen and asphalt road surfaces. This makes the bitumen brittle and subject to cracking. Reduced asphalt life requires additional budget allocations just to maintain the status quo.

The additional funding of up to \$1 billion will address the infrastructure backlog and enable councils to upgrade roads that require urgent attention, increase local jobs, and increase GDP. It will curtail the under-investment in local roads and enable councils to maintain compromised roads and improve local roads, as well as forward-plan on road maintenance and improvement.

## **Motion number 10.1 Canterbury Bankstown Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to councils in perpetuity, so as to continue its support of councils and their efforts to maintain and create community infrastructure and local roads for their communities.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has been welcomed by councils across the country. The program has enabled councils to prioritise and deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects during a time of heightened uncertainty. However, the grant funding provided to councils is available through a three-phase process and is forecast to cease after Phase 3 (all projects are to be delivered by June 2023).

Given the financial challenges councils currently face, the ongoing provision of this grant funding is required to provide councils with financial certainty required to steer towards locally-led economic recovery and meet state government demands and community expectations.

Ongoing grant funding that focuses on both local roads and community infrastructure will provide councils with the financial support required to bounce back from the COVID crisis, be future-focused and resilient, and plan their economic locally-led recovery.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

Councils have experienced the effects of the COVID crisis quite profoundly. The immediate impacts of restrictions and lockdowns saw the cessation and closure of services and facilities. In addition, councils' ability to create new and maintain current community infrastructure was severely impacted, and projects were inevitably put on hold.

Councils spend extraordinary amounts to maintain their assets. In 2019-20 alone, NSW councils' asset maintenance expenditure was \$1.94 billion, and this figure continues to increase, irrespective of the COVID pandemic. In 2019-2020, NSW councils reported an estimated infrastructure backlog of \$3.7 billion. This is the estimated costs to bring assets to a satisfactory standard. Expenditure of asset maintenance is essential to ensuring assets continue to meet their service delivery requirements.

The provision of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program has enabled councils to reignite and accelerate priority projects that would service their communities. It has provided much-needed support for local economies, enabling councils to focus on crucial local infrastructure, while helping communities recover financially. This partnership between federal and local governments is crucial to the economic recovery of councils across the country.

The Australian Government must show its continued commitment to locally-led economic recovery by continuing the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program in perpetuity. This \$2.5 billion commitment from the Australian Government must continue past Phase 3. This funding improves the quality of life for the community, creates business opportunities and employment, makes communities and roads safer, and our cities more vibrant.

### Motion number 10.2 Western Downs Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate more funding to road infrastructure to sustainably manage state and federal transport infrastructure and backlog of work.**

#### OBJECTIVE

Regional areas in Australia contribute significantly to the economy. The Regional Australian Institute estimates that regional Australia accounts for around 40 percent of national economic output and employs around one-third of Australia's workforce.

The mining, agriculture and manufacturing industries have traditionally been the driving force of economic growth, with health care and construction more recently contributing to the success of regions.

Australia relies heavily on regional areas for the production of commodities, and the road network should serve this heavy freight task. The significant economic contribution of

regional areas and the heavy freight task should be included in the criteria for the distribution of funds, in addition to the volume of road users.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30 focuses on improving road safety through safe roads, safe vehicles, and safe road use.

This action plan focuses on safety improvements; however, action also needs to remain on effective asset management of these assets.

Recent programs, such as the Warrego Highway Upgrade Program (WHUP), have addressed some of these concerns, but have focused predominantly on metropolitan areas, with a lower proportion of funding spent in regional and remote communities. Further, the works completed by this program in regional areas have focused on improvements such as wide centre-line treatments and flattening of batter slopes, while many areas of road in poor condition remain unaddressed and continue to present a threat to road-user safety.

The risk to road-user safety is also predominantly borne by local government as the network steward for the state road network within their respective regions. This risk is compounded by a lack of sufficient maintenance funding in these regions, for example in the 2021/22 Financial Year the Western Downs RMPC allocated \$1.45M to the National Highways within this region to address a recorded defect backlog value \$6.023M as of June 30, 2021.

The National Road Safety Strategy identifies that there are significantly more road deaths on regional and remote areas of Australia than major cities (10.0 (regional), 25.1 (remote) and 2.2. (Major cities) per 100,000 people) and require investment to ensure roads in these areas are fit-for-purpose.

Investment in road infrastructure should consider the heavy freight task in regional areas. The significant economic contribution of regional areas and the heavy freight task should be included in the criteria for the distribution of funds, in addition to the volume of road users.

Regional areas in Australia rely on safe and well-maintained state and federal road networks to enable industries' heavy freight task.

It is expected that more investment on state and federal roads across Australia will provide a safe, well-maintained, and connective road network.

## **Motion number 10.3 Central Desert Regional Council NT**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate additional roads funding towards unsealed roads in regional and remote areas.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Part of the Australian Government's commitment to improving road safety.

National Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2020 identified remote roads as a major issue.

National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30 identified the need for increased investment in road infrastructure to deliver improved road safety outcomes through improving road quality, especially for regional and remote roads, to reduce the economic and social cost of road trauma in our communities.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Every Australian deserves a safe and efficient road network regardless of where they live.

Sixty-five percent of road deaths occur in regional and remote areas. The road toll in regional communities is more than four times greater than in the major cities, and 10 times greater in remote communities. There are 2.2 deaths per 100,000 people in the major cities; 10 deaths per 100,000 in regional areas; and 25.1 deaths per 100,000 in remote areas.

The majority of our community main access roads are flat blade roads; when it rains this results in flooding and the community becomes isolated, leaving residents with no access to essential services exacerbated by the use of visiting services for police, health and power and water.

## **Motion number 10.4 Penrith City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support state and local government agencies by facilitating the delivery of infrastructure where there is a shortfall in contributions funding. Additional support will ensure the right infrastructure is provided to meet the increasing demands of NSW's growing population.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

NSW is undergoing significant growth in its cities and regions, which contributes to the socio-economic growth of Australia more broadly. Despite infrastructure investment at all levels of government, as communities grow and expand, demand continues to rise for new and upgraded infrastructure. Expectations on the type and standards of infrastructure that should be provided by Councils is increasing. A range of new and upgraded infrastructure is needed to meet the needs of people who live and work in new and growing communities.

Significant reforms for infrastructure contributions were exhibited by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in October 2021, following a review undertaken by the NSW Productivity Commission in 2020. These reforms seek to deliver substantial changes to the collection of contributions. Some of the proposed reforms may create a shortfall in contributions funding and also require Councils to increasingly forward fund infrastructure. Reforms to state-based contributions further place strain on the viability of development.

It is clear from these reviews and reforms that the cost of delivering infrastructure for new growth cannot be entirely borne through state or local development contributions.



## Motion number 10.5 East Gippsland Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) – or a similar non-competitive funding program focused on funding community infrastructure and local roads based on the characteristics and needs of the local government area in an ongoing capacity – so that all communities across Australia can benefit from sustained and consistent roads and community infrastructure upgrade projects without a reliance on competitive processes that often exclude projects due to local government's capacity to draft grant funding applications.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To support the renewal of infrastructure critical to Australia's community health and wellbeing in a manner that reduces the associated maintenance costs, and continually and consistently enhances the quality and safety of these assets.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Enabling councils, which own and manage around a third of Australia's community infrastructure, lack the ability to reduce the gap between available local government funding and the funding required to ensure community infrastructure assets are maintained.

Non-competitive, needs-based funding provides equitable support to local governments based on need rather than capacity to draft competitive funding applications

The key arguments behind this motion are:

1. A program such as LRCI provides an essential mechanism for the equitable distribution of funds, based on need.
2. The program is an excellent example of a partnership between Australian Government and local government to progress economic resilience by generating and maintaining locally based jobs and thereby stimulating local economies.
3. This will ensure local governments are able to continue to provide infrastructure to their communities to meet a range of community and economic needs.
4. The program is ideally placed to continue to build resilience in local communities, along with generating and maintaining local jobs.

## Motion number 10.6 Campaspe Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program funding for local governments and allocate a proportion of this funding for infrastructure design of community infrastructure in partnerships with local communities.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The provision of LRCI program funding from May 2020 has been one of the enablers for local governments to boost local economic recovery through the delivery of increased community infrastructure. Continuing this program will support the national objective of supporting economic recovery across Australia from the COVID-19 pandemic as well as supporting job creation both within Council and through contractors.

Local government is responsible for the provision of \$533 billion (replacement cost) worth of infrastructure to local communities across the nation. The direct funding of all local governments through the LRCI program has demonstrated support to local communities both large and small and has allowed for local responses to supporting economic recovery.

Including a component of funding under this program for planning and design of infrastructure will ensure the ongoing pipeline of future projects for delivery and could support community partnerships with both the Australian and local governments in the design of community infrastructure for long-lasting community benefit.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Australian Government is to be commended for investing \$2.5 billion to the LRCI program in support of local governments stimulating economic recovery at a local level through infrastructure projects that will have ongoing community benefit.

Continuing the direct allocation of program funding will support ongoing economic recovery and aid the timely provision of economic stimulus within local communities. This funding also supports the retention and creation of jobs both within local governments and with contractors.

The last three rounds of the LRCI program have focused on infrastructure delivery within defined timelines and have relied upon local governments having 'shovel ready' projects to advance through the program. This has depleted the available projects that can be advanced to the construction phase and delivered within 12-to-18-month timeframes, especially for smaller rural local governments like Campaspe Shire Council.

Allocating a proportion of the program funding for planning and design of community infrastructure will support local governments to have an ongoing pipeline of infrastructure projects to advance to deliver and maintain ongoing economic activity.

Investment in local roads and community infrastructure is a direct demonstration of the Australian Government working in partnership with local governments, in support of local communities and responding to their diverse and specific local needs.

## **Motion number 10.7 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide councils with an additional one-off Roads to Recovery grant equal to 50percent of the annual**

**funding for the maintenance, repair, and renewal of roads because of the prolonged wet and dry conditions across the Eastern Seaboard.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Commonwealth Government will have provided \$6.2 billion funding to local councils under R2R between the 2013-14 financial year to the 2023-24 financial years. An ALGA study released in 2010 into local road funding estimated that to simply maintain, rather than improve Australia's local roads up to 2025, an addition \$1.2 billion annually is required. Without this additional funding, under-investment in local roads will continue. This funding shortfall hinders local and regional social and economic development, and ultimately affects the development and productivity of the nation. ALGA has called for the federal government to increase R2R funding to \$800 million per annum.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Transport and infrastructure are significant areas of expenditure for all councils. Roads to Recovery Program (R2R) is essential to help councils address the maintenance backlog on local roads. R2R is a true partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local government. This funding is greatly valued by all councils and their local communities. On 6 November 2019, the Government announced \$138.9 million additional Roads to Recovery funding in the 2020 calendar year for the 128 Local Government Areas eligible for the Drought Communities Programme Extension. All Drought Extension funding has been paid to the relevant councils.

Since the Commonwealth recognised the impact of drought on local communities and roads, there have been severe bushfires, mini cyclones, hailstorms, and flooding. There has also been the impact on the economy of the global pandemic.

Such disruptions to the economy and the impact of climate change on road maintenance and systems are extraordinary, and an additional investment in Roads to Recovery for Councils will assist in addressing the maintenance backlog and create opportunities for business development and employment.

#### **Motion number 10.8 Melton City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in infrastructure that will assist local government to attract commercial investment to create localised jobs.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Economic recovery, jobs creation and economic resilience are key areas of national focus as we emerge from COVID-19. Local government authorities need to attract commercial investment to their municipalities for a robust economy, greater economic output, and the availability of localised jobs. This is an issue for every LGA; however, Growth Areas nationally are additionally impacted as they are without the supporting infrastructure

required for business to attract employment, improve productivity, and provide their products and services to market. These include better roads without congestion, public transport, hospitals, and commercial freight rail infrastructure.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Growth Areas have the potential to be economic powerhouses with access to a 2.2 million national workforce and large greenfield commercial land ready to be transformed into industrial, commercial, manufacturing, health and education precincts providing significant employment. Outer growth areas are lacking in localised job opportunities and transport infrastructure leading to higher unemployment against the average, and lower liveability. Planning for growth with early investment into supporting infrastructure, including public transport, roads, and industry, will lead to the creation of jobs.

### **Motion number 10.9 Penrith City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in nation-building projects where it can be established, they will facilitate better road and transport connections between cities and with regions around Australia. The criteria for these projects should be based on the economic opportunities they create for freight and passenger movement, migration, service provision and business support, as these are known to contribute best to our national productivity.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

When transport and logistics networks work effectively, they raise productivity levels and strengthen the economy. As such, there is a multi-faceted and wide-ranging interdependence between cities and regional Australia, with these connections critically important to national productivity.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Investing in nation-building projects such as better road and transport connections between cities and regions will provide far-reaching benefits.

The Central West of NSW is forecast by Infrastructure Australia to be among the seven most important regions in Australia measured in terms of GRP by 2031. Improved connectivity from this region to Greater Sydney would be particularly beneficial, as the new Western Sydney International Airport will have a substantial focus on freight and cargo opportunities planned in the early phases.

The Central West region and the Western Parkland City have significant potential and resources to grow the Food Economy. Food manufacturing underpins the Western Sydney economy (EY & Food & Grocery Council 2017), and the region is the hub of Sydney's nearly one-billion-dollar agriculture sector (ABARES 2016). The Central West is one of NSW's premier agricultural regions with a gross value of product (GVP) of close to \$2 billion p.a. or 13 percent of the region's GVP. It also hosts a vibrant food processing and manufacturing

sector, with a strong emphasis on local produce and wine that has spawned a strong hospitality and night-time economy in regional centres.

As such, investment in projects like the Castlereagh Connection – already a national infrastructure project identified by Infrastructure Australia – would provide far reaching connectivity beyond Greater Sydney. This road will:

- reduce gaps in the national transport network, particularly to the Central West;
- reduce congestion on the arterial road network;
- unlock economic opportunities in tourism, freight, and agribusiness, and
- maximise investment by connecting to planned North South infrastructure - Sydney Metro Greater West and the Outer Sydney Orbital as well as the existing Motorway network.

### Motion number 10.10 Mornington Peninsula Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase federal funding for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Roads to Recovery and Black Spot Program. .**

**The additional funding would assist in addressing the high level of road trauma on local roads within the Mornington Peninsula, provide for local needs of our community with additional paths, and facilitate significant road improvements on our key roads.**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reform the administration of the Black Spot Program.**

**Improvements to the administration of the Black Spot Program would result in a more fair and equitable funding program for local governments to effectively implement road safety treatments in the highest-risk locations to achieve the highest reductions in road trauma.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Local governments have a key role, and a statutory and ethical responsibility in managing roads and road safety. With local councils managing 75 percent of Australia's road network and around 30-40 percent of road deaths occurring on council managed roads, significant funding for council managed roads is required to achieve the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 objectives of halving roads deaths by 2030.

As councils deliver a diverse range of services, an increase in external funding is necessary to achieve a significant reduction in road trauma.

As evidence of Council's determination to eliminate severe road trauma, in 2016 the Shire formally committed to becoming Victoria's first 'Towards Zero' municipality with a vision for zero road deaths within the Mornington Peninsula by 2050. The Shire's strong support of the Safe System approach to preventing deaths and severe injury, and how we will approach this, is detailed in our Council-adopted Mornington Peninsula Towards Zero 2020-2025 Road

Safety Strategy. Our strategy is strongly aligned with the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.

We know what road conditions and environments tend to result in crashes all over the Mornington Peninsula and that the exact location where crashes occur is random. Therefore, our road safety strategy encompasses an innovative approach to considering road safety risks, not just crash history.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

At current funding levels, progress on improving road safety within the Mornington Peninsula and across Australia will be slower, resulting in more lives lost on our roads; key Principal Pedestrian Network paths won't be able to be constructed in the medium to long term, leaving communities isolated from key destinations; and some key roads will continue to deteriorate and not be fit-for-purpose for the increasing needs of our community and visitors.

Mornington Peninsula Shire is a leading municipality in the development and construction of innovative road safety treatments with the objective of achieving comparable road trauma reductions as traditional treatments at a significantly lower cost. A key example of this is compact roundabouts where the roundabout is smaller than traditional roundabouts by using speed humps on the approach to the roundabout to slow down vehicles prior to the roundabout. We're currently in the process of implementing three compact roundabouts which are funded by the Black Spot Program and Roads to Recovery.

In addition, the administration of the Black Spot Program by the Victorian Department of Transport results in a number of impediments to local governments receiving Black Spot funding and successfully delivering road safety treatments to reduce road trauma.

We believe that many other councils are experiencing similar challenges.

## **Motion number 11 Bulloo Shire Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) framework to ensure:**

- 1. Improved opportunities for local government engagement;**
- 2. Transparency in corridor selection and development of works packages; and**
- 3. Regular and timely reviews and reporting of outcomes to all stakeholders**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) framework aims to improve productivity and efficiency on Australia's key freight roads, providing better connections between agricultural regions and ports, airports and other transport hubs, and better access for tourism, mining, and other sectors.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Whilst the concept of ROSI is supported, the approach to its administration and management seems to be 'set and forget', leaving many councils in South-West Queensland and no doubt further afield wondering about the status of ROSI corridors and whether there are opportunities to identify additional corridors and contest for the delivery of various work packages.

## **Motion number 12 Frankston City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reduce the community risks associated with motorised bikes (monkey bikes) in public places:**

- 1. Allocate appropriate resources to tackle and reduce the community risks associated with motorised bikes (monkey bikes) in public places except where they are specifically permitted in those public places;**
- 2. Implement clear legislation and appropriately equip state police to act and address monkey bikes in the community; and**
- 3. Facilitate a significant education campaign to highlight the rules around riding motorbikes in public places and the significant dangers and risks associated with riding dangerously and illegally.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

-Monkey Bikes have significant impacts on climate change and environmental impacts associated with emissions from the bikes themselves and the physical damage caused to native flora and fauna by illegal riding.

Monkey bikes impose a direct and serious safety risk to the riders and the broader community; this is evident through many deaths and serious injuries across all states and territories

There is an inconsistent approach to education and enforcement of illegal monkey bikes across various local governments and each State and Territory.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Anti-social behaviour and the prevalence of monkey/motor cross bikes has a compounding impact on the community. To mitigate against the extent of the impact, State Governments should be engaging in education to the community and working with other agencies to achieve acceptable compliance.

The social, amenity, public safety, compliance, and related issues are well documented and known to Councils, emergency services and the community. State Governments should be supporting emergency service workers and the community to collectively and collaboratively address the issues associated with monkey bikes through good community education, adequate enforcement resources, and strong legislation.

## Motion number 13 Brisbane City Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review how importation regulations are being enforced in regard to non-compliant personal mobility devices (PMDs) being imported and used in Australia, and to facilitate harmonisation of road rules as they apply to PMDs across Australia.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The take-up of PMDs, most particularly electric scooters (e-scooters), in Australia has largely been through the permitting of shared schemes to operate in Australian cities and regions with clear specifications. The popularity of PMDs has generated a rapidly expanding retail industry for private PMD ownership, which is importing a range of devices, many of which are non-compliant to State and Territory road rules.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) regulates the importation of road vehicles for use on public roads in Australia under the Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 (the Act).

Many PMDs, including most e-scooters and e-bikes that are not mopeds, do not meet the definition of a road vehicle, as set out in section 6 of the Act. As such, the Department does not regulate those vehicles.

However, the Department has released the Road Vehicle Standards (Classes of Vehicles that are not Road Vehicles) Determination 2021 (the Determination), which sets out the classes of vehicles that have been pre-determined not to be road vehicles including PMDs and pedal assisted bicycles.

The Department will commence a full review of the Determination in the first quarter of 2022 and will seek further input from industry bodies, the community, and state and territory regulatory bodies.

However, there is a further role for the Australian Government to enforce regulations in regard to non-compliant devices being imported and ridden on Australian streets.

Although the National Transport Commission has developed a 'model' regulatory framework, individual states across Australia are adopting different road rules for PMDs. Differences include riding on footpaths and the use of bicycle lanes.

The Australian Government can play a lead role in resolving these inconsistencies, taking into account the different needs of cities and regions.

## Motion number 14 Lake Macquarie City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to accelerate the planning and implementation of faster rail corridors to support regional growth.**



## **OBJECTIVE**

COVID-19 has increased the migration of people and businesses to regions, with the growth in remote working options providing more flexibility to employees and employers. The Australian Government recognises the potential of faster rail to stimulate regional growth and improve access to jobs, services, and affordable housing. It established the National Faster Rail Agency in July 2019 to support future population growth by improving rail infrastructure and services between capital cities and regional centres.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Nearly \$80 million has been committed to progressing faster rail planning along selected strategic corridors including:

- Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane to the Gold Coast;
- Sydney to Newcastle, Sydney to Bomaderry (via Wollongong) and Sydney to Parkes (via Bathurst);
- Melbourne to Greater Shepparton, Melbourne to Albury/Wodonga and Melbourne to Traralgon; and
- Perth to Bunbury.

The Government's Faster Rail Plan notes that faster rail connections can create broad economic benefits for regional centres. Larger populations increase the demand for local services and attract businesses and industry to the local areas. The plan envisages a network of faster rail connections being delivered between capital cities and key regional centres by 2037. However, while supportive business cases have been completed for a number of the identified strategic corridors, the projects have not progressed beyond early planning stages.

To date, only the Melbourne to Geelong corridor upgrade has received significant infrastructure funding. The increased population movement from capital cities to regional centres provides an opportunity for government to accelerate its faster rail rollout to enhance the integration of regional and metropolitan communities for their mutual benefit.

## **Motion number 14.1 Western Downs Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in an extension of Inland Rail to the Gladstone Port via an inland route.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Extending Inland Rail to the Gladstone Port will open additional national and international opportunities, such as renewable energy sector, water, recycling, and agriculture. The link would also result in the development of support and complementary services.

This link will assist with de-urbanising metropolitan areas. The Regional Australian Institute estimates that 1 out of 5 households living in metropolitan areas is considering moving regionally.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

The currently proposed Inland Rail line crosses Toowoomba, Helidon, Calvert, Kagaru and finished at Acacia Ridge at approximately 38km distance of the Port of Brisbane. This track poses several challenges, including increased freight movements through highly populous areas, and it is projected that overcoming these would cost 50 percent of the total Inland Rail costs, whilst only covering 8-10 percent of the total rail line.

Government support to fund a feasibility study for an inland extension of Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone is welcomed. The Port of Gladstone offers a number of benefits over the Brisbane Port, including:

1. A naturally deep harbour that currently services the largest dry bulk cargo ships in the world (Capesize, with a draft of 18.3m); and
2. Capacity to expand container berths at Port Central and additional berths able to be developed at Fisherman's Landing

Gladstone Port is adjoined by an additional 27,000ha of medium-high impact developable land in the Gladstone State Development Area, which can be developed to support wholesale trade and other freight related industry.

This inland route via Miles, Queensland, would include construction of the Rail link, a 210km rail line connecting the Moura system near Banana to the Western Railway System near Wandoan. Whilst this alignment was initially designed to unlock coal markets, there is a great demand for this line from the fast-growing renewable sector.

It is expected that the extension of Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone, will unlock the potential to develop 888GL Nathan Dam, delivering needed water infrastructure to a large region supporting operations and further enabling economic growth. This opens further hydrogen production opportunities and export opportunities as well as greatly benefit the strong agricultural sector.

In addition to this huge renewable energy potential, the extension of Inland Rail to the Port of Gladstone will provide a better flow of materials and waste, which creates economic opportunities for waste recycling plants along the Melbourne to Gladstone route.

The Regional Australian Institute estimates that 1 out of 5 households living in metropolitan areas is considering moving regionally. The Inland Rail project will free up Queensland Rail network for passengers, making the regions more attractive to live and work. This will assist with de-urbanising metropolitan areas.

Construction of the inland route will create a significant number of local jobs in regional Queensland and will greatly benefit multiple sectors, further driving economic strength, significantly improve material flows, including recycled products and waste, renewables sector, and contribute to the circular economy and Climate Change initiatives.

## Motion number 15 The Shire of Yalgoo WA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government's work with state and territories to immediately introduce legislation through the rail safety national law to improve safety lighting on trains and fund low-cost solar powered warning systems at passive level crossings.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Improved transport Safety

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In Australia each year, there are, on average 14 level crossing crashes and 200 near misses. In the 2020-2021 financial year alone, research compiled by the Office of the Rail Safety National Regulator (ONRSR) identified 34 level crossing collisions with vehicles resulting in four fatalities and four critical injuries. Passive level crossings represent serious dangers to regional motorists and have for decades claimed many lives and resulted in life altering injuries.

Recommendations for enhanced train visibility and improved passive level crossing safety measures have been made by three State Coroners (WA, NSW, and Victoria) following high profile crashes over several decades.

Of immediate concern is the minimal requirement by the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB). Standard AS7531 Lighting and Visibility sets out a minimal requirement for train conspicuity. Specific standards are not prescribed under the Rail Safety National Law, and the onus is on the rail transport operator to eliminate a safety risk "so far as is reasonably practicable".

States, Territories and Local Governments must work with the Commonwealth, including the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator, to identify the measures that will dramatically improve rail safety. The Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board specifies requirements for the colour and requirements of lights at the front of trains and the delineators along the sides of trains. Locomotives are fitted with warning horns to warn of their presence. This is supplemented by flashing white lights at the front of trains.

States, Territories and Local Governments will need to better understand what is required now and what improvements can be made over time with an increase in funding and stronger regulation. The installation of solar powered warning lights and bells that activate when trains are within a kilometre of a crossing will assist to avoid serious accidents and save lives.

## Motion number 16 Berrigan Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate further funding to allow regional and rural councils to address upgrade requirements for aerodrome facilities to support linkages between these areas and larger domestic and international ports.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

As Australia's borders open, it will be critical to Local Councils to engage directly with the short-term traveller economy. The short-term traveller market has largely been closed to rural and regional Councils due to the inability of their aerodromes to accept required aviation traffic and to provide transport to and from those sites. Allowing Local Councils to adequately develop those aerodromes strategically will allow for the upgrades required to ensure access to the short-term traveller market from all Australian ports is possible.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Tier 6 Regional Aerodromes across Australia are experiencing increased usage, particularly in the short-term visitor market. Tier 6 Regional Airports are those without regular passenger transport services and provide general aviation operations only. Most of these sites are owned and operated by local governments. Regional and rural aerodromes are intrinsically linked to the economic activities of our areas, particularly leisure and short-stay tourism and agriculture. The regulatory and risk environment in which they operate, mean aerodromes are the most expensive form of infrastructure to operate. Local councils are increasingly branching into non-aviation use of aerodrome land to support these cost-intensive facilities. Some have moved to airpark style private accommodation to allow rateable properties (with an airport focus and usage) on aerodromes and many more are moving to upgrade tourism attraction through the provision of services to, from and at the aerodrome site. The distances required for travel to our areas makes road trips for short term and leisure holidays unlikely so affording the option of sophisticated aerodrome access is an area rural and regional communities would like to further grow and explore.

## Motion number 17 Kingston City Council VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commence a thorough review of the Airports Act 1996 and Airports Regulations 1996 and give specific consideration to:**

- 1. The mechanisms needed in the legislation to ensure that airport strategic planning actively prioritises the protection of Commonwealth land for aviation-related purposes.**
- 2. The legislation embeds obligations on the Airport Lessee Company to ensure that aviation related businesses are prioritised to ensure commercial transactions on Commonwealth land cannot undermine existing businesses or the needs of aviation for the life of the established airport lease period.**
- 3. The views held by state or local government with respect to the land use planning implications on airport land are given a much more elevated level of consideration in**

**determinations on draft major development plans or draft airport masterplans.**

**4. The establishment of independent expert review processes to aid the Commonwealth Minister in considering draft major development plans or draft airport masterplans.**

**5. Undertake a thorough review of all functions under the Airports Act 1996 and Airports Regulations 1996 requiring the Airport Lessee Company to provide advice, assess or determine any matters relating to considerations regarding the safety of Airfields and/or Development which is proposed to occur on them.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Airports across Australia are critical to our national infrastructure. They are central to the operation and development of not only metropolitan areas but crucial ports for our regions and rural areas. Since deregulation occurred, many airports across Australia could be confused with business parks rather than aviation hubs. For many, they have a significant non-aviation commercial centre and as a consequence, compromise potential for future expansion in terms of aviation. There are significant inconsistencies between the lands legislative requirements for airports to function as an airport as required by the Airports Act 1996, whilst expansive non-aviation development continues to occur. We are in a unique situation where we can pre-empt and therefore protect the critical component of our aviation industry, particularly at a regional and rural level. The Federal Department of Infrastructure is undertaking a review of the Airports Act and Regulations, however the details have yet to be released. But so far, the information contained within stage 1a on airport ownership does not go far enough to address our concerns. Views held by State and local government with respect to land use planning need to be given a much more elevated level of consideration in order for consistent and appropriate uses to be provided on Federal land.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Since 1996 when privatisation occurred, airports across Australia have embarked upon an unprecedented wave of commercially orientated development that have no relevance to the aviation community. From the readings of the Act and the justification for selling off the leaseholds, it was not the intent of the Federal Government to legitimise business plans geared to maximising shareholder returns at the expense of the aviation industry. The privatisation of federal airports was meant to do the exact opposite by assisting in bolstering of the aviation industry. It is now a unique situation where privatised airport leaseholders are able to hold unique and often unregulated monopoly powers which negatively impact the aviation industry and sidestep State and Local planning powers.

The structure of government tiers where Commonwealth trumps State and local legislation, regardless of any inconsistencies, can and has created serious consequences with respect to land use planning. It is the ability of airport corporations to bypass state and local legislation to develop non-aviation development by virtue of the approval process allowable under the Airports Act that we are seeking to debate and change. The City of Kingston believe Australia is currently at a tipping point where lands set aside for aviation are increasingly becoming examples of commercial parks with aviation problems. There should be certainty

to not only the users of an airport but also assurances to the community as to what will be built on site, its location and use. Airport planning and regulations need to be integrated with local, state and territory planning and regulatory processes. A clearer framework for protecting airport operations from inappropriate non-aviation development is critical to protecting our national infrastructure. Examples of weaknesses from the Airports Act and Regulations include:

- No developer contributions for infrastructure upgrades;
- Poor community consultation; and
- Lack of independent reviews or third-party appeals

The lack of regulatory approach taken by the federal government, alongside the lack of urban planning expertise has consequently led to more inappropriate development allowed with no checks or balances (see point above). Examples are non-aviation factories built within the airport threshold creating a safety risk, or non-aviation developments built within metres of a residential boundary creating enormous amenity impacts (both examples can be found at Moorabbin Airport). No minimum standards are provided for on airport sites with regards to any impacts on adjoining residential properties.

State and local government in Victoria are actively trying to protect and safeguard the aviation industry by way of what uses, and developments can occur around airports (through the Melbourne Airport Environs Safeguarding Standing Advisory Committee (MAESSAC), yet significant development (non-aviation) can occur seemingly unabated on Federally leased land meant to be utilised as an airport. The safeguarding of our aviation assets is critical. A much more focused assessment into the management of federally leased airports is required to review the depletion of aviation activity on airport land to expedite non-aviation development – hand in hand with a stringent review on the Airports Act and Regulations.

## Motion number 18 Brimbank City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a policy framework and a funding mechanism to ensure that local communities directly impacted by aircraft noise and other impacts of major airport operations receive adequate support from a national community offset package.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

In the past, compensation schemes have been established to support households affected by new airport runways. These include a compensation scheme in 1994 when Sydney Airport's third runway was built, and more recently, a compensation scheme for a new airport in Sydney's Badgerys Creek, in recognition to the change in noise levels and lifestyle. A compensation scheme has also been developed in response to the recent expansion of Adelaide Airport's terminal to increase its international capacity. Such schemes must continue for all new airports and additional airport runways across Australia.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Although airports and new runways are necessary for the economy, they can have significant impacts on communities that are directly affected by increased aircraft noise. Prior to the pandemic, Australian airports facilitated about 120 million domestic passenger movements per year and almost 39 million international passenger movements. This represents tens of thousands of flights each year that can have a harmful effect on nearby residents.

## **Motion number 19 Darebin City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with state, territory, and local governments to:**

- 1. Invest in active and sustainable transport options, that can also stimulate emerging markets and low emission technologies;**
- 2. Position Australia as a leader in rapidly growing Electric Vehicle (EV) and transport markets by investing in local research and manufacturing opportunities and stimulating rapid uptake by users;**
- 3. Electrify the rail and bus networks;**
- 4. Support business to electrify freight transport;**
- 5. Provide infrastructure throughout local communities to transition to EVs and which leverage tourism opportunities;**
- 6. Implement policy settings to increase uptake of EVs; and**
- 7. Invest in infrastructure for walking and cycling.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

This motion directly responds to ALGA's 2022 NGA Discussion Paper theme around climate change, which seeks to encourage reductions in carbon footprints across local communities through new infrastructure, initiatives, and programs.

The transport sector is the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia. After energy, it is the biggest opportunity to reduce emissions.

Large-scale infrastructure improvements are needed to improve public transport, Electric Vehicles (EV) charging, walking, and cycling infrastructure. These projects will modernise our transport system and transition to more efficient, low-carbon transport network.

Federal investment will help to fast-track this transition and provide a significant boost to the economy and create jobs. There are also policy areas in the Federal Government's control that could unlock the potential for faster uptake of EVs, for instance setting mandatory minimum efficiency standards for vehicles.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The global vehicle sector is undergoing a major transition to electric vehicles of all types, including heavy vehicles, public transport, bikes, cars, and scooters.

There is a significant opportunity for Australia to be a leader in the new electric vehicle market and to build valuable knowledge assets that can make Australia internationally competitive, as well as building local jobs and manufacturing opportunities.

Australia has the key ingredients to become a leader in this sector, including automotive industry expertise, a highly educated workforce and knowledge sector.

The missing ingredients which could be added are the right policy settings to encourage investment in these new sectors and to accelerate the uptake of EVs.

With respect to public transport, most urban rail networks in Australia are electrified, with the biggest opportunity for expanding electrification in regional networks.

The National Faster Rail Agency has a 20-year plan to upgrade regional networks, which recognises the benefits this will have to regional economies. By fast-tracking this investment, it would lead to significant economic stimulus, greatly reduced emissions and vastly improved services for regional communities.

With regard to buses, most buses are built domestically. Australia's bus building industry could be scaled up to facilitate the rapid roll-out of electric buses and expand the bus network to improve access to public transport options. Beyond Zero Emissions - The Million Jobs Plan estimates that rolling out 18,000 buses over five years could generate 19,000 new manufacturing jobs. Not only would this have economic and environmental benefits, it would also improve air quality in our cities and have positive health benefits.

Walking and cycling are the least harmful forms of travel for the environment, and they improve human health. Cycling levels significantly increased during COVID-19, as much as by 50 percent according to a City of Sydney report.

The UN recommends that countries spend at least 20 percent of transport budgets on walking and cycling infrastructure. Australia however spends only 1 percent. Investing in cycling infrastructure will also deliver jobs and reduce congestion. A recent report found that currently cycling injects \$6.3 billion of direct benefit into the Australian economy each year and supports more than 30,000 jobs. The Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said of the report: 'These numbers paint a very compelling case for further investment in cycling infrastructure that has a real multiplier effect on the overall economy.'

Across Australia, there are many shovel ready cycling projects that the Federal Government could invest in to create an immediate economic boost.

## **Motion number 19.1 Murray River Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a collaborative approach between all three levels of government to prepare and deliver the change required to support the conversion from the internal combustion engine to electric, and possibly hydrogen, powered vehicles.**



## **OBJECTIVE**

With the sheer volume of investment in research and development, pressures placed upon governments across the globe to abide by international agreements, it's inevitable that improvements will be so profound that the question of 'if' the improvements will occur will be replaced by 'when'.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

There will continue to be major breakthroughs in battery technology – energy density, battery life expectancy, recharge times in general, reduction in weight and price – which will cascade into motor vehicles.

As the energy density is improved (reducing range anxiety) there'll be far less argument to stay on the current course and even greater urgency by manufacturers racing to maintain or improve their position. Local government will inevitably be required to either facilitate, at the very least, or partner (hopefully share dividends), or deliver (especially in less populated areas) some form of solution or solutions. The scale, technical complexity, planning, and standardisation is beyond most individual councils.

## **Motion number 20 Livingstone Shire Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund a national rollout of electric vehicle charging stations for regional and remote local government areas.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Based on overseas demand and the plans of global vehicle manufacturers, electric vehicles will be the predominant form of transport in Australia by 2040, and earlier in states offering incentives. The availability of charging facilities throughout Australia must precede the adoption of EVs. Availability of charging facilities in less-populated areas will be an equity issue and it is incumbent on the Government to ensure that no parts of Australia are left behind.

Availability in rural areas will also support the tourist industry as EV owners will be enabled to travel throughout the country.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

New EV sales in developed countries are growing exponentially and have already reached 84 percent in Norway, 12 percent in The Netherlands, 11 percent in Germany and 12 percent in the UK. EVs accounted for 5.87 percent of new vehicle registrations in ACT in 2021, about triple the national average.

An increasing number of countries and US states have announced future bans on the sale of petrol or diesel-powered cars. The bans so far are:

- 2025 - Norway South Korea;
- 2026 – Belgium;
- 2027 – Austria;
- 2030 - Slovenia, Iceland, The Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Israel, Sweden, India, Washington;
- 2032 - Scotland;
- 2035 - Japan, United Kingdom, California, New York, Canada, Cape Verde;
- 2040 - China, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, France, Spain, Egypt; and
- 2050 - Costa Rica

Many motor companies have indicated plans to cease production of petrol or diesel cars, including Jaguar 2025, GM 2035, and Volkswagen 2035. Tesla which only sells electric vehicles sold 936,000 cars in 2021 with production expected to double each year. The electric The Tesla Model Y is now the second most popular car purchased in California.

Rivian, Ford and Tesla have announced plans to produce electric utilities in the next 12 months which will be attractive to buyers in rural areas. Electric SUVs are already available in Australia.

The energy efficiency of electric vehicles is exemplified by the Tesla Model 3 car which uses electrical energy equivalent to about 1.9 litres of petrol per 100 km.

The North Queensland Electric Vehicle Drive is an example of EV tourism, connecting six tourist destinations where chargers have been installed.

Australia's top economists have overwhelmingly back government measures to speed the transition to electric cars in order to meet emission reduction targets. In a recent poll of 62 of Australia's preeminent economists, 51 back measures to boost the take up of electric cars. Only 11 oppose such measures, three of them because they prefer a carbon tax. Government intervention can be justified, as expressed by one of the experts, because there has been market failure in that drivers of conventional cars cause pollution and global warming without meeting the costs. Subsidising public charging infrastructure was the most popular government action suggested by participants. (The Conversation).

## Motion number 21 Yarra City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide greater national leadership to support the uptake of electric vehicles and market development across Australia by:**

- 1. Agreeing and supporting a nationally consistent approach to EV taxes, levies and charges that provide long-term confidence for industry and consumers;**
- 2. Implementing best-practice national vehicle emissions standards;**
- 3. Providing incentives to businesses and private owners to purchase electric vehicles; and**
- 4. Significantly increasing investment in the installation of electric vehicle charging stations across Australia.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

To increase the uptake of electric vehicles across Australia.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Improved vehicle emission standards and a shift towards electric vehicles (EV) present considerable opportunities to reduce transport emissions across Australia.

EVs powered by renewable energy have significantly lower emissions over their lifecycle than fossil fuel vehicles. Transitioning to use of EV in place of fossil fuel vehicles helps to improve air quality and public health outcomes, particularly in major cities and densely populated areas.

Many countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland have agreed to phase out new petrol and diesel car sales by 2030 and support a transition to cleaner, more sustainable transportation.

What is needed in Australia is a strong, concerted effort by the Federal Government to support market and industry development as well as greater investment in incentives and local infrastructure to encourage EV up-take nationwide.

# **INFRASTRUCTURE**

## **Motion number 22 Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale WA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Classify telecommunications as an essential service;**
- 2. Establish clearly defined plans and accountabilities to address back-up power and resilience for telecommunications sites; and**
- 3. Invest \$80 million over four years in an expanded Mobile Network Hardening Program to markedly improve the resilience of Australia's telecommunications networks.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Local governments engage with their communities and other stakeholders about disaster preparedness, resilience, and recovery. Natural disasters, particularly bushfires, floods and cyclones expose the lack of resilience of Australia's telecommunications network.

Telecommunications services are regulated at the Federal level.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Telecommunications services are vital during emergencies to keep communities safe, connected, and informed.

Telecommunications services are also crucial in coordinating response efforts to get timely information to emergency personnel during natural disasters. Emergency response is increasingly reliant on complex and diverse information technologies such as vehicle location services, maps and databases that cannot be shared using UHF radio technologies.

The vast majority of telecommunications outages during natural disasters are caused by mains power outages, not damage to the telecommunications infrastructure.

The Federal Government Mobile Network Hardening Program has committed \$23.2 million over two rounds to upgrade battery back-up to a minimum of 12 hours at 467 mobile base stations and deliver a range of measures to improve resilience at a further 544 sites. There are over 20,000 mobile phone base stations in Australia, and a range of other facilities operated by NBN Co and the carriers that are critical to telecommunications. There is a long way to go.

Batteries offer only a limited capability in the face of extended mains power outages that have been experienced in disaster zones. Standalone power supplies and automatic switching systems with generators are being trialled in a range of locations, which offer some potential to extend the operating time for telecommunications services indefinitely without mains power.

## Motion number 23 Litchfield Council NT

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to release its response to the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review and to implement its recommendations, to ensure that the digital divide between Australians living in regional, rural, and remote areas and those living in metropolitan communities is reduced.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The importance of digital access and inclusion in regional and remote areas has been highlighted by the recent movement online of essential services, such as banking, health, government services, work, and education, due to COVID-19. More services moving online brings opportunities for the regional economy, so it is imperative that everyone is equally digitally included.

All Australians need affordable access to data and devices and the skills to use them. Improved digital inclusion in regional, rural, and remote areas will build more digitally resilient communities.

Without an affordable and reliable internet connection, there is reduced access to information and digital services opportunities to develop key skills as well as reduced communication channels with community, family, individuals, and government.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The principal aims of improved telecommunications are to:

Reduce the digital divide between the residents of regional and remote communities and those of metropolitan communities

Build on the success of existing Australian Government initiatives run in partnership with local government such as the Be Connected program, which strengthened national coordination and collaboration across private (telecommunications, technology sector), public (Federal, State, and local government), and non-profit organisations to build digital skills, inclusion, and participation, enabling older Australians to develop digital skills and confidence online.

Increasingly, services are being delivered through internet and mobile applications often with little or no alternative options (e.g., MyGov, Centrelink, banking, education or work from home etc). Many remote residents have unreliable telecommunications services, raising access issues. This is heightened when government payments are dependent on accessing these services.

Ensuring digital access by populations in remote communities should be a priority for Government Departments and service providers moving to online and app interfaces.

Many remote and rural communities are still reliant on 3G network, which is being decommissioned in 2024. Without an affordable and reliable internet connection, there is reduced access to information, digital services, and communication channels with community, family, individuals, and government, and reduced opportunities to develop key skills.

With even more services moving online they bring opportunities for the regional economy, and it is imperative that everyone is equally digitally included.

Due to the pandemic, the ability to access digital health has been shown to be extremely important.

Beyond healthcare, there is a strong focus on more government and essential services moving online. However, with rapid digitisation during the COVID-19 pandemic, those in regional and remote areas risk being further excluded through an inability to readily access services like MyGov during COVID-19 restrictions due to lower levels of digital inclusion.

With increased digital inclusion comes reduced costs for people in regional and remote areas to access essential services. Investing in closing the digital divide for regional and rural Australians will mean these vital communities will be better able to benefit from the expected growth in the digital economy over the coming years.

## Motion number 23.1 Balonne Shire Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fully implement the recommendations of the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review: A step change in demand, and that local government be directly consulted in the development of new**

**regulatory and policy arrangements as well as a new strategic approach to regional communications investment.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The 2021 triennial Regional Telecommunications Review examined the adequacy of telecommunications services in regional, rural, and remote Australia. It also considered particular issues identified in the Terms of Reference, including the impact of Government policies and programs, insights from the COVID-19 pandemic, emerging technologies, service reliability, regional development, and improving coordination between tiers of government.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Review recommendations have been warmly welcomed as comprehensively identifying issues and actions at the heart of improving digital coverage across rural and remote Australia.

The Western Queensland Alliance of Councils in its submission to the Review, called for a better approach.

Against its Vision to provide residents, ratepayers, businesses, and visitors with ubiquitous digital connectivity at pricing and services levels comparative to those in metropolitan areas, it called for a more strategic, coordinated approach between all levels of government and industry to get the best value for money outcomes. Identifying the longer-term demands of industry and the community against current supply capacity to meet this demand is fundamental to informed and focused digital investment to overcome the patchwork quilt of coverage.

On 30 March 2022, the Australian Government formally responded to the Review report and in the 2022-23 Budget committed \$1.3 billion in direct investment in regional telecommunications.

At face value, the government's response is well focused on addressing the issues and recommendations of the Review Report. However, a successful outcome depends very much on the approach taken to regulatory and policy reform and the development of a coordinated and strategic approach to regional telecommunication investment, which is supported by whichever party wins Government in the 2022 Federal Election.

At present, local government is a co-contributor to the funding programs supporting increased digital coverage across rural and remote regions and this depends on the financial capacity of these councils to contribute, and to be a party to the developments of grant applications. If successful, the outcomes are welcomed but it is seen in many quarters as inequitable that rural and remote councils have to provide funding to obtain high speed broadband connectivity when the major providers pay for it all in metropolitan, coastal and major cities.

Local government can therefore legitimately seek to be involved in the development of policy, regulation and funding programs aimed at addressing the significant issues councils

face in accessing high speed, reliable and affordable digital connectivity, especially in rural and remote parts of Australia.

### **Motion number 23.2 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to redouble their efforts to both extend and improve mobile coverage in rural areas.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

There are too many blackspots in rural areas, which is detrimental to business and safety. There has been little improvement over the past decade in the extension of services and the objective should be to have a reliable 4G service on all major roads and all populated areas. The rollout of the 5G network is not to see a reduction in the capacity of the 4G network.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Many areas in Gunnedah Shire have no mobile or internet coverage. This is a result of not enough towers to cover our area which is made more difficult by the many mountains in the local topography. Major traffic routes such as the Oxley Highway have limited service.

With people working from home and others having a long commute by car, the service provided is simply not adequate and there have been very little improvements over the past five years.

With the roll-out of the 5G network there must be an undertaking by the telco's that this service is not to restrict the operation and improvement of the 4G network. It is unlikely that 5G, which requires more concentration of towers and covers less distance, will be suitable for regional areas and it is essential that the 4G network is upgraded to cover black spots.

### **Motion number 23.3 Berrigan Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure regional and rural councils are engaged with decisions regarding the provision of utility infrastructure (including electricity and digital connectivity) to support access to alternate systems and enable adoption of advancing technologies more readily and in larger numbers, thus keeping delivery costs to a minimum.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The capacity of the private sector, and small business in particular, to bounce back from COVID- 19 is untested, however ensuring adequate utility infrastructure is in place in rural and regional Australia will go a long way to ensuring recovery in these areas is possible. Allowing Councils in these areas to partner with infrastructure and service providers directly, with the provision of Australian Government incentives to do so, will ensure

solutions relevant to each area can be attained in the most costeffective and efficient manner.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Adequate and effective utility infrastructure is required in rural and remote communities to support a growing interest in private sector business investment. Utility infrastructure (electricity, digital communication connection etc) in regional and rural areas is generally of a low or very low standard. Ageing infrastructure is expensive to upgrade and therefore, corporate providers are unwilling to invest as they are either restricted through regulators or stakeholder dividend expectations. Ageing infrastructure is artificially ensuring rural and remote communities remain small through inadequate capacity to support growth. Allowing regional and rural communities develop place-based responses to access newer technologies would reduce the need for the installation of expensive and to a large extent, increasingly redundant physical infrastructure. Access to relevant utility infrastructure should not continue to be left in the hands of corporate bodies as these mechanisms, though practical and useful in highly populated areas, are failing our smaller and more remote communities and in effect prohibiting private investment. Government acceptance of corporate belief that rural and remote communities are not as valuable to Australia as larger population areas will therefore continue to reduce the capacity of rural and regional areas to bounce back from the pressures of the past two years.

## **Motion number 23.4 Central Highlands Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit increased funding and commitment to proportionally enhance regional and remote digital connectivity.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Outcomes of the 2021 Regional Telecommunication Review delivered the reality that connectivity has assumed a more vital role in the lives of those in regional areas. As services are increasingly delivered online, and the range of digital tools grow, there has been a significant increase in the ongoing demand for data by both individuals and businesses.

The Federal Government has initiatives that seeks to improve mobile phone coverage, access to internet services, and promote competition in regional and remote Australia, however despite funding committed, only limited progress is being made in addressing a significant problem.

Through the COVID pandemic and the nations response to work from home and adapt to new digital ways of working, this has further compounded the issues of lack of connectivity.

Without adequate level of resources, limited progress will be made to address the digital divide and regional communities will continue to fall behind the advanced and rapid pace of the digital economy. Participation in the digital economy can only occur where there is a solid foundation in digital infrastructure and skills. The 2021 Regional Telecommunication



Review delivered evidence that this in regional and remote Australia is still a work in progress.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Mobile phone coverage is a major issue in regional and remote Australia, with over 10,000 sites nominated under the Mobile Black Spot Programme. These mobile black spots impact business and industry, road users and impact access to services such as health, education, and other critical Government services.

Despite high-speed broadband infrastructure, fibre network, wireless, ADSL and digital services being available in some regional areas to enhance access to social services, education, health care and service business operations, other areas are significantly hampered by infrastructure capacity limits. Agriculture's move to the digital economy is hamstrung by the lack of connectivity. Additionally, many homes and businesses, are unable to connect to the NBN and internet services due to infrastructure capacity constraints.

Communication and digital connectivity are a necessity, and inadequate mobile phone coverage and access to internet services is therefore a significant issue, particularly for those living, working, and travelling in regional and remote Australia. This should be prioritised to improve consistency of services, and close the gap for residents, businesses, and visitors to these areas.

The 2021 Regional Telecommunication Review established that the affordability of telecommunications services for regional, rural, and remote Australians is an ongoing issue. Although telecommunications affordability is improving, regional Australians are paying a higher proportion of their income on telecommunications than their urban counterparts due to reduced consumer choice in technologies and plans, as well as the need to maintain multiple forms of connectivity where services are unreliable.

Key findings have been put forward by the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review which the federal government is urged to take strong action on to support the connectivity challenges in regional and remote Australia. Of those findings, the following are strongly aligned to this motion:

- Increased coordination and investment between the Australian, state and territory governments is needed to address a 'patchwork quilt' approach to connectivity in the regions.
- Local councils and other regional stakeholders are increasingly expected to facilitate telecommunications service delivery but are not appropriately resourced to identify connectivity needs and support the deployment of suitable solutions.
- Supply side issues, including backbone fibre and spectrum access, are barriers to competition and innovation in regional telecommunications markets.
- There are significant issues with the maintenance and repair of telecommunications networks, particularly copper landlines, in regional, rural, and remote areas.
- Mobile coverage continues to improve but expanding reliable coverage to priority areas is becoming more difficult.

- Increased ongoing demand for data on regional, rural, and remote mobile and fixed wireless networks is not always being met, causing network congestion issues.
- Predictive coverage maps and other public information do not accurately reflect on-the-ground telecommunications experience. There is significant misinformation about the availability of telecommunications services.

### **Motion number 23.5 Glen Innes Severn Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to review the communications network and provide workable services to rural and remote areas.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Many rural areas across Australia have extremely poor-quality communication infrastructure which leaves them with no, or intermittent, internet connection and mobile phone service.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The current accessibility of internet and Wi-Fi is inadequate in many towns and villages and this inadequacy is costing lives and businesses viability. It also affects the ability of the towns and villages to attract and retain professionals.

### **Motion number 23.6 Derwent Valley Council TAS**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to improve telecommunication connectivity in remote parts of southern Australia with a focus on Tasmania.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program invests in telecommunications infrastructure to improve mobile coverage and competition across Australia.

Tasmania and the South coast of Australia have specific connectivity needs in conducting business, education, trade, energy exchange, natural disaster response etc, across the physical boundary of Bass Strait.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Sector feedback tells us consistent, reliable mobile coverage throughout Southern Australia is essential to business growth, increased employment, climate resilience, community wellbeing, and economic potential into the future.

Strengthening digital connectivity across Southern Australia supports innovation in the region and contribution to the national and global economies.

## Motion number 23.7 Western Downs Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding for connectivity in regional areas and revisit co-contributions as part of assessment criteria.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

"The 2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Review identified a lack of adequate mobile voice and broadband coverage as the issue of greatest concern for regional communities" (Australian Government Department of Communications, Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper, 16 December 2013).

Inadequate mobile phone coverage remains a significant issue as regional, rural, and remote areas in Australia face significant challenges accessing reliable communication services. One of the main reasons for this is that telecommunication providers will only increase coverage when demand reaches a level to be financially attractive.

This is an issue faced by all regional and remote areas across Australia that have a low population which is not financially attractive to Telecommunications providers. In particular for Local Government Areas that cover large areas where significant co-contributions are not possible when grants are available.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Regional areas in Australia contribute significantly to the economy. The Regional Australian Institute estimates that regional Australia accounts for around 40 per cent of national economic output and employs around one-third of Australia's workforce.

Fast and reliable Connectivity is prerequisite to enable economic development and liveability in regional Australia. Digital and mobile connectivity is a requirement to attracting investment and for existing businesses to run day-to-day operations and to improve productivity and reach markets anywhere in the world.

The mining, agriculture and manufacturing industries have traditionally been the driving force of economic growth, with health care and construction more recently contributing to the success of regions. These sectors particularly rely heavily on reliable and strong connectivity.

Agri-businesses utilise technology that is reliant on connectivity to enable them to stay competitive and build capacity. Our mobile phone network is relied upon for communication in emergency situations – particularly in the event of emergencies, road accidents, farm, and industrial accidents.

The energy sector has highly developed workplace health and safety systems. This sector is highly reliant on the mobile phone network to provide communication services to provide a safe working environment for workers.

Next to businesses, 7 million people (28 percent of Australia's population) live in rural and remote areas. Equitable access to connectivity is fast becoming a Human Right expectation

as it enables communities in remote areas to have access to educational, social and health services that might otherwise not be possible. Connectivity can enable people living in regional and rural Australia to have access to many critical services not available in their areas such as Telehealth.

COVID-19 has accelerated opportunities for Australians to study and work remotely, providing a fantastic opportunity for regional areas to attract and retain our population. The Regional Australian Institute estimates that 1 out of 5 households in metropolitan areas are considering moving to the regions. Without suitable access to cost-effective telecommunications, towns are finding it difficult to retain and attract residents.

Although specific funding has been previously allocated to regional areas, this often includes a co-contribution as part of the assessment criteria. This often results in telecommunication providers not prioritising joint applications with areas that cannot contribute significantly.

Co-contribution is particularly difficult for local governments that cover a large geographic area with a (low density) small population base as these regions are more likely to experience connectivity challenges across multiple locations.

Whilst existing programs and policy measures are welcomed, we request a review of funding to regional areas and requirements for co-contribution as part of application assessment criteria.

The proposed change will assist to increase connectivity and disaster management readiness in regions that are financially less favourable.

## **Motion number 24 Campaspe Shire VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend the necessary legislation, regulations and/or contractual arrangements to ensure that both Telstra and NBN Co, their subsidiaries and contractors, cannot pass the cost of relocating their buried infrastructure on to local government if the publicly available 'as built' (or 'as laid') plans do not accurately record the location(s) of their assets.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Local government is responsible for billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure in local communities across the nation.

To conduct its works efficiently and effectively, councils should be able to rely upon the veracity of data supplied by other entities with respect to the location of their assets (including orientation and depth) within the proposed work area.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local government conducts thousands of projects worth billions of dollars to build, repair, renew or replace significant assets across Australia.

Despite investigations and detailed design work to determine potential impacts of 'other agency' underground assets, etc, it is not uncommon to subsequently uncover and/or inadvertently damage other agency assets as works commence, because their location has not been recorded accurately, if at all in the publicly available records (e.g., Dial before you Dig); either to relocate the assets or to avoid them.

Neither agency accepts responsibility should their unrecorded or incorrectly mapped asset be impacted, demanding that councils should conduct exhaustive and expensive exercises to locate them and then avoid them in the works (often incurring additional costs), or replace and/or relocate them at councils' cost should they be otherwise disturbed.

A recent example in Campaspe demonstrates the impact:

Incorrectly recorded location of Telstra Services that turned a small rural town \$1.0M streetscape renewal project (on both sides) into a \$1.4M project to complete just one side of the road, as Telstra required council to relocate their infrastructure to an appropriate depth.

## MANAGING GROWTH

### Motion number 25 Mitchell Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work in partnership with regional, rural, and interface councils to develop a holistic and integrated strategy to implement the Government's Regionalisation and Decentralisation Agenda.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Federal Government's Regionalisation and Decentralisation Agenda is a potentially transformational project for regional, rural, and interface communities. Whilst the goals and objectives of this project are worthy, progress towards achieving them has been slow. A holistic and integrated implementation strategy which is developed in partnership with Councils will help to expedite the on-ground benefits which this agenda will deliver.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

As of December 2017, only 14.13 percent of all APS staff were employed in regional areas. This number has remained relatively steady (the figure was 13.38 percent a decade earlier in 2007) despite decentralisation being an ongoing focus of the Government and its agencies, including the Productivity Commission. This concentration of staffing becomes even greater when looking at Senior Executive and Executive Level with respectively 94 percent and 59 percent of these positions located in Canberra.

When considering the advantages of decentralisation in 2018, the Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation noted that there were two key opportunities:

- To facilitate better government through the improved provision of services and development of policy; and
- To create social and economic opportunities for communities

Despite committing to an enhanced Regionalisation and Decentralisation Agenda in 2017, the Federal Government has made little on-ground progress over the last five years. With COVID increasing the migration from cities to regional areas, investment in job and employment opportunities has never been more important.

Co-designing a holistic and integrated implementation strategy in partnership with Regional, Rural, and Interface Councils will ensure that progress is made in improving opportunities within these communities.

## Motion number 25.1 City of Mount Gambier SA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish and appropriately resource effective implementation of the regionalisation agenda through strengthening regional centres.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

As Australian businesses adopted physically decentralised approaches to their operations and more of Australia's population experienced the benefits of regional and rural lifestyles, the enormous opportunities for the regionalisation and decentralisation of the Australian economy are now presented to the Australian Government to maximise.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

To facilitate a regionalisation agenda, strengthened regional centres, through a place-based model, provides a mechanism to drive collaboration and joint investment between all three tiers of government within a particular location.

Public policy and legislative agendas are optimised to meet the needs of urban communities and metropolitan-based and operated businesses with reforms rarely integrating regional and rural experiences. Consequently, in Australia, non-geographic specific policies provide disproportionate benefit to urban centres to which the limits of a model which concentrates Australia's economic capacity in major capital cities have been demonstrated in the past but never more clearly than over the past two years.

Through a place-based model, economic development becomes sustainable in regional centres which would not otherwise happen without government intervention. This place-based development is an operational and effective form to better leverage investment in infrastructure and government spending to spur economic growth in areas with low population and economic activity densities and redresses the public policy focus imbalance between regional and rural communities.

As highlighted in the recently released National Farmer's Federation and Regional Australia Institute's work on regionalisation, the regionalisation agenda develops three pillars:

providing for liveable and vibrant local communities; ensuring a skilled and fulfilled workforce; and providing for ongoing economic development.

Strengthened regional centres provide economic and social amenities with key indicators of liveability such as health and education services contributing to lifestyle and connection to community which ensures people are making purposeful decisions in living, working, and developing the economy of regional centres and the surrounding towns and rural communities.

These surrounding areas benefit from the amenities and have the physical and digital connectivity to be connected to the infrastructure required for thriving regions.

## Motion number 26 Moreland City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Progress City Deals to achieve its Smart Cities Plan, to drive national priorities tailored to local needs, develop plans for growth, and commit to the actions, investments, reforms, and governance required;**
- 2. Continue to support development and signing of City Deals across the nation, including to sign the north and west Melbourne City Deal to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and**
- 3. Unlock employment and economic development opportunities for the region that is home to 1 in 12 Australians, help create 300,000 new jobs and reboot business, boost social and economic inclusion, and leverage the regions' existing strengths in health, food production, manufacturing, and logistics.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

City Deals are an avenue to create partnership between the three levels of government and the community to work towards a shared vision for productive and liveable cities. The City Deal is an important mechanism to help secure the future prosperity and liveability of our cities and as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, progressing City Deals can play a key factor in unlocking local and regional economic development opportunities and jobs.

Nine City Deals have been agreed to date (Townsville, Launceston, Western Sydney, Darwin, Hobart, Geelong, Adelaide, Perth, South East Queensland) with a further two City Deals in progress but not signed (North and West Melbourne and South East Melbourne). Continuing to progress these City Deals to agreement offers a blueprint for the regions to respond to the impacts of the pandemic in the immediate and medium-term, and to reform our economy for the future.

Continuing the City Deal process, and applying a similar process to Regional Deals, continues to enable three levels of government to partner and work together.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

The City Deal program was set up by the Commonwealth in 2015 to combine the efforts of federal, state, and local governments to build infrastructure, create jobs and stimulate urban renewal.

The commitment to a City Deal reflects a serious and shared ambition from federal, state or territory and local leaders to improve their city. The process of agreeing and implementing the City Deal provides an impetus for major reforms and co-investments that can jump-start economic growth, improve transport and connectivity, improve health, wellbeing, and liveability.

Between 2015 and 2020, eight City Deals were agreed for Townsville, Launceston, Western Sydney, Darwin, Hobart, Geelong, Adelaide, Perth. These City Deals are currently at varying stages of implementation.

In October 2020, the Department of Infrastructure assessed nine commitments as being behind schedule across the eight City Deals being delivered.

There is concern that the Federal Government's ability to manage the existing deals is reaching capacity. This may be reflected in the delays in the development of other City Deals in progress.

Despite these concerns, the Property Council of Australia believes City Deals should continue to be strengthened to improve their effectiveness. Expanding the program to embrace all four of the large metropolitan areas Greater Sydney, metropolitan Melbourne, metropolitan Perth and South East Queensland would provide durable multi-level governance, longer-term investment agreements supported by all three tiers of government, and robust performance management measures. City Deals can rectify bi-partisan and multi-level governance deficits and accelerate strategic planning, co-investment, and governance reforms.

South East Queensland's City Deal was signed in March 2022 following three years of negotiations, which were initially expected to take 12-18 months.

This leaves Melbourne as the major city that is yet to benefit from a City Deal. Progress on the South East Melbourne City Deal has been put on hold until the North West Melbourne deal is finalised.

Similarly, the North and West Melbourne City Deal progress has slowed, despite the region being one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic against a backdrop of some of the highest unemployment rates in the state.

The North and West Melbourne City Deal will help create 300,000 new jobs, reboot business, boost social and economic inclusion, and leverage the region's existing strengths in health, food production, manufacturing, and logistics. It will unlock employment and economic development opportunities centred on eight key precincts.



But without a City Deal, North and West Melbourne is facing a significant lack of jobs coupled with the massive impact of COVID-19.

City Deals present the regions with huge opportunities and an essential springboard for COVID-19 recovery.

#### References

North & West Melbourne City Deal Plan 2020-2040

Property Council of Australia, Creating Great Australian Cities, March 2019

The Courier Mail, SEQ City Deal could be struck by February as stalemate broken, 16 February 2022.

ABC News, five years on and the Federal Government's much-hyped 'city deals' haven't lost lustre despite funding problems and delays, 21 January 2021.

The Age, Anger as federal City Deal cash pledged to Melbourne's south-east is shelved, 21 December 2021.

#### Motion number 26.1 Penrith City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue its support for the nine City Deals being implemented across Australia.**

**Through ongoing review and monitoring of City Deals, there is an opportunity for the Australian Government to reinforce their commitment and strengthen local government's role in implementation.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is responsible for the implementation of nine City Deals across Australia. Most City Deals involve partnerships between the three levels of government, the community, and the private sector.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

A critical component of City Deals is the governance framework they establish. The governance framework involves all three levels of government, signifying the importance of involving local government as an equal partner together with State and Federal Government. It recognises that governance, decision-making and collaboration mechanisms must be established and maintained to successfully deliver shared priorities and outcomes.

#### Motion number 27 Mitchell Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a new growth areas portfolio which will be responsible for developing and implementing a national response to the challenges and inequities faced by growth-area communities.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The new Growth Areas portfolio is in recognition of the 5.2 million Australians who live in outer urban growth areas, and the millions more who depend on growth-area workers and industries. It will coordinate an urgent national response to the inequities that are distinct to fast-growing outer metro areas which have long been visible, but which have been highlighted during the pandemic.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

An urgent national response to growth-area inequities and COVID recovery needs to be led by a Minister for Growth Areas. Our capital cities need better planning and investment that supports distributing infrastructure, jobs, and housing more evenly across the entire metropolitan area. National and State infrastructure advisory bodies have called for a focus on growth areas and with the Homebuilder boom taking effect, national coordination and leadership is urgently needed.

Our capital cities need better planning and investment that supports distributing infrastructure, jobs, and housing more evenly across entire metropolitan areas. Growth areas need assurance that Commonwealth infrastructure investment will be allocated based on greatest need and greatest impact; and that City Deals will be revitalised with sufficient leadership and engagement at the Federal level to drive reforms and deliver transformational infrastructure.

## **Motion number 27.1 Mitchell Shire VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop, prioritise and appropriately fund major social infrastructure for communities in Australia's rapidly growing urban fringe.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The National General Assembly calls on the Federal and State Governments to ensure the appropriate funding and timing of delivering for vital social infrastructure in outer urban growth areas. There should be a significant focus on jobs, social infrastructure, transport and health, community and educational services which are equally accessible for all people across the life stages.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Many emerging communities in greenfield developments in outer urban growth areas face substantial challenges related to place-making, community building and resilience. Often communities within growth areas are made of residents from diverse range of backgrounds having moved from neighbouring areas, cross-city, inter-state or from overseas. As local councils we celebrate and embrace the exciting opportunities to grow and learn which are presented by our new residents. These communities, however, often suffer from a lack of extant infrastructure and services for many of their formative years. It is vital that social and

community infrastructure, accompanying health, community, and educational services, along with transport and other basic infrastructure, is provided early and comprehensively. It is well researched, that the early delivery of infrastructure and services help to nurture a community, improve their resilience, future proof their liveability and promote placemaking.

## ENERGY

### Motion number 28 Melbourne City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a new dedicated fund that councils can access to enable their municipal communities' transition to renewable energy, through deployment of community-scale energy storage systems.**

#### OBJECTIVE

Decarbonising our energy systems, while ensuring affordable and reliable energy supply, is a key challenge facing communities across Australia. Accelerating the transition to cities, towns and regions powered by 100 per cent renewable energy will require a diverse suite of solutions, including energy storage.

#### KEY ARGUMENTS

The City of Melbourne, along with many Councils across Australia, are leading action on climate change and investment in renewable energy. Councils have had significant impact by leading by example and sharing solutions to climate change. The City of Melbourne and many other Australian councils have a track record of successfully mobilising large private and public sector energy users to invest in renewable electricity; as evidenced by the Melbourne Renewable Energy Projects (MREP 1 and 2); with MREP 1 in 2017 a catalyst for many retailers intermediated renewable Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) concluded since then. A number of councils have also participated in or led large-scale renewable energy PPAs.

Community-scale energy storage solutions have the potential to extend the benefits of affordable renewable energy use to small businesses (SMEs) and city residents, often residing in high density rental properties without access to rooftop solar solutions.

In pursuing its goal of a city powered by renewable energy, the City of Melbourne recognises that with increased penetration of variable renewable electricity sources 'in front and behind the meter' electricity system strength and stability have become a key focus to the market operator and regulators. The City of Melbourne is currently pursuing options for the installation of a network of community batteries through its Power Melbourne project. Additionally, the increasing adoption of electric vehicles and development of all-electric buildings is expected to increase peak demand across parts of the network.

These issues are common to all LGAs across Australia that would benefit from national coordination and dedicated funding programs in community-scale battery storage.

### **Motion number 28.1 Cumberland Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide appropriate support to allow communities to come together in storing affordable renewable energy, enabling sustainable and clean energy outcomes to be delivered.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Commit to actively work with local government, industry, and communities to:

- lower carbon footprint of local communities;
- sourcing renewable energy;
- maximise local ownership and help sharing the financial benefits widely;
- match energy production to local usage; and
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

More and more, people are thinking about where their electricity comes from, how they use it, and what impact all of this has on our planet and other people (for better or worse).

People are seeking ways to lessen the risks of increasing electricity prices and to keep the economic benefits of energy production in local communities.

Support regional communities and foster local economic development

Build a strong understanding of renewable energy and a practical movement of action on climate change

Help develop renewable energy industries (for-profit and not-for-profit), technologies, jobs, and training.

### **Motion number 29 Lake Macquarie City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to encourage and support councils to play a direct role in the adoption of hydrogen from renewable power sources and contribute to the development of domestic hydrogen capabilities.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

With more than 500 councils across Australia, local government organisations have great potential to actively participate in energy transition and help Australia reach its net zero targets.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia is looking to hydrogen production and use to achieve reductions in carbon emissions over coming decades. The Australian Government is investing \$1.2 billion in building a hydrogen industry. Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy is a plan to grow this industry and position Australia as a major player by 2030.

Local government can play a role in helping to advance this transition by investigating opportunities to transition services to hydrogen power and partnerships with government and industry stakeholders that will encourage the development of a viable hydrogen industry.

Lake Macquarie City Council, for example, is proposing a demonstration project involving the integration of hydrogen-powered trucks into the organisation's waste fleet. The project presents an opportunity to demonstrate 'real world' application of hydrogen technology in an everyday context and offers significant environmental benefits, with the potential to reduce Council's annual carbon dioxide emissions by more than 1 million tonnes per year if rolled out across the whole fleet.

The project will highlight the potential for mainstream hydrogen technology adoption across private sector and government organisations, progress domestic capabilities in hydrogen technology, and promote competitive domestic hydrogen markets.

## Motion number 30 Moorabool Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to deliver better, more sustainable outcomes for the environment and local communities being affected by the delivery of new renewable energy infrastructure by developing a national policy for conducting and integrating community engagement findings when planning for and delivering renewable energy high-voltage transmission infrastructure projects.**

### OBJECTIVE

Australia's transition to renewable energy and delivery of its climate change targets is accepted as a non-negotiable. So too is the need for a national standard for the planning and delivery of renewable energy high-voltage transmission infrastructure, specifically including the timing and extent of community engagement and assessment of environmental impacts. Without introducing uniform change to renewable energy infrastructure assessment and engagement policies and processes, the Federal Government cannot expect to obtain the social licence it needs to deliver the essential infrastructure that will secure our future energy supply.

A national standard would provide:

- A community engagement framework in line with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) best practice standards that clearly defines timing and extent of community input;

- Capacity for community voice and environmental impact assessment to inform the earliest phases of the project and influence infrastructure technologies, location, siting, and design; and
- Assurance that infrastructure planning is not being driven solely on an economic-focused model where financial costs supersede human and environmental costs.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

New infrastructure is critical to Australia's transition to renewable energy as we work towards our climate change targets. However, insufficient weight given to understanding and integrating community voice and environmental impacts from the outset of infrastructure planning threatens to undermine its delivery. These projects have and will continue to experience delays, due to opposition to design outcomes that are not locally responsive or utilising the best available technologies to minimise impact. This has created a public perception that renewable energy infrastructure delivery is locked in by pre-determined economic outcomes that communities cannot meaningfully influence. It is critical that planning for and designing new infrastructure considers potential environmental impacts and community views and values at the earliest opportunity, while there is still capacity for the design response to adapt and facilitate locally appropriate development.

## Motion number 30.1 Moorabool Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to deliver better, more sustainable outcomes for the transition to renewable energy by introducing a policy that all future high-voltage transmission projects will be required to investigate the lowest social, environmental, and economic impact technologies and design options available.**

### OBJECTIVE

Australia's transition to renewable energy and delivery of its climate change targets is accepted as a non-negotiable. Essential to this transition is the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure to replace our aged and increasingly unreliable power generation sources and transmission lines.

At present, the development of a secure energy portfolio is being achieved at significant, unsustainable cost to the communities, environment and agricultural land being impacted. Without taking a firm stance on utilising low-impact transmission technologies, even at greater financial investment, the Federal Government cannot expect to obtain the social licence it needs to deliver the essential infrastructure that will secure our future energy supply.

Given the significant scale of the transition to renewable energy and the prospect of a wide range of local, indirect, and non-market impacts, consideration should also be given to local economic, environmental, and social effects such as those assessed in a typical business case and cost benefits analysis.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

The reluctance to apply alternative and innovative technologies to Australia's public energy infrastructure projects threatens to undermine the renewable energy transition and reaching the necessary climate change targets. The traditional overhead transmission line projects have and will continue to experience delays, due to opposition to design outcomes that are not locally responsive or utilising the best available technologies to minimise impact. This has recently been demonstrated in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, and Victoria.

The lack of consideration of social and environmental impacts has created a public perception that renewable energy infrastructure delivery is locked in by pre-determined economic outcomes, where financial expenditure trumps environmental and human impacts. It is contradictory for Australia to be striving for a sustainable energy supply, only for the cost of achieving this to be anything but sustainable for communities and the environment on-the-ground.

## Motion number 31 Town of Gawler SA

**That this National General Assembly, building on the 2021 National General Assembly resolution and progress to date towards clear and transparent rules for renewable electricity, calls for formal engagement with the Federal Government and Department of Industry, Science Resources and Energy to accelerate reforms for nationally legislated market-based greenhouse accounting and rules for renewable electricity and carbon offsets to be established in Australia.**

## OBJECTIVE

The motion from the Town of Gawler seeks to build on the 2021 ALGA Resolution and progress made to date, towards legislated market-based accounting reforms for renewable electricity and carbon offsets with fair pricing to accelerate action to reduce emissions as fast as possible.

For this reason, the 2022 proposed motion calls for a formal engagement with the Federal Government and DISER to address the issues relating to a lack of legal foundation, clarity and fair pricing for consumers seeking to take action to reduce their emissions and transition to renewable electricity.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

At the NGA in 2021 Town of Gawler submitted the following motion, which was carried. The 2021 resolution below established the national objective.

### **34 Town of Gawler Council, SA Carried**

- *The National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to amend the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Framework to establish a legal definition of what is required to buy renewable electricity via the electricity grid and*

*claim 100% renewable electricity use and zero emissions. This will establish market-based accounting for renewable electricity, create a single nationally consistent method that applies to electricity and renewable electricity consumption and prevent double counting for all customers including for councils, seeking legally assured, clearly defined and fairly priced renewable electricity.*

Significant progress has been made on advocacy towards the reform of renewable electricity accounting, allocation, trading and claims rules. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has made Sustainability and Green Claims its top priority for 2022-23 and communication pathways have been established with a number of government agencies and scheme providers to discuss issues relating to the absence of clear legislated rules and double counting. ALGA staff have advised of a Western Australian LGA initiative to partner with the Federal Government Climate Active Program staff towards developing a Carbon Neutral Standard for local Government.

Whilst acknowledging that some progress has been made, the substantial reforms required have not yet been agreed to or undertaken by Government policy makers. There is a need and opportunity for further targeted advocacy through collaboration with the Local Government Association and Electricity Working Group of South Australian Councils together with engagement with other councils via ALGA and the Climate Emergency Australia Network.

## **NGA 2022**

The motion from the Town of Gawler seeks to build on the 2021 ALGA Resolution and progress made to date, towards legislated market-based accounting reforms for renewable electricity and carbon offsets with fair pricing to accelerate action to reduce emissions as fast as possible.

For this reason, the 2022 proposed motion calls for a formal engagement with the Federal Government and DISER to address the issues relating to a lack of legal foundation, clarity and fair pricing for consumers seeking to take action to reduce their emissions and transition to renewable electricity.

## **NGA 2022 – Town of Gawler Motion**

*ALGA Motion for Formal Engagement on Legislated Market-based Greenhouse and Renewables Accounting*

- *That this National General Assembly, building on the 2021 National general Assembly resolution and progress to date towards clear and transparent rules for renewable electricity, calls for formal engagement with the Federal Government and Department of Industry, Science Resources and Energy to accelerate reforms for nationally legislated market-based greenhouse accounting and rules for renewable electricity and carbon offsets to be established in Australia. This reform will support all consumers (including councils, households and small to medium businesses) to have legitimate, fair, and accessible solutions to reducing emissions with renewable electricity and offsetting their emissions.*



## Summary

Establishing clear and consistent rules for councils and communities to reduce their emissions is key to providing fair and affordable solutions. Strong foundations for reforms to establish market-based accounting have been established over the past 12 months supported by the ALGA and LGA SA resolutions agreed in 2021, including the ACCC prioritising sustainability and green claims as their top (first listed) priority for 2022-23. This motion looks to ensure that there is a formal process for further engagement to ensure that the issues are acknowledged, to discuss potential reforms.

# HOUSING

## Motion number 32 Whitsunday Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to host a national affordable housing summit to identify the regional, state, and national issues to be addressed to deliver housing solutions to communities through local, state, and federal government in a whole-of-government response to be tailored for respective community needs.**

### OBJECTIVE

This motion relates to the ongoing demand and needs associated with housing and accommodation across the regions of Australia, including the Whitsundays. At a local level, the need for affordable housing has only increased since the matter was raised and submitted last year. With interstate and other migration north, we have seen significant increases in property transfers, either for occupation or investment, and this has increased pressure at the local level with record occupancy and very low vacancy rates in the rental market. This has an impact on Council, limiting its ability to attract and retain skilled and professional staff to the region.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

The housing issues are of such a magnitude now that it will require all levels of government working together to make a difference in delivering solutions to communities across Australia. One starting point would be to gather a significant forum together to identify current impediments and challenges, then seek to formulate solutions from a whole-of-government approach across Australia, acknowledging the unique needs of communities at the local level. An outcome of the summit would be to draft a roadmap which each level of government actions to ensure outcomes are delivered at the local level, and who takes responsibility for individual actions.

## Motion number 32.1 Cumberland Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Invest in social and affordable housing, and**
- 2. Develop a comprehensive national housing and homelessness strategy that will assist more Australians to buy a home and assist Australians who rent to have access to more secure, affordable, quality long-term housing, and put a roof over the head of more homeless Australians.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

A comprehensive National Housing and Homelessness Plan will outline a strategy for the Australian Government (in partnership with state, territory, and local governments and industry and sector stakeholders) to improve housing affordability for first homebuyers, access, and security for renters, and reduce homelessness.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Investing in social and affordable housing has profound economic and social benefit.

Housing affordability is one of the biggest issues facing Australians.

Home ownership rates are at their lowest level in over 60 years, with first home buyers struggling to save the required deposit to purchase a home.

Further, there are more Australians renting, and renting for longer, than ever before.

The impacts of a lack of affordable housing are far reaching, and people seeking affordable housing today include students, young people, recently separated or divorced people (often with dependent children), and key workers who provide essential services such as childcare, education, emergency services, and hospitality services.

Also, in Australia there are more people experiencing homelessness than ever before, particularly among women and children experiencing family violence, young people, and older women.

## Motion number 32.2 Shoalhaven City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaboratively work in earnest with the other levels of government, key bodies, and interest groups to actively deliver additional social and affordable housing supply on the ground in as timely a manner as possible through:**

- 1. Preparing a long-term national housing strategy that is evidence-based and has a broad scope;**
- 2. Providing further significant and ongoing increased investment in funding for social and affordable housing to support the strategy;**
- 3. Donating "lazy", well located government land to be used for the provision of social and affordable housing; and**
- 4. Directly supporting councils to facilitate additional social and affordable housing through planning, the provision of land and financial support mechanism, including**

**investing \$200 million, over four years, to assist the development and implementation of innovative local housing partnerships.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

All level of governments to acknowledge that all people need a home and that the number of Australians who are homeless or in extreme housing stress continues to rise and collectively work on and fund solutions that can significantly impact on this national issue.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Everyone needs a home, and access to safe and affordable housing is a cornerstone of the economic and social fabric of local communities.

The number of Australians who are homeless or in housing stress continues to rise dramatically. Councils around Australia continue to face ongoing challenges with the availability of sufficient social and affordable housing in their areas. This has been exacerbated by bushfire, floods, and COVID-19. As a result, many including Shoalhaven have declared a housing emergency.

Detail recently released by the Everybody's Home Campaign also emphasizes the importance of housing in the key marginal Federal electorates of Bass (Tas), Flinders (SA), Gilmore (NSW), and Longman (Qld) This showed, for example, that around three quarters of all voters in these seats consider it hard or very hard for low to middle-income earners to afford to buy or rent in their area.

The only way this issue will really be tackled and addressed, at least in some meaningful way, is if there is substantial additional and concerted national investment in the direct provision of new social and affordable housing throughout the country. This is a nation-building opportunity.

Preparing a funded 10-year National Housing Strategy is critical to ensuring a robust, coordinated, and collaborative response, fostering, and taking up investment opportunities at all levels: Federal, State and also Local.

Building new social and affordable homes across the Country will also create a construction boom and associated jobs growth, helping further stimulate local economies and assist with the ongoing response to the impacts of COVID-19.

#### **Motion number 32.3 Darebin City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Urgently address the growing and evolving housing affordability challenges across Australian rural, regional, and metropolitan communities;**
- 2. Convene a national housing summit as a precursor to developing a national housing strategy;**
- 3. Prepare a National Housing Strategy, which provides the framework for a nationally consistent approach to investing and building more social and affordable housing;**

- 4. Ensure a national housing strategy facilitates a nationally consistent approach to state and territory planning legislation to facilitate inclusionary zoning for affordable housing, as a tool that can be utilised by governments and metropolitan and growth councils (and any councils where they so choose) to require social and affordable housing contributions as part of private development;**
- 5. Ensure that any new policy reforms and approaches to invest in improving social and affordable housing is done in partnership with local government, and that it does not come at the expense of federal or state investment to support local councils in providing essential local infrastructure, resources, and services;**
- 6. Recognise the need for ongoing investment in supports and services to assist people who have experienced homelessness (particularly those who have experienced long-term homelessness) to move away from homelessness and into social and affordable housing; and**
- 7. Recognise the role that social and affordable housing plays in responding to broader workforce challenges and shortages across regional and metropolitan communities, particularly across the agriculture and hospitality sectors viii. Partner with ALGA and the local government sector to help design and inform these housing reforms.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

This motion directly responds to ALGA's 2022 NGA Discussion Paper and the dedicated theme on "affordable housing", which specifically acknowledges that the shortage and costs associated with both purchasing and renting housing in Australia, is continuing to cause significant social and economic impacts across regions, cities, and local communities.

As acknowledged in the NGA Discussion Paper, the housing challenge is being compounded by a variety of factors and is different across each community. Whilst the provision of affordable housing is not the direct responsibility of local government, it is local governments who can play a key partnership role through Federal and State leadership in facilitating more affordable housing within local communities and neighbourhoods.

As part of evolving COVID-19 recovery and response efforts, a once-in-a-generation opportunity exists for the Federal Government to partner with State, Territory and local governments to address housing affordability, as well as homelessness issues across municipalities, through the hosting of a National Housing Summit and the development of a new National Housing Strategy, which can provide the pathway to increased investment and policy reforms to create more affordable and social housing to support our most disadvantaged community cohorts.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Australia is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis, made more severe by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a significant shortfall in social (public and community) housing and (private) affordable housing.

The scale of this deficit requires a renewed collaborative effort across all levels of government, and all public and private sectors, to deliver new affordable and accessible housing across the continuum of need.

As housing prices increased through the COVID-19 Pandemic across large parts of Australia, more people and households have been increasingly unable to afford suitable housing or rental properties, with home ownership harder than ever before for young people.

Furthermore, successive State and Federal Governments have not adequately invested in new growth or maintenance of social housing, creating a significant supply shortfall in contrast to growing national demand.

Planning legislation, regulations and processes across States and Territories also differ when it comes to how affordable and social housing is facilitated across local communities.

In Victoria, for example, there is only currently a voluntary affordable housing system in place for developers providing housing on private land, with affordable housing negotiations a complex and often times unsuccessful outcome for councils and developers alike. The private market has a crucial role to play in providing more affordable housing, however nationally, we have no consistent approach in this regard.

Where there is an uplift in value provided to developers through a change to planning controls or approval of a planning permit, Federal and State leadership, through a National Strategy, can help to ensure that this uplift can be shared with the local community, by securing mandatory affordable housing contributions.

Local councils across Australia are increasingly responding to more local homelessness issues, in part due to the unmet demand across inner and outer cities for emergency accommodation, and short and long-term affordable housing. Currently this work is taking place through ad-hoc local approaches, in partnership with local and regional social service providers and state agencies, in the absence of a comprehensive national approach to homelessness and housing affordability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has sadly compounded pre-existing housing and homelessness issues across the country, the pandemic also showed how people experiencing homelessness can also be better supported through more crisis and emergency accommodation measures and initiatives, which should continue to be funded and be considered through a new national approach.

That is why Federal leadership is now urgently required to bring together all State, Territory, local governments, as well as housing industry and social service sector representatives, through a National Housing Summit, which can provide the catalyst for the creation of a new National Housing Strategy that ultimately considers, responds to, and invests in new social housing, affordable housing, and homelessness initiatives.

## Motion number 32.4 Redland City Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address housing pressures, including social housing and homelessness support.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Housing pressure across the nation is resulting in a number of social issues, requiring Federal Government support. Increasing housing costs are pricing some out of the housing market, resulting in impacts across the owner/occupier and rental markets. These pressures will undoubtedly continue to be felt due to the increasing costs of materials and a shortage of skilled workers.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

- A shortage of affordable housing is having significant social impacts, including pricing key demographics out of the housing market, and increasing rental prices.
- Price increases in materials and skilled workers are expected to continue and place added pressures on the housing market, requiring a national response.
- The COVID pandemic has resulted in significant inter-state migration that has added to the already stretched housing market.
- These impacts have also resulted in an increase in homelessness and rough sleeping due a shortage of affordable housing.

## Motion number 32.5 Brimbank City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Acknowledge and express concern about the continuing impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the private housing market through reductions in housing affordability, and an increased demand on homelessness support services;**
- 2. Work with state and territory governments to provide additional and targeted funding to expand homelessness service provision in areas of high need, through the development of a new national homelessness and housing agreement in 2022/23;**
- 3. Develop a ten-year national homelessness strategy, in consultation with state, territory and local governments; and**
- 4. Increase payments under the Commonwealth Rent Assistance Program, a non-taxable income supplement payable to eligible people who rent in the private rental market or community housing.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

There is significant unmet demand for social and affordable housing in Australia, issues that have been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, in terms of increased house prices in the private housing market, and increased demand for social and affordable housing as a result of the socio-economic and employment consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with the need for increased investment into expanding the homelessness service provision and the Commonwealth Rent Assistance Program, there is a need for the Australian Government to recognise the variety of roles that local government already plays in the housing system and build strategic partnerships with local government, community housing and private sectors to further align and coordinate investment activity to meet local housing needs across all Australian LGAs.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Residential property prices have been increasing in Australia for many years. The rate of increase has jumped even further over the past two years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the weighted average of residential property prices in Australia's eight capital cities rose 21.7 percent over the past 12 months to September 2021.

At the same time, the proportion of social housing in Australia is relatively low, having fallen from 4.6 percent in 2014 to 4.2 percent in 2020. By contrast, social housing accounts for more than 15 percent of total dwellings in several European countries, including Netherlands, Denmark, and the United Kingdom.

### **Motion number 32.6 Newcastle City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Increase its investment in the supply of social and affordable housing;**
- 2. Re-view its National Housing Strategy, and;**
- 3. Create a national settlement plan working in partnership with state, territory, and local governments to meet local demand and deliver post-pandemic economic stimulus.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Housing affordability has been declining across Australia for many years, Rent and purchase costs in the private housing market have outstripped growth in wages and income support, leading to a housing affordability crisis.

At the same time, the supply of subsidies housing in the form of social housing has not kept pace with demand. This issue has been exacerbated over the past two years due to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Access to good-quality, affordable housing is fundamental to wellbeing. It can help reduce poverty and enhance equality of opportunity, social inclusion, and mobility. Affordability is important, both for Australians wanting to buy a home and for those renting. Many factors influence the supply, demand, and cost of housing across the country, including Australia's growing and ageing population and government policies.

Affordable housing is for people on very low to moderate incomes. Unlike community housing, this type of accommodation is not social housing. In most situations, charities, not-for-profit or community organisations manage affordable housing.

Social housing is secure and affordable rental housing for people on low incomes with housing needs. It includes:

- public housing;
- community housing; and
- housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### **Motion number 32.7 North Burnett Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to take action on the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement in line with the endorsed national principles and priorities in partnership with the state governments.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The national housing crisis is a major issue for all areas of Australia.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The housing crisis has major impacts for all Australian's, but especially rural and remote areas. It is a major barrier to employment and attracting skilled workers, population growth, industry growth and much much more.

### **Motion number 32.8 Shellharbour City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide financial, policy and infrastructure support for affordable housing in local government areas.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The decline in housing affordability is a national crisis that requires a national response. The Australian Government is best placed to lead the country out of this crisis with a clear policy direction and coordinated response with State and local governments that includes increased financial and infrastructure support.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Housing affordability is not just a matter of housing supply – which is often seen as the responsibility of local government. Federal fiscal, monetary and social policies (tax settings, tax concessions, interest rates, rent relief, government expenditure etc) all have a big impact on housing affordability, as does direct intervention by governments in the housing market through the provision of affordable housing or assistance to affordable housing providers.

While it is recognised that the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement is in place, it is not enough. It is not commensurate to the scale of the crisis. There needs to be greater positive intervention by the Australian Government in the form of financial, policy and infrastructure support. There is a need for a full-scale review of how the Australian Government addresses housing affordability, right down to the local government level.



## Motion number 32.9 Mornington Peninsula Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to put a spotlight on the unaffordability of housing across Australia by declaring a housing crisis and recognise the need for each local government area to have a fair share of social and affordable housing and homelessness assistance to provide:**

- 1. Support for first home buyers;**
- 2. A National Housing Strategy;**
- 3. A better deal for renters;**
- 4. Immediate relief for Australians in chronic rental stress;**
- 5. A plan to end homelessness by 2030, and**
- 6. Potentially partner in the Everybody's Home Campaign to fix Australia's housing system that includes the following tasks to mitigate the worst impacts of this housing crisis.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

We support ALGA's call for:

- a national housing summit that can develop a national housing strategy to address the current housing challenges in our communities; and
- investment in innovative housing partnerships of \$200m over four years to support affordable housing in communities.

The Shire's support of the national Everybody's Home Campaign, a campaign supported by an alliance of key stakeholders and the community, aligns well with the ALGA's call for a national housing summit. One of the five key asks by Everybody's Home is for a National Strategy.

The Shire has a history of partnerships to support the delivery of affordable housing on Shire-owned –land, and its Triple A Housing plan and current EOI show its intention for future partnerships. The provision of additional planning data and funding support, as envisaged by the MAV and ALGA, to help bring on these future affordable housing partnerships, is an opportunity waiting to happen.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Unaffordable housing is a widespread problem across Australia, with homelessness evident in major cities, regional and remote areas. More than 116,000 people were estimated as homeless across the nation by the ABS in 2016.

The SGS Rental Affordability Index in June 2021 showed that no metropolitan area in Australia had affordable housing. In 2020, the AIHW Social Housing Wait List showed there were over 96,000 households on public housing waiting lists plus an additional 58,000 that were prioritised with greatest need.

Unaffordable housing is affecting a wide spectrum of people, including younger people and older people, single people and families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, key workers, and other people facing barriers in the housing markets.

Households are faced with the dire choice of curtailing other basic living costs to meet their housing costs, shifting from their local communities, or making sacrifices to stay local. To keep local support networks, people may need to live in overcrowded homes or without a home; perhaps sleeping rough, living in the car or couch surfing.

Whilst the Federal and State governments have the responsibility for fixing the housing system, local government is well positioned to recognise the unacceptable impacts that unaffordable housing is having upon the health and welfare of the people in our local communities. It can see the problems like the hot spots for rough sleeping, the increased demand for material aid, identify when homelessness assistance services are not locally available, and see the lack of affordable housing affecting the local economy.

Apart from the direct impacts on people's health and wellbeing, there is a wider impact on local government, community organisations and businesses as they struggle to respond to more people requiring assistance to survive without a home or with unaffordable housing costs.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has homelessness as a major advocacy point in the lead up to the election. On 28 October 2021, Council resolved that the Mornington Peninsula Shire:

1. Declares a housing crisis, recognising that we have a crisis with respect to housing availability and affordability.
2. Calls on the Federal and State Governments to assist, particularly coastal communities to find a balanced approach to short and long-term rentals.
3. Invites other councils with similar challenges to make the same declaration.
4. Seeks collaborative partnerships with our fellow coastal councils to address this issue.
5. Reaffirms our commitment to the Everybody's Home campaign and the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Group Charter signed by 12 other eastern and south-eastern councils in 2019.
6. Requests that a report be presented to Council, the Federal and State Governments with the required actions necessary to mitigate the worst impacts of this housing crisis.

The Shire adopted its Triple A (affordable, available, and appropriate) Housing Plan 2020-2030 in 2020 and began its advocacy for reform of the housing system, including more social and affordable housing, since 2002. Since then, it has also acted on many fronts including:

- Joining major stakeholder campaigns for reform of the system;
- Committing with 12 other Councils in the south and east of Melbourne to the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter; and
- Making submissions to inquiries and reviews that reveal local problems.

## Motion number 32.10 Tweed Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit to a substantial increase in Commonwealth funded and managed permanent rental housing. That the National General Assembly continues to advocate to the Federal Government to undertake a major program of construction and management of permanent rental social housing.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

For a number of decades, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has conducted extensive research that has informed and driven the public debate and actions by different levels of government on housing policy.

As highlighted in a post on the ALGA website on 30 April 2021, AHURI has more recently been examining the consequences of COVID-19 for households in regional Australia, using Tasmania as a case study.

Key findings from this study were that increased demand for housing in the regions during the pandemic has exacerbated social and economic disadvantage, and in places where social and affordable housing is in short supply, lower-income tenants, including students and young unemployed people, are now at increased risk of experiencing more housing stress and precarity.

From the Tweed Shire's perspective as a major growth area, these increasing social and economic impacts for both regional/rural areas and major cities warrant an urgent, national-based response, best coordinated, and funded by the Federal Government, aided by close consultation and partnerships with state and local governments.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

As identified in a website article published for The Conversation on 15 November 2018:, earlier AHURI research on the housing infrastructure needs of low-income earners estimated that following 25 years of inadequate investment, Australia was facing a shortfall of 433,000 social housing dwellings. The current construction rate at that time was little more than 3,000 dwellings a year, not even keeping pace with rising need, let alone making inroads into the current backlog.

The AHURI report said that from 1945, state and territory governments, financially supported by Canberra, maintained public programs that built 8,000-14,000 dwellings a year for half a century.

From 1996, however, social housing largely slipped from the Australian government agenda. Dedicated ongoing funding to states and territories was at 'starvation levels'. Public house building plunged to today's residual output, except for a short-lived GFC-stimulus-funded recovery from 2008-11.

AHURI estimates that Australia needs to expand the national social housing stock to nearly three times its 2016 size by 2036.

To eliminate both the backlog and service newly emerging need, an annual program of social housing construction averaging 36,000 units is needed.

Put into perspective, that output would equate to a 14 percent public housing share of Australia's total house building, similar to that undertaken in the decade to 1955.

For comparison, housing providers with a social purpose today account for 20-31 percent of all house building in the UK, Finland, France, and Austria, and much more in some Asian countries such as Singapore. England's not-for-profit housing associations, for example, completed some 42,000 homes in 2017-18, out of 161,000 homes built in total.

### **Motion number 32.11 Penrith City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with state and local governments to provide direct investment in the delivery of affordable rental housing through City Deal funding mechanisms.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Major Australian metropolitan city housing is severely unaffordable. For individuals and households, lack of access to affordable housing can reduce housing security, prevent households from living independently and engaging fully in the community and economy, and therefore, add to financial, mental, and physical health stresses. Where compounded across a region, such impacts will lead to increased social and health costs for governments and represent a drag on economic and social progress.

Local government's role in the delivery of affordable rental housing is growing, using local planning regulations and advocacy to increase affordable rental supply. Local government can work closely with the community to facilitate the best affordable rental housing outcomes for their community. However, the major role remains with State and Commonwealth governments to provide funding for affordable housing.

While there are already programs from the Commonwealth and state governments, there is an opportunity to build on place-based City Deals funding which aligns strategic investment in infrastructure to deliver transport, employment, and housing outcomes, to deliver affordable rental housing in appropriate locations.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Western Sydney Councils have worked collaboratively to prepare an affordable housing strategy which highlighted the need for social and affordable housing in Western Sydney. In 2016, while 6 percent of the total private dwellings in the region were social and affordable housing, 18.9 percent of dwellings in Western Sydney were in housing stress.

## Motion number 32.12 Cumberland Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding to the states and territories to put a roof over the head of women and children escaping family violence and to address the crisis in homelessness which is essential for their recovery.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

A comprehensive National Housing and Homelessness Plan will outline a strategy for the Australian Government to increase funding to the States and Territories in order to provide affordable homes to women and children escaping family violence and invest in a maintenance program across the existing social housing portfolio.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Domestic violence is about violence and coercive control that includes where people live, what social network they have got, their finances, whether they can work or not work. It is critical that victims and survivors have support for a long enough period with access to housing.

Domestic and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

The absence of appropriate exit accommodation and housing pathways can often mean victim-survivors are forced to return to their abusers.

Lifesaving family violence services are currently under-funded, and everyday family violence services are not fully funded is another day women are left in danger.

Victim-survivors cannot be truly safe or recover from trauma in the absence of safe and stable housing.

No one should be left without the support they need to escape abuse.

## Motion number 33 City of Mount Gambier SA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Fund further national housing research, specific to understanding housing affordability, housing supply and demand, and housing accessibility across rural and regional Australia;**
- 2. Develop and implement a collaborative program, involving all levels of government, to address housing concerns in rural and regional Australia; and**
- 3. Commit to implementing a funding stream, specific to rural and regional local governments, allowing them to undertake LGA-specific housing research; and to prepare and implement LGA-specific housing plans (aligning to the relevant State Housing and Homelessness Strategies prepared under the NHHA).**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Housing affordability challenges continue to exist across Australia. Increasingly, these challenges are becoming evident across regional and rural Australia. Whilst housing affordability and the provision of affordable housing is not specifically a local government responsibility, local governments are often expected to facilitate affordable housing supply.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Housing challenges differ across communities and local government areas. Local government occurs through state/territory land use planning systems and other financial or legislative requirements. How a council responds to their housing challenges depends upon a number of factors, such as:

- Having an understanding (by elected members and council's professional staff) of housing and the housing challenges within their LGA;
- The priority that is given by the council to understand and address local housing challenges; and
- The resources available to the council.

The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) provides a means for the Commonwealth to provide financial assistance to the States and Territories to deliver programs, services, and reforms with respect to housing, homelessness, and housing affordability. Two of the key outputs of the NHHA, are for State and Territory governments to develop publicly available housing and homelessness strategies.

To strengthen the relevance of state-level strategies, local governments across Australia need the support and guidance of the higher tiers of government to develop their own LGA specific housing and homelessness strategies. Many local government bodies do not have the capacity, capability, resourcing, funds, or expertise to research and develop these types of housing plans. To assist local governments in addressing housing challenges within their LGA, the Commonwealth Government should consider:

- Developing and implementing a collaborative program, involving Federal, State, Territory, and local levels of governments, to address housing challenges across Australia.
- Committing to implementing a funding stream, specific to local government, allowing them to undertake LGA-specific housing research; and to prepare and implement LGA-specific housing plans (aligning to the relevant State Housing and Homelessness Strategies prepared under the NHHA).

### **Motion number 33.1 Wakefield Regional Council SA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to hold a national summit, in partnership with state governments, local governments and financial institutions, to resolve the rural and regional housing shortage, which is inhibiting economic growth within country areas across Australia.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The 2022 National General Assembly Discussion Paper clearly articulated the shortage of available rental properties and housing, which is impacting cities and towns across Australia, including rural and regional communities, and causing significant social and economic impacts. This issue is prominent to rural and regional areas as relocation of home and family is often necessary to secure available employment. This situation is inhibiting potential economic growth and causing many rural and regional areas to diminish rather than flourish.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The purpose of this motion is to provide an opportunity for the Australian Government to collaborate with state and local governments and financial institutions, to explore the rural and regional housing issue, to influence change to relevant policies, and deliver a series of targeted national programs that will address the shortage of rental properties and available housing in rural and regional Australia. This fits the National General Assembly theme of 'Partners in Progress'.

### **Motion number 33.2 Berrigan Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to work with rural and regional councils and community housing providers on the place-based supply, including financing, and construction of medium to long-term secure tenure rental housing designed for key workers otherwise excluded from home ownership due to their economic circumstances.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The issue of the lack of supply of affordable Housing in rural and regional Australia is now urgent. Local Councils have been highlighting the issues created by the currently complex and multi-layered system that has left the supply of affordable Housing in the hands of private suppliers, and thus at the mercy of market demands. With the huge increase in demand for land and housing in many rural and regional areas, the social issues relating to a lack of affordable housing is now at critical levels and local governments are having to act and react to community demands. The ability for the Australian Government to partner with local governments is more critical than ever as a result and must be addressed urgently.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Housing policy in Australia is complex and a multi-layered system of public policy, legislation, taxation laws, housing investment and equity strategies designed to incentivise home ownership and market-based housing supply. In this system, local government is not the supplier of housing; it is responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of residential zoned land and community infrastructure.

Fundamental to the economic prosperity of regional and rural communities is housing for key workers health care, hospitality, agriculture, and retail. Key workers in retail, hospitality

and agribusiness do not attract high wages, nor are many employed on a full-time basis. Key industries in rural and regional Australia tend to be industries that are commodity-based and/or seasonal: hence casualised.

The current market-based housing supply model designed to incentivise home ownership or investment in residential property excludes key workers from home ownership and secure rental housing. Unmet housing demand is a constraint on economic growth. Therefore, Local Councils and communities throughout regional and rural Australia need to investigate bespoke and place-based responses designed to alleviate the economic and social consequences of the failure of market-based supply of key worker housing and accommodation in rural and regional Australia.

### Motion number 33.3 Central Highlands Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund the creation and support of affordable housing in regional and remote areas. We call on government to prepare detailed departmental plans, and for those plans to be funded and implemented.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Introduce a sustainable package of funded policies that secure the provision of affordable housing in regional and remote areas and address housing supply issues in rural communities to support regional growth and investment, improve liveability, education and health outcomes and grow stronger and more diverse local communities.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local government is at the forefront of serving our communities. Often this brings the effect of the affordable housing crises into sharp relief. Challenges such as land and housing availability, increased property prices, rents, insurance, cost-of-living pressures, and mortgage stress require a suite of community driven short, medium, and long-term strategies to deliver a proactive response to this national issue.

Housing availability often forms the basis of a stable family, work, and social life. This stability is important for education, health, and other economic goals to be reached.

Affordability of housing is a growing problem for regional and remote areas. Historic investment levels are a key handbrake on economic growth and development. The rental market across many regional and rural areas, including the Central Highlands is limited, with a review undertaken in February 2022 noting that there are 83 properties for rent and 308 properties for sale across the region with, at times, no properties for rent in some of the smaller communities. The constrained rental market has driven rents higher relative to home values.

The inability of increasing number of people to enter the property market will have significant long-term consequences, such as impacting on the ability of the government to support and house older Australians.



Under-investment in public and affordable housing has resulted in a housing system that is unaffordable for increasing numbers of Australians. Our understanding is that the proportion of social and affordable housing in Australia is low, having fallen from 5.1 per cent in 2007-08 to 4.6 per cent in 2017-18.

Construction is a very effective form of stimulus, especially establishing infrastructure that drives social cohesion, enable economic participation and delivers social outcomes. To this extent we note a number of programs currently in play, one example being the Victorian State Government 'big housing build' – a \$5.3 billion investment in social and affordable housing.

To ensure a long-term solution, we advocate for both state and federal government responses, including the establishment of a National Housing Strategy as well as implementing the outcomes of the Interim Progress Analysis for the evaluation of the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027. This report notes the 'Decentralised state with growing demand for stable affordable housing in urban and regional areas' as one of the complicating factors in meeting the challenge. The document then notes that improved partnerships, including funding, financing, and legal settings, should be reconsidered in delivering the strategy.

We fully support the above, and call for detailed departmental plans to be prepared, funded, and implemented with regards to partnerships, legal, funding and finance.

#### Motion number 33.4 South Burnett Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise that there are no one-size-fits-all housing solutions and to increase targeted funding streams and dedicated resources to increase social and affordable housing supply in regional communities in ways that meet the growing demands.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Affordable Housing

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In a recent joint letter to the Federal Government, the LGAQ noted the following points:

Long standing housing shortages as well as growth and affordability challenges have impacted many regions and communities over the past decade. More recently, unprecedented low interest rates, sharply rising property prices, supply chain issues, significant labour shortages and scarcity of trades people, have worsened the housing crisis and been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent severe storms and floods. The impact of this perfect housing storm on our State is resulting in a range of social challenges for individuals, families, and local communities statewide, including increased homelessness, mental health pressures, drug and alcohol abuse, and rising crime rates. In some of our most vulnerable First Nations communities, overcrowding resulting from a

shortage of housing has become a human rights issue and has escalated COVID-19 outbreaks during the pandemic. A National Housing Summit would allow all three levels of government and industry to work together to begin addressing this complex issue and work towards a solution in a strategic, coordinated and considered way. We urge the Federal Government to listen to our clarion call and commit to this important step of a national summit.

### **Motion number 33.5 Quilpie Shire Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce a Regional Home Guarantee Scheme designed to address the unique characteristics of the housing market in rural and remote Australia which is:**

- 1. Targeted at designated rural and remote regions;**
- 2. Focused on new builds;**
- 3. Available to all buyers not just first home buyers;**
- 4. Available to Permanent Residents not just Australian Citizens, and**
- 5. Based on a higher income thresholds for single and couples.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

There is a dire shortage of quality housing in Western Queensland, and across rural and remote Australia, resulting in hundreds of unfilled jobs. Economic growth in these areas is challenged due to inadequate and appropriate housing stock. The reason for this situation is the underlying level of under-investment in housing because of a unique combination of characteristics:

- Generally small (and shrinking, or at best, holding steady) populations; and
- Remote locations and existing housing stock that is low in value relative to average building costs.

These characteristics underscore barriers on both the demand and supply sides of home building and renovating, including severely constrained access to finance whereby banks require much larger deposits for mortgages for homes in small and low-cost markets.

Current Commonwealth housing programs i.e., First Home Loan Deposit Scheme, New Home Guarantee, and Family Home Guarantee Scheme are not designed for the characteristics of rural and remote Australia. A tailored scheme is required to enable local private enterprise to realise nascent opportunities and create new jobs. To date, these opportunities and potential jobs have been denied by constrained access to skilled and unskilled workers, underscored by insufficient and substandard housing.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In 2020 the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils commissioned the Regional Australia Institute to undertake a study into the housing challenges facing Western Queensland. The study not only identified the reasons for the housing shortage but also solutions to address this problem. The design of the proposed Regional Home Guarantee Scheme is based on findings of the study and are as follows:

### 1. Targeted at designated rural and remote regions

The characteristics of the rural and remote housing market can be objectively determined geographically to ensure the scheme is targeted to where it is most needed, and the costs and benefits are able to be monitored and assessed.

### 2. Focused on new builds

This focus is to ensure the scheme supports the construction of new dwellings to the appropriate standard to attract workers, be they singles, couples or families. Raising the quality of housing is essential to attracting and retaining workers to increase populations and build the sustainability of rural and remote communities. Currently, many jobs in these areas are filled by fly-in fly-out workers living in motels or work camps making little contribution to the overall well-being and vibrancy of communities. Building new homes and accommodation increases the opportunities for these workers to take up residency.

In addition, a focus on new builds supports the construction sector and an increased pipeline of work that enables the employment of apprentices to support the sustainability of building and construction capacity in rural Australia.

### 3. Available to all buyers not just first home buyers

To increase the construction of new dwellings and enable population growth, the scheme needs to be open to all buyers not just first home buyers. This will increase the number of eligible applicants and encourage professional and semi-professional workers who may currently be or have been homeowners to move to rural and remote communities. The RAI Study identified over 500 vacancies in Western Queensland at professional and semi-professional levels that were unfilled because of inadequate housing.

Necessary caveats would be applied to ensure the new property was the applicant's primary place of residence.

### 4. Available to Permanent Residents not just Australian Citizens

The current schemes mentioned above are only available to Australian citizens, limiting the opportunity for migrant workers to build or buy new homes when they move to rural and remote areas. There are numerous examples of migrant families who have taken up work opportunities across rural Australia. Opening the scheme to Permanent Residents would support them becoming homeowners as well as attracting others to escape the ultra-high cost of housing and living in major cities.

### 5. Based on a higher-income thresholds for single and couples

To attract professional and semi-professional workers to rural and remote areas, the income thresholds of the current schemes need to be increased from \$125,000 for individuals and \$200,000 for couples. With banks requiring higher deposits in these areas, in some instances up to 50 percent, even higher-income earners are precluded from building a home, despite being able to service the required loan. The Regional Home Guarantee Scheme should not exclude these potential buyers.

## Motion number 34 North Sydney Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a Royal Commission into housing affordability.**

**That the terms of reference include consideration of the impacts of historical low housing affordability on productivity, intergenerational equity, public health including mental health, educational opportunities, and equity.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To address the National Housing Affordability Crisis

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

There is a crisis in housing affordability in Australia.

The Productivity Commission has indicated that the current housing crisis has pushed many Australians to poverty or homelessness, with a lack of social housing available and an explosion in rent prices.

In 2021, 45% of Australians receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) were spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent. Housing stress is typically described as lower-income households that spend more than 30% of gross income on housing costs.

The data indicates that older Australians are the most vulnerable to the price spike in rents. Of those receiving CRA, almost one-third paid more than 30 per cent on rent.

In addition, social housing supply has lagged compared to population growth. Since 2012, the population has continued to grow at 13.2 per cent, but the supply of social housing has only grown by 4.5 per cent.

The causes of the crisis in affordability are complex and range across all levels of government: Federal, State and Local. For decades, the approach of many State governments has concentrated on increasing supply of private dwellings – it is clearly not working. Housing costs, whether in private ownership or rented, are at historical highs.

This cannot continue.

We call on the Federal Government to establish a Royal Commission into housing affordability to address to the immediate crisis as well as develop a plan to support social housing in Australia.

# HEALTH AND AGEING

## Motion number 35 Western Downs Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with state and local government areas to develop a strategy to build regional allied health precincts. These precincts would provide currently unavailable specialist services and provide outreach services to smaller rural communities, whilst assisting in the development of a local workforce. This strategy should include an action plan with aligned funding.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Regional and remote areas in Australia face unique challenges affecting equity in the provision of health services. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the lack of access to quality health care in rural and remote areas contributes to shorter lives and higher levels of disease and injury.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Regional and remote areas in Australia often have limited or no access to critical health services locally because of workforce shortages. Whilst regions often experience shortages of doctors, GPs, and nurses, they significantly lack availability of allied health services.

Allied Health Professions Australia estimated in 2019 that there were 195,000 registered allied health clinicians in Australia with only 15,000 professionals (7.6 percent of the total) working in rural and remote areas of Australia. This can be placed in sharp contrast when considering that approximately 7 million Australians live in rural and remote areas (equalling 28 percent of the population).

As a result of these gaps, many regional Australians are unable to access the health care they require. Distance often excludes many residents from attending appointments due to the inability to access transport and the costs associated with longer stays if required. In addition, when residents must travel and stay elsewhere for treatment they are often having to do so without support.

Whilst some might consider telehealth as a solution for this issue, poor mobile and phone connectivity (quality and speed) in regional and remote areas limit this opportunity.

Gaps in these critical services result in poorer population health outcomes, as well as have a negative impact on the liveability and ability to attract and retain families to regional and remote areas.

The National Rural Health Commissioner suggests developing a regional, rural, and remote holistic 'grow your own' health training system to overcome the current maldistribution of allied health professionals across Australia.

Regional Allied Health Precincts would include a 'training hub' enabling regions to 'grow their own' qualified allied health staff to holistically address gaps in services and workforce.

National grant funding for regional and rural Australia to develop Regional Allied Health Services Precincts will result in the attraction and training of a qualified allied health care workforce.

## **Motion number 35.1 Derwent Valley Council TAS**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with the local government sector to incentivise general practitioners to work in regional Australia.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Residents of rural and remote communities nationally have poorer health outcomes than their regional and urban counterparts.

GP-to-patient ratio decreases as remoteness increases.

Across Australia, regional centres are still struggling to attract and retain GPs, while in many cases their population bases are growing.

There is a Senate inquiry into the provision of general practitioner (GP) and related primary health services to outer metropolitan, rural, and regional Australians currently underway focused on current state and former government reforms.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Tasmania's population is one of the most regionally dispersed of any state or territory and has the highest proportion of its population residing outside the greater capital city.

Yet the national criteria for 'remoteness' does not necessarily capture the complex demographics of the geography of a small state.

Many communities across Australia currently experience wait times of several weeks to see a GP and cannot access afterhours or weekend services.

Adequate primary health services are essential to attract business and population to regional Australia.

The Australian Government can work in partnership with regional local governments to incentivise individual GPs to choose to work in regional areas (e.g., relocation grants).

These incentives would support and enhance future reforms in primary health service provision.

Relevant State/LGAT policy objectives:

- Australian Government's 'Tasmanian Health Plan'
- Primary Health Tasmania's 'General Practice in Tasmania Report' 2019.

## Motion number 35.2 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding to the States for full-time career medical officer positions in rural and remote public hospitals MM4-7 where local GPs cannot adequately fill their VMO (Visiting Medical Officer) vacancies.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Whilst constitutionally health is a state issue, the Commonwealth provides significant funding to the states to operate our health system. The importance of continuity of care in regional towns is vital. There is also advantage in medical practitioners being retained in regional towns to ensure the pressure of providing medical care does not burden larger regional centres and cities which are also struggling. Councils are at the front line in regional communities, and advocate for improved health services.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Delegates will agree that we need more doctors in the bush. It is an issue long tackled by governments across Australia and around the world. Incentives abound to bring doctors to regional areas. We know how great living in regional communities can be, yet we struggle to attract and retain doctors in some areas, or the cost of having them as locums at up to \$3,000 per day is unsustainable.

This motion does not look at the quality of education, the diversity of culture or availability of housing in regional areas, which can be key to attracting and retaining doctors. It looks at hospitals over GPs in private practice because they already work long hours, in their clinics, in the hospitals with existing patients and aged care facilities. Asking them to regularly add to their workload with VMO duties is frequently too much.

This motion focuses on public hospitals because of the everyday demand, existing facilities, and the scope of services – including emergency, surgery, anaesthetics, and obstetrics – available to doctors seeking that experience/practice with support of telehealth.

In 2020, in NSW alone, 228 public hospitals handling almost three million ED presentations, 1.8 million inpatient episodes and 304k surgeries. Almost half the regional population or over 1 million people presented to public hospitals (very remote 435/1000, remote 554/1000 and outer regional 389/1000).

Through National Health Funding Pool, the Commonwealth provided \$99 billion to States and Territories over the past five years. A further \$131 billion has been promised by our government over the next five years. This mechanism presents a useful way of funding full-time career medical officers (CMO) in public hospitals in rural areas of need through the States and area health services.

A career medical officer is a medical practitioner registered with the Medical Board of Australia, so they are fully trained.

The CMO salary paid under existing industrial instruments is competitive, offers paid leave, long service leave, RDOs, examination leave, overtime, support allowances, and superannuation. A hospital could also offer the CMO a right of clinical practice to a suitable candidate. The rural patient has access to continuity and consistency of quality care.

NSW's regional population is set to increase, if the current relocation from cities due to COVID-19 sticks and the Commonwealth's Population Plan, with a focus on growing regional Australia, bears fruit.

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), in June 2018 3.1 million people lived in regional NSW (38.3 percent of NSW's almost 8.0 million population) and 4.9 million live in Greater Sydney (61.7percent). An increase 11.7percent over the previous decade. NSW Department Planning, Industry Environment predict regional NSW will grow by 14 percent from 2016 to 2041.

MM4-7 categories apply to areas with population of up to 15,000 so would suit the need in rural Australia without being overly burdensome on the budget. If successful, suggested policy could be expanded to MM3 or areas with a population of up to 50,000.

Rural patients deserve quality, consistency, and continuity in health care. As our National Rural Health Commissioner has said, 'a postcode should not be a prognosis'.

### Motion number 35.3 Glen Innes Severn Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Increase the Medicare Payment to rural and remote doctors by 50 percent as an enticement for doctors to work in Modified Monash Model 4 areas and above;**
- 2. Change the International Medical Graduate (IMG) system to allow IMGs to practice with limited or remote supervision rather than one on one supervision decreasing the efficiency of rural and remote surgeries.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

This motion is of national importance for rural and remote areas of Australia as the issue of decreasing GP rates is driving down population growth, increasing cost of living and adding to disproportionate rates of mortality. This motion is one part of a bigger picture in recruiting doctors to the communities that need them most. The Glen Innes Council urges members to take this matter seriously and asks ALGA to present this issue as a matter of urgency to government on behalf of rural and remote communities.



## KEY ARGUMENTS

1. Increasing Medicare payments by 50 percent for rural GPs will incentivise GPs to relocate to rural and remote areas, thus decreasing the catastrophic shortages of GPs in rural and remote NSW.
2. Reducing the restrictions faced by IMGs and removing some hurdles that impede IMGs practicing in Australia will see a greater influx of doctors into our rural and remote areas. The reduction of supervision will also allow the supervising practitioner to maintain a reasonable work schedule maintaining efficiency within surgeries and clinics throughout rural and remote Australia.
3. Increasing remuneration rates for doctors attending and, in most cases, keeping the doors of our rural hospitals open, will remove the impediment for local GPs leaving their own practices and, in most cases, losing money to provide this necessary community service.
4. Allowing residing doctors to tender for locum positions would further incentivise rural doctors to work in rural hospitals, decreasing costs associated with hiring and accommodating current locum doctors and relieving the stress on existing systems to provide a better mode of care for rural and remote NSW.

## Motion number 35.4 Moreland City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in building the capacity of local government to work with older people to create better communities for people to grow old in by:**

1. Investing in local governments to build and maintain age-friendly municipalities that people can and want to grow old in and that older people can and want to participate in;
2. Recognising local government's role supporting older people to live independently in their homes for a long as they can;
3. Ensuring the reformed Support At Home funding program is simple, streamlined, agency-friendly and client-oriented;
4. Adopting a national positive ageing and wellbeing platform that local governments can support, adopt, and tailor to their community (ageism being the most acceptable form of discrimination in Australia);
5. Expanding the support for provided informal carers and explore how local government can promote access to this;
6. Investing in the older persons' care and support workforce across all roles, disciplines, agencies, and environments so that people from various backgrounds want to work in it, want to stay in it and can move around in it and are supported; and
7. Funding digital access and equity for older people.

## OBJECTIVE

People are living longer and the proportion of older people in the population is growing. There is a recognised need, both internationally and nationally, to refocus and reinvest in

how older people are supported to live out their lives, to ensure that older people, regardless of age or ability, continue to participate and be included in society, have purpose and stay active in their later years and to provide older people with increased choice and control of what care and support they receive, as well as where, how and when they receive it.

Through the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the Federal Government has acknowledged the urgent need to improve the support services for older people, with a focus on the safety, health and wellbeing of older people and putting their needs and preferences first. Specifically, the Federal Government is implementing a new aged care program and introducing a new funding model for care at home, called Support at Home.

Ensuring a good quality of life for older people requires a wide-spread and integrated approach across all areas of society. There is an opportunity, and a need, for local government to play a role in ongoing delivery of direct community services and in creating an age-friendly city that adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities and in supporting their older population to age and live well.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Australia's older generation (aged 65 and over) continues to grow and is projected to more than double by 2057.

This demographic transition will impact almost all aspects of society. The importance of planning for these impacts is underscored by the UN declaring this the Decade of Ageing, in which dramatic shifts are needed to support us as we age, in a 'whole-of-government and whole-of-society response'.

Older people are a group vulnerable to disadvantage and exclusion. Research shows that 1 in 5 (19.5 percent) older Australians live in poverty (6 percent higher than the general population.) The proportion of home ownership is decreasing, increasing the risk of insecure housing tenure and homelessness. The number of homeless older people is increasing, the 2016 Census reporting women over 55 the fastest growing group to experience homelessness (up 31 percent from 2011 Census).

It's well recognised that social isolation can dramatically increase the risk of health conditions and early death. 1 in 4 older Australians live alone, which is a substantial risk factor for social isolation.

Additionally, the world is increasingly communicating and operating through digital mechanisms. While digital access provides benefits, we are leaving behind those unable to participate in the digital world, highlighted by the pandemic. The Australian Human Rights Commission has acknowledged that 'due to the speed with which the information technology revolution has occurred, many older people in Australia [have] found themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide'. In 2022, digital access and equity is a basic human right.

The ability for Australians to age well is also founded in our attitudes to ageing and older people. In Australia, ageism is the most accepted form of prejudice, with 83 percent of Australians agreeing ageism is a problem. Ageism negatively affects people's physical, mental, and cognitive health and wellbeing, and is 'associated with poorer health outcomes, an increased risk of social isolation, decreased quality of life and greater financial insecurity'. It also impacts our broader community, costing the economy billions of dollars in reduced workforce participation.

Improving the experience of ageing requires a coordinated and integrated approach. The World Health Organisation's Age-Friendly Cities framework is a globally established approach to planning communities, cities, and nations, in a way that benefits older people and the whole community. It focuses on a place-based, community approach spearheaded by local government, and underpinned by good policy, support, and partnerships with governments.

The Royal Commission found that Australians want the federal government and community to assist older people to live well in their own homes for as long as possible. However, Australia has a long way to go before our communities are age-friendly, and older people can access the support they need to age well. We commend the Federal Government in initiating aged care reforms but know from the Royal Commission that delivering services in the home and community requires a local approach. As the aged care sector continues to privatise, local governments will be increasingly important in ensuring that the local service ecosystem and community supports older people. In partnership with State and Federal Governments we are best placed to identify and respond to community needs, and implement decision-making that ensures older people are included, valued, and celebrated.

## Motion number 35.5 Leeton Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with state and territory governments to drive improvements in health access and outcomes in rural, regional, and remote Australia, including exploring innovative models of care and more flexible allocation of funding.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The World Health Organization describes a good health system as one that 'delivers quality services to all people, when and where they need them'.

As it stands, Australia's health system – while far better than that of most other countries – cannot be said to be said to deliver quality services to all people, when and where they need them. There are clear differences in access to quality health services and health outcomes between those living in regional and remote areas of Australia.

This objective of this motion is for Australians to benefit from a truly good health system.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

Nearly three in every 10 Australians (28 percent, or around 7 million people) live in rural and remote areas (all areas outside Australia's major cities), which encompass many diverse locations and communities.

On average, Australians living in rural and remote areas have shorter lives, higher levels of disease and injury, and poorer access to and use of health services, compared with people living in metropolitan areas.

Data shows that people living in rural and remote areas have higher rates of hospitalisations, deaths, injury and also have poorer access to, and use of, primary health care services, than people living in major cities.

The rate of disease burden in remote and very remote areas is around 1.4 times higher than that for major cities, while non-fatal burden rates are 1.2 times as high. They are also more likely to be impacted by select chronic conditions such as stroke and diabetes.

People living in rural and remote areas are more likely to die at a younger age than their counterparts in major cities, with age of death decreasing with distance from major cities. In 2018, the median age of death for males (M) and females (F) was:

- o Major cities 79 (M), 85 (F)
- o Inner regional 78 (M), 84 (F)
- o Outer regional 76 (M), 83 (F)
- o Remote 73 (M), 80 (F)
- o Very remote 68 (M), 70 (F).

Poorer health outcomes in rural and remote areas may be due a range of factors, including lifestyle differences, level of disadvantage related to education and employment opportunities, and access to health services.

Despite increased health service requirements, Australians living in rural and remote areas experience health workforce shortages.

The Commonwealth Fund report 'Mirror, Mirror 2021: Reflecting Poorly' compares health care in the United States with 10 other high-income countries, including Australia. The 2021 report rates the Australian health care system as third overall but rates Australia as eighth in access to care, which includes affordability and timeliness factors.

The Parliamentary Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Access to Health and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional, and remote NSW, which was established in September 2020 following allegations of widespread dysfunction and under-resourcing in the state's rural and regional hospitals, is not due to release its report until 29 April 2022. But the 719 submissions to the inquiry and public hearings have alleged widespread inadequacies in care and a lack of resources, including reports of hospitals running out of crucial supplies such as Panadol,

morphine antibiotics and blood products. At one hospital, kitchen staff have cared for newborn babies and patients who have suffered strokes due to a lack of nursing staff.

While the parliamentary inquiry looks into rural, regional, and remote areas in one state, the anecdotal evidence indicates that inadequate staffing and low levels of care and service are common is universal in regional and remote areas across Australia.

## **Motion number 36 Parkes Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Provide for Australians to age within their communities (particularly small communities) by further funding existing aged care facilities and the Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) program and/or upgrading existing hospitals that fulfil the role of caring for aging Australians;**
- 2. Better define the responsibilities of the various agencies so there is no doubt who is responsible for the various services; and**
- 3. Work with state governments on a new approach that fundamentally addresses the widening gap between those living in regional Australia versus those living in metropolitan areas.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Workforce shortages and re-engineering work – The medical workforce shortages and disparity between metropolitan and regional health are well documented.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

No one would dispute that providing health services in regional Australia is both complex and costly. Notwithstanding this, a new approach is needed to address the widening gap between the health of those living in regional areas and those living in cities.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare provides that "On average, Australians living in rural and remote areas have shorter lives, higher levels of disease and injury and poorer access to and use of health services, compared with people living in metropolitan areas. Poorer health outcomes in rural and remote areas may be due to multiple factors including lifestyle differences and a level of disadvantage related to education and employment opportunities, as well as access to health services".

The complexity of the various health organisations responsibilities, the inter-relationships, and the shared funding arrangements ensures most Australians are unable to identify where the deficiencies lie and who is responsible.

The recent NSW Health inquiry has highlighted the extent of the problems, but as yet no solutions have been identified.

Further, the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, has had very significant effects on many facilities across Australia, resulting in a number of the smaller facilities in our smaller communities closing. No doubt the increased standards are needed for our very

vulnerable aging Australians. However, the cost impact of new standards had no funding support to mitigate the impact. The closure of these facilities means that some aging people will need to leave their life-long communities to die in a town remote from their friends and relatives.

An example of this is the community-built and run aged care facility in the regional NSW town of Peak Hill (Fraser Court), now closed and residents dispersed. For 30 years the community did a magnificent job running this 10-bed facility, but it is no longer financially viable.

### **Motion number 36.1 Glen Innes Severn Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to review the health services in rural and regional areas.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Many rural and regional areas are experiencing shortages of GPs and other health professionals, meaning that residents have to travel significant distances for medical help.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Many people are currently unable to access GPs in rural practices or at health care services and have to travel significant distances to larger centres.

Shortages of GPs, registered nurses, paramedics and trained midwives in rural and regional areas are causing distress and life-threatening events.

Emergency rooms at some hospitals are closed because of the lack of doctors.

### **Motion number 36.2 Central Highlands Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with industry providers to develop subsidised models of aged care for regional and remote areas.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

It is important for service providers and government to collaborate to innovatively develop subsidised models of care delivery that will work in low populated regional and remote areas so that:

- Aged care providers can sustainably operate in low populated regions;
- Financial and efficient services can be provided to clients;
- Clients can receive equitable care and choices where possible;
- The challenges clients face are reduced, thereby relieving stress; and
- Accessibility to specialists is increased.

Based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, different models of care will be required for the various geographical segments and therefore, a coordinated approach is required to change the current system that many appear to find inequitable.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Australia has an ageing population (15 percent in 2016 were 65 years or older) and by 2055 this proportion will increase to 22.9 percent. This presents many challenges. It increases demand for primary health, aged care services and long-term care, requires a larger and better-trained workforce, and intensifies the need for environments and infrastructure to be age-friendly. It also has implications for the nature and quality of services and will affect economic output and government budgets.

When it is time for someone to move into residential aged care, the Australian Government subsidises aged care homes, with people contributing to the cost of their care if they can afford to. Access to residential aged care in remote and very remote communities is extremely limited.

Private providers are not found in locations that operate on marginally sustainable business models such as those facilities that operate in remote and very remote communities. The concept of consumer choice is thus more constrained as you progress into more remote locations, and data strongly suggest that as people in these communities age, they have to move from remote areas to regional centres where they are able to access better health and aged care services. In doing so, these people are removed from family and familiar surroundings, causing extreme stress.

## **Motion number 36.3 Boroondara City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the funding provided to local government to support seniors' groups and to maintain seniors' centres.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Local governments contribute millions of dollars to building and maintaining seniors' centres and supporting seniors' groups. These vital services help to reduce isolation, promote better health and wellbeing outcomes, and reduce reliance on Australian Government-subsidised formal aged care services.

The withdrawal of Australian Government Sector Support and Development (SSD) funding used to support seniors' groups and seniors' centres from 1 July 2022, will significantly impact on local government's ability to provide operational support to older people.

Ongoing funding from the Australian Government is essential to ensure local governments can continue supporting older people to remain active and engaged.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Changes to the in-scope activities of the Australian Government-funded Sector Support and Development (SSD) program have resulted in a loss of funding for seniors' groups and local government-operated seniors centres.

Historically, the Victorian Government funded Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to support the functions of seniors' groups. However, this responsibility was transferred to the Australian Government when the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) was introduced in 2016.

Since 2016, the Australian Government has provided funding to LGAs, through the SSD Program, to support seniors' groups and supplement the high operational costs of maintaining seniors' centres. LGAs have continued to fund development projects and maintenance to ensure these facilities remain fit-for-purpose.

LGAs provide support to thousands of seniors' groups and U3As (University of the Third Age) across Australia. In many instances, these groups are housed in LGA-owned and maintained facilities.

In 2021, the Department of Health advised a change to the 'in-scope' activities delivered under SSD effective from 2022-23. The changed objectives of the program have resulted in funding for seniors' groups and seniors' centres no longer being in-scope for SSD funding.

LGAs were advised the only recourse to this loss of funding was to transfer the portion of SSD funding spent on seniors' groups and seniors' centres to the Social Support Program, a funded activity of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). This is an unacceptable solution as CHSP, and seniors' groups operate at cross purposes.

Seniors' groups are independent incorporated entities with their own governance structures, whereas social support by its very name, is a structured and managed program led by paid staff, in most cases through LGAs.

Under this proposal to transfer the funding to social support, seniors' groups would lose their autonomy and independence.

## **Motion number 36.4 North Sydney Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently establish a working group with the Federal Government to develop a framework for the delivery of aged care services, fully funded by the Federal Government and delivered by local government.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Improved aged care

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety was established on 8 October 2018.

In their Final Report dated 26 February 2021, the Royal Commissioners made 148 wide-ranging recommendations to drive fundamental reform of the aged care system. Many of



the recommendations of the report involve the provision, support, and delivery of aged care services across the country.

Whilst the Federal Government is responsible for funding aged care services, Local Government is the level of government closest to the community and is in the strongest position to deliver services on the ground in a timely manner. By working with local governments across Australia, the federal government can ensure their response to the Royal Commission is timely, targeted and community focussed.

## **Motion number 37 Central Highlands Regional Council**

**The National General Assembly calls on the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to work with the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) to safeguard the ability of the RFDS to make use of Australia's road system as landing areas.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To ensure the continued availability of Australian road infrastructure for the use of the RFDS in emergency situations.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

With a geographically dispersed population, Australia relies on the RFDS to deliver access to critical emergency services, especially to regional and rural populations. Regional and rural councils have made a considerable investment into local road infrastructure to facilitate RFDS landing sites over several decades. This past investment has in numerous occasions allowed non-urban Australians to access emergency health services on short notice, often in dire need.

Recent moves by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) puts the availability of the Australian road network at risk as assets available for use in emergency situations by the RFDS. This has a number of implications for communities, local governments, as well as future state and federal funding requirements, amongst others:

- - Past investment by communities would be of significantly reduced use; (>\$1 million commitment for each exiting landing site);
- - Current landing sites will have to be brought up to standard to ensure continued access to emergency services by small communities with the financial assistance (both in establishing and maintaining) of higher levels of government; and
- - Significant future investment via grants will be needed to expand the current aerodrome network in order to ensure that our dispersed population would continue to have access to emergency evacuation services within a timeframe that would be reasonable in order to ensure human life can be preserved.

Airfields in Australia are widely dispersed and not always conveniently located, or in serviceable condition RFDS use. The road network is therefore a convenient and cost-effective option in emergency situations that must remain available to the RFDS.

Councils across Australia have a long history of working closely with emergency evacuation service providers, including the RFDS. This goes beyond merely good relations and is often focussed on delivering useable programs and infrastructure as regional and rural communities understand the reduced outcomes in case of non-availability.

As an example, at Central Highlands Regional Council we are partnering with RFDS and resource companies to deliver a patient transfer facility for the specific use of RFDS in our region. Increased efficiency and decreased response times are a focus for this project because we know reaction and processing speed saves lives.

We are also ensuring that road infrastructure project considerations include areas for possible RFDS usage as this can make a significant difference in response times, and free up other scarce resources.

As an example, an ambulance that spends significant time attending an incident on a rural road and then returning to a large regional airport for RFDS transfer is not available for other uses during this time). Examples can be found in Arcadia Valley and Woorabinda.

The RFDS also wants to increase aircraft productivity by basing them closer to where they are needed. Road infrastructure is a capability that will be difficult to replace without significant investment from all levels of government.

## **Motion number 37.1 Flinders Shire Council QLD**

**That this National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to address doctor shortages and the lack of GPs in rural and regional areas through sponsoring increased internships in rural and remote hospitals for provisional registrar doctors.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Overcoming disadvantage for rural and remote areas, the liveability of regional councils, access to quality primary health care for all Australians.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Regional areas are suffering from a lack of embedded GPs and consistent medical care. New approaches and ideas need to be established to renew the regional health workforce.

Evidence has shown that there is an increase in GPs placements in rural and regional workforce if there is an increase in post-graduate training placements.

Rural clinical school experience for students, especially those with a non-metro hometown, results in higher rates of moving to and remaining in rural practice.

An increase in funding for placements for internships in rural and regional hospitals is an evidence-based method of increasing the number of GPs entering into the regional health workforce.

This approach coupled with the established incentives for regional placements through Medicare rebates and HECS/HELP schemes can see results in a relatively short term.

## **Motion number 38 North Sydney Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently establish a working group with the Federal Government to deliver local, affordable childcare in local communities, fully funded by the Federal Government and delivered on the ground by local government.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Improved Childcare

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In 2021, the Mitchell Institute for Education and Health Policy at Victoria University released a report titled: "Counting the cost to families: Assessing childcare affordability in Australia". The report modelled the Federal Government's \$1.7 billion changes to the childcare subsidy, which are due to take effect in July this year and found that childcare will still be unaffordable for 336,000 (34%) of Australian families who use the childcare system.

The report found that one in three families are spending more on childcare than groceries to feed their family and 85% of families are spending more on childcare than on their utility bills.

The report uses an international benchmark of no more than 7% of disposable income spent on childcare to determine childcare affordability for families.

Whilst the Federal Government is responsible for funding childcare, Local Government is the level of government closest to the community and is in the strongest position to deliver services on the ground in a timely manner. By working with local governments across Australia, the federal government can develop, and community led and delivered childcare program which meets the needs of Australian families and households.

## **Motion number 39 Isaac Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure federal funding and federal programs for mental health and related services are fit for purposeplace-based models in small and medium-sized regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

As part of the Australian Government's mental health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Head to Health services are being initiated by Primary Health Networks partnering with local health service providers.

Whilst this model of delivery may suit large regional centres with established local health service capacity and providers, in small and medium sized regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia – where communities are already experiencing a critical shortage of medical, allied and health services – an unintended consequence of the Head to Health model is further distancing of critical mental health services from areas in serious need.

Nationally, communities built on energy-based resources and agricultural sectors are at the forefront of adaptation regarding climate change impacts on its industries and its communities. The cumulative effects of prolonged social and economic impacts of the pandemic, the current and future adaptation of industry, and the need to re-engineer how work is done are further exacerbating mental health impacts in the regions.

The Federal Government, working in partnership with local governments to support fit for purpose place-based models in mental health services across regional Australia, would make an absolute difference in communities where critical shortages of mental health services are experienced.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In 2020, modelling indicated that mental health issues were likely to rise significantly in Australia as a result of COVID-19.

Eighteen months on, data from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare shows that although suicide rates have remained stable, there has been a significant increase in demand for mental health services.

In rural and remote areas, access to mental health services is substantially more limited than in metropolitan areas and, tragically, rates of suicide and self-harm increase with remoteness.

By way of example, the Bowen Basin resource region in Queensland is a region where this increasing demand for mental health support has not been met with a proportional increase in mental health services – predominantly due to challenges of funding, delivering, and staffing mental health services.

The recent establishment of a federally funded Head to Health partnership with North Queensland Primary Health Network in Townsville is providing a service that connects adults experiencing high levels of distress and seeking help with local mental health and wellbeing support services. The primary health network is the commissioning body for Townsville Head to Health, having conducted the system co-design and facilitated service model localisation.

The Federal Government Head to Health model is also in place in Victoria. Unintended consequences of this model are that the significantly increasing demand on mental health services identified off the back of COVID-19 in smaller regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia are not being met.

Moreover, the access to mental health services, which is already substantially limited in rural and remote areas, becomes even less accessible with the focus and funding being redirected to major regional centres and cities.

Our regions require the same level of access to mental health services as our larger regional and metropolitan areas. Distance and isolation experienced by regional, rural, and remote areas lead to poor and frequently tragic mental health outcomes.

Academic Research undertaken by Wesley Medical Research, supported by Queensland University of Technology has identified that place-based models are required to navigate the complexity of the mental health care landscape. That research has further identified the need for people seeking access to mental health services to be provided guidance. The care maze is complex and without it the means to navigate the system, people either do not engage with it or get ejected from it.

Primary health network assessments have identified that general practice demands are increasing while access is reducing. That general practices are predominantly the gate keepers to referrals and other key health care resources. Further, that there are primary care workforce shortages across nearly all professions with after-hours access being very poor.

Federally supported fit for purpose place-based mental health services are a critical piece of the overall mental health support framework and are required to meet the increasing demand across rural and remote regional Australia.

## Motion number 39.1 Brimbank City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Substantially increase recurrent mental health expenditure, in average annual real per capita spending, from 1.3 percent to 2.5 percent; and**
- 2. Increase funding, accessibility, and services for the Commonwealth Better Access initiative to extend access to mental health professionals and care to more people.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The significant number of people affected by mental health in Australia shows the need for significant improvements to funding and access. A person does not need to meet a criteria for a mental illness or mental disorder to be negatively affected by their mental health, as socio-economic factors, including a person's access to services, living conditions and employment status affects the individual and their families.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Mental health has a huge impact on people's lives, affecting behaviour, physical health, work, and relationships. Almost half of all Australian adults will face mental ill-health during their lives. In some instances, mental health can lead to suicide, one of the main causes of death for Australians aged 15 to 49 years.

Mental health treatment and support is available through the Federal Government's Better Access Initiative. This gives Medicare rebates to eligible people to access the mental health services they need. Eligible people can receive up to 10 individual and up to 10 group allied mental health services each year, with support available from eligible general practitioners, psychologists, social workers, and occupational therapists. Extra support during the COVID-19 pandemic is available through this initiative until 30 June 2022 for people who have a mental health treatment plan in place.

## Motion number 40 Maribyrnong City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Establish a dedicated and ongoing Community Resilience and Fairness Response Package to ensure our most vulnerable community members are protected from the worst of the impacts of a prolonged pandemic, particularly the youth;**
- 2. Increase funding for mental health support services, local learning and job preparation programs, and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment; and**
- 3. Invest in and grow local manufacturing.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Mental Health, Jobs and Employment Pathways for Youth

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Youth unemployment is likely to be higher than the general unemployment rate in almost all Australian communities.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact across many dimensions of our community, its effect on health and unemployment is particularly concerning, especially amongst young people and other vulnerable cohorts.

In Australia, the pandemic has compounded a decade of high youth unemployment. Young people have been hit hard, bearing the brunt of job losses in businesses most affected by lockdown and social distancing restrictions such as hospitality venues, retail outlets, gymnasiums, entertainment venues, and the tourism sector.

School-leavers missed out on opportunities to land their first job and university students lost the service industry jobs supporting them through their studies. Most young people were not in jobs where they could work from home. Ongoing restrictions and prolonged lockdown have made it increasingly difficult for young people to retain their employment or find new employment – and the lack of adequate mental health and well-being support service systems have significantly impacted young people in the community.

## Motion number 41 Roper Gulf Regional Council NT

This National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to acknowledge the lack of services and infrastructure in Indigenous communities and the need to address the lack of:

1. Regional Health access to aged care, primary, specialist, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
2. Affordable Housing and Land availability
3. Child Care access and affordability
4. Skill shortage in regional areas
5. Local skills and capability development
6. Education system -School leavers not job-ready for local jobs as required and available locally; and
7. Lack of coordinated governance across all tiers of government in regional areas.

### OBJECTIVE

Yes, this is a national issue and should be debated at the NGA.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

There are significant access issues pertaining to health services in remote and regional areas and concerns about the lack of appropriate and accessible primary, specialist, aged care, and disability services in regional and remote areas.

There are significant issues pertaining to housing availability in regional and remote areas that pose challenges to the point that it hinders economic activity, development, and service delivery, as well as having an overall detrimental effect on the wellbeing of those communities. Lack of affordable housing also causes community distress and overcrowding, with associated flow-on effects on health and social services.

(Childcare services in regional and remote areas are insufficient to meet community needs and often unaffordable.

The significant skills shortages in regional and remote areas have a detrimental effect on key service delivery, including the lack of affordable housing, lack of amenities and professional services.

(There are a lack of professional and skills development opportunities in regional and remote areas that compromise service delivery, as well as recruitment and retention for regional councils, and for regional organisations in general.

School leavers are not being educated and trained for the jobs and service market available in regional areas, and as such this generates youth dissatisfaction and lack of engagement, with the flow-on effect of anti-social behaviour.

There are numerous programs and services being delivered by the Commonwealth, State/Territory, and local governments in regional and remote areas. However, these services are often poorly coordinated at the local level, thus compromising their effect,

compounding costs, and causing community dissatisfaction. Services have to be coordinated at the community level.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

### Motion number 42 Balonne Shire Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review current governance arrangements and commit appropriate levels of funding to provide improved operational and maintenance support to the owners of flood-warning infrastructure in order to minimise the impacts of natural disasters.**

#### OBJECTIVE

With weather events predicted to become more severe and more frequent, having access to early and accurate warning indicators (for storms and floods) becomes crucial to local government's ability to manage and minimise the impacts of these events on local communities, key industries, and regional supply chains.

#### KEY ARGUMENTS

The operation of Australia's Total Flood Warning System, including network assets (such as gauges) and their supporting infrastructure is complex and shared amongst agencies across all levels of government as well as private entities.

Situational awareness is provided through flood warning networks for responding agencies, including local governments.

A fully optimised Total Flood Warning System means:

- The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has what it needs to issue forecasts and warnings;
- All stakeholders have the right situational awareness for them to interpret the consequences of the forecasts or warnings;
- The right messages can be provided to the right people at the right time through respective state disaster management arrangements; and
- Ultimately, the community is well informed and understands their risks.

Recent experience in South-West Queensland and parts of North-West Queensland has highlighted that the integration of activities required for the system to operate effectively and efficiently can, at times, present governance, and coordination issues.

This has especially been apparent through the different governance and funding arrangements associated with the maintenance and operation of flood warning infrastructure, most notably gauges across different stakeholder groups, including local government.



The result of this has been inaccurate flooding warning information or complete gaps in available data needed to inform decision-making at the local government level.

As a consequence, it is suggested a review of current arrangements be undertaken – specifically, how best to manage and fund flood warning infrastructure and the role the BOM could play in acting as a single point of management and coordination.

## Motion number 43 Newcastle City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with ALGA and state and territory governments to urgently develop an additional, apolitical funding stream which provides local governments with the resources needed to mitigate the current and longer-term impacts of extreme weather events on local physical and social infrastructure.**

### OBJECTIVE

To combat the impacts of extreme weather events. Now and more recently, local governments have been significantly impacted by bushfires, droughts, and floods. We must look at ways for local government to recover from these extreme weather events but also ways to mitigate their impact moving into the future.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. Extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, storms, floods, or forest fires can considerably damage roads, railways, communication systems and power lines. Cities and municipalities are therefore at the frontline of adaptation. In the absence of national or international climate policy direction, cities and local communities around the world have been focusing on solving their own climate problems. They are working to build flood defence's, plan for heatwaves and higher temperatures, install water-permeable pavements to better deal with floods and stormwater, and improve water storage and use.

According to the 2014 report on Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (p8) from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, governments at various levels are also getting better at adaptation. Climate change is starting to be factored into a variety of development plans: how to manage the increasingly extreme disasters we are seeing and their associated risks, how to protect coastlines and deal with sea-level encroachment, how to best manage land and forests, how to deal with and plan for reduced water availability, how to develop resilient crop varieties, and how to protect energy and public infrastructure.

But extreme weather events are also costly. A new report from the Climate Council (<https://bit.ly/3MxHpHc>) finds the cost of extreme weather in Australia has more than doubled since the 1970s and totalled \$35 billion over the past decade. By 2038, extreme

weather events driven by climate change, as well as the impacts of sea-level rise, could cost the Australian economy \$100 billion every year.

We know already in 2022, that figure will be higher, and it will be councils and communities who will be working to clean up after these extreme weather events for years to come.

## Motion number 43.1 Shire of Derby-West Kimberley WA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to**

- 1. Commit to ensuring that building back resilient public infrastructure is a core element of disaster recovery funding arrangements at Commonwealth and jurisdiction level;**
- 2. Provide clear guidance on appropriate Standards for resilience for public infrastructure to support decisions regarding additional investment; and**
- 3. Commit to providing up-front funding to local governments that will enable counter disaster operations and reconstruction of essential public assets to proceed without financial impediments.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Local governments are at the forefront of preparing for and recovering from disasters. The destruction of essential public infrastructure during natural disasters has a significant negative impact on the resilience and recovery of communities, particularly when people remain isolated for long periods and are unable to access services or support.

More resilient public infrastructure will support communities recovering more quickly and reduce the financial impact of disasters on all tiers of government.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Ninety-seven percent of Commonwealth disaster funding is spent on recovery with only 3 percent allocated to preparation and mitigation; yet investment in mitigation saves tens of thousands of dollars in post-disaster recovery expenditure.

Many councils experience the same infrastructure being destroyed or damaged by repeated events, particularly flooding.

In many instances, modest investments such as increasing the diameter of culverts, installing scour protection to bridge embankments, and redesigning floodway crossings will significantly reduce the likelihood that subsequent flooding will destroy infrastructure.

Several inquiries have concluded that the current disaster recovery funding arrangements are systemically biased against betterment and in favour of rebuilding to pre-disaster standard\*. There have been some changes since this conclusion was reached. Now the approach to responding to the need to build back more resilient essential public infrastructure varies across jurisdictions, despite operating under consistent Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The current reimbursement arrangements, with payments taking several months in some situations, place councils under serious cash-flow pressure in order to continue to pay contractors undertaking reconstruction work. There are situations where this work has had to be slowed in order to maintain adequate cash flow.

\*Productivity Commission 2014 Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements p101(Volume 1- Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements (pc.gov.au) Accessed 15 March 2022.

## Motion number 43.2 Hawkesbury City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the NSW and Australian Governments to:**

- 1. Establish Disaster Recovery Funds that can be immediately accessed by councils in the event of a natural disaster. The funds would be available to councils to undertake immediate emergency works, essential public asset reconstruction works, and immediate clean-up where applicable; and**
- 2. Update their natural disaster funding agreements to include reimbursement of project management costs to local councils and funding for dedicated infrastructure recovery staff for the next year.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Natural disasters have the potential to impact councils nationwide. The accessibility of federal funding for disaster recovery to reduce the burden on councils is a national issue and should be debated in this forum.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Hawkesbury local government area experienced a significant flood in March 2021, and a higher flood in March 2022. The floods resulted in significant damage to various road assets.

Following the flood in March 2021, Council was required to undertake emergency and immediate works and clean-up works, as well as other major and more complex reconstruction works to local roads. Council is expected to expend in the vicinity of \$42 million on these works, which Council is required to forward fund. The forward funding of these works causes significant pressure on Council's cash flows. This is particularly relevant to small metropolitan councils and regional councils. Whilst the majority of the works will be able to be claimed through state government processes, Council has been experiencing delays in these claims being paid.

Similar work will be required to be carried out by Council, along with many other local councils as a result of the widespread damage caused by flooding in March 2022.

The establishment of a Disaster Recovery Fund would enable councils that experience a natural disaster to have access to funds prior to undertaking the necessary works to restore public assets. Access to assistance with project management is also critical, as Council's annual capital works program is unable to be delivered when efforts are dedicated to reconstruction works. This would enable repair works to be undertaken in a reasonable

timeframe, minimising the impact of the disaster on the community. Such funding would also enable councils to continue to deliver other essential works and services as Council funds would not be redirected to restoring flood-damaged assets and undertaking other clean-up and emergency works.

### **Motion number 43.3 Randwick City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Express solidarity with the many communities across Australia affected by devastating floods, storms, heatwaves, and fires caused by anthropogenic global warming in recent months and years;**
- 2. Provide urgent short and long-term disaster recovery funding and support to affected communities and councils;**
- 3. Fund and support local councils to develop comprehensive, in-place, recovery, rebuilding and resilience plans and strategies to improve the immediate response to increasingly catastrophic natural disasters; and**
- 4. Commit to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 43 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

This motion addresses the following key questions in the 2022 discussion paper:

- **Climate Change:** How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes? What partnerships are available to achieve climate neutrality?
- **Natural Disasters:** What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to address natural disasters to assist in recovery and build resilience?

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In recent years, communities across Australia have been affected by increasing numbers of severe climate and weather events, including drought, heatwaves, fires, floods, and storms. These often-catastrophic events have been both increasing in their frequency and severity, and have resulted in loss of life, homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. Recent floods on the eastern seaboard have seen 250 schools affected, and thousands made homeless. The effect on the environment has been devastating. Scientists, politicians, and community members have called for support and funding to aid recovery, and urgent action to cut the carbon emissions that are contributing to global warming and the consequent extreme climate events.

The February 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has stated that the cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human wellbeing and planetary health. Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on

adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.

(IPCC Working Group II contribution)

## Motion number 43.4 Northern Midlands Council TAS

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider the provision of an annual budget allocation to local government to contribute to modelling and mitigation works to reduce the risk of flood or other natural disasters.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Local government areas around the country are experiencing an increase in natural disasters, which, combined with other issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, can significantly impact a community's ability to respond to a natural disaster.

Local government can be proactive by undertaking modelling and implementing mitigating factors to lessen the impact when natural disasters occur. To do this, councils need to identify their areas of risk, and what can be done to reduce these risks.

The increase in natural disasters is a national issue. To undertake modelling and implement mitigating factors is a huge task, and one that is beyond the capacity of many small councils.

The National General Assembly is urged to lobby the Federal Government to commit national funding to enable councils to undertake the relevant studies and implement mitigation measures to protect communities.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

JLT Public Sector, a division of JLT Risk Solutions Pty Ltd, insure the majority of local councils across Australia.

JLT Public Sector has developed a vulnerability methodology and program that can be applied to every council on a national basis. The purpose of the program is to collect local government data and information to build a vulnerability profile that will inform and support the Australian Government National Capability.

It is designed to be multi-faceted and will:

- Collect specific, local government vulnerability profile data from every council via a purpose-built tool;
- Build a platform of nationally consistent data that has integrity and reliability;
- Benchmark councils (regional, State, nationally) via the calculation of an individual Council Resilience Rating;
- Provide information that enables all governments to measure and monitor risk-reduction; investment, post-disaster funding, resilience, and underpinning informed decisions cross all governments;

- Deliver a calculated Resilience Rating for every local government nationally that can inform the Australian Disaster Resilience Index, bringing the Index to life; and
- Deliver to every council a consistent and comprehensive report describing its individual resilience profile, rating, and recommendations for integration into the council's strategic plans.

All future investment and funding allocated to risk reduction initiatives/projects will be managed and monitored via councils' budget and audit processes.

Extract from National Local Government Vulnerability Program Report Northern Midlands Council:

The Northern Midlands Council has participated in the risk profiling through the National Local Government Vulnerability program. The highest priority identified for the Northern Midlands Council is to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

The National Local Government Vulnerability program was developed to assist the Australian Government by providing national, consistent, and comparable data. Now this program has been developed, the data is available, and areas of need can be identified.

The National General Assembly is urged to lobby the Australian Government to contribute funding to implement risk reduction measures as identified through participation in the National Local Government Vulnerability program.

### Motion number 43.5 City of Darwin NT

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with local government on a national program of urgent priority mitigation work to address anticipated major or catastrophic damage to existing essential community infrastructure linked to contemporary climate change modelling to 2050.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this motion is to seek to commence a process for identifying, prioritising, planning, and preparing for the impacts that gradual climate change will have on the existing essential community infrastructure managed by councils across Australia.

Such a program, built on national priorities and based on reputable climate-change modelled trajectories, would enable flexibility and tailored solutions to mitigate varying anticipated risks to infrastructure for different municipalities.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local governments across Australia are accountable for supporting community health, wellbeing and liveability via the maintenance, upkeep, and effective functioning of billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure spanning roads, storm water and waste management.

The underlying infrastructure asset base has evolved through gradual incremental expansion across many decades. The threats to that infrastructure presented by climate

change bring about a requirement for remedial works that are not within the usual cycle of infrastructure replacement.

The most pressing risks to public infrastructure vary significantly depending on geographic location.

Examples include climate-change modelling predicting:

- Northern Australia – increasing in total rainfall volume and extended 'wet season' patterns resulting in a significant escalation in total leachate and reduced evaporation opportunity which presents a challenge for waste management infrastructure;
- Southern Australia – decrease in total rainfall and higher rate of incidence of drought conditions presenting pressures relating to balancing residential and industrial water demand, public space greening and recreation
- Coastal communities are under threat of fluctuations in king tides and creep rises in sea level, leaving zones of roads, paths and buildings susceptible to inundation, erosion and the design of storm water drainage becoming ineffective
- Inland communities are expected to experience challenges associated with an increased incidence of periods of extreme heat and shifting water catchments.

While significant and admirable efforts continue towards the shared goal of arresting or minimising global warming, it is now prudent to balance the risk-management strategy via a pragmatic, pre-emptive national infrastructure works program for local government that seeks to invest now in order to mitigate future catastrophic damage to essential community infrastructure such as waste management.

Further work would be required to determine and agree on specific infrastructure types.

This motion seeks to commence a methodical, systematic approach spanning the national context to act now to commence incremental remedial action before major or catastrophic outcomes occur.

## Motion number 43.6 Yarra City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a joint reform process to proactively plan for and seek to mitigate the impacts of flooding, including a review of relevant planning controls, flooding overlays, strategies, and the ability of existing infrastructure to respond to the impacts of climate change; and establish funding stream/s to facilitate this process and implement flood mitigation works.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Climate change is significantly impacting weather patterns, with increasingly severe weather events, including increased frequency and severity of minor and major flooding events.

Recent flooding events of 2022 alone demonstrate the substantial environmental, humanitarian, and economic implications at a local, regional, and national level.

This proposed initiative would assist local governments and their communities, in association with relevant authorities, state and federal governments to better plan, prepare for, and mitigate the impacts of flooding wherever possible. This would present the opportunity for greater certainty and financial sustainability longer term.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Minor and major flooding events are having catastrophic impacts across the country, with the damage associated with the recent (late February-early March 2022) flooding event along the south-east of Australia expected to cost in the realm of \$2.5 billion for Queensland (1), and more than \$240 million for NSW (2). It's anticipated it will take many impacted communities' months, if not years to recover.

In many instances, current stormwater infrastructure was not designed to accommodate the increasing level and frequency of rainfall and associated flooding events, with rain and flood records being superseded at an alarming rate. Similarly, waterways and floodplains have been significantly altered, further impacting their natural role and function during flood events.

Better understanding flood behaviour via a review of relevant controls and strategies will enable the ability to assess the likely impacts of flooding based on climate change. It will also enable all parties to assess the benefits of different options for managing exposure to flood risk. This will allow for the opportunity to investigate and implement a range of flood mitigation options and associated infrastructure or strategies.

Noting the significant cost for both the review and subsequent implementation of flood mitigation measures, funding streams will be required to facilitate these undertakings.

A national approach to flood mitigation is required to remedy the current situation, which this motion and its associated actions seek to facilitate. In turn, this motion aligns with both the Natural Disasters and Climate Change 2022 National General Assembly themes.

## **Motion number 44 Shoalhaven City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a permanent Disaster Levy as an income tax levy, to establish a funding base to empower local government to support our communities with resilience and disaster recovery.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Local government, as the front-line tier of government during natural disasters, needs to be adequately resourced to support communities. This impacts upon all councils in Australia.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The logical conclusion of impacts to the community from all emergencies comes to rest at the local level. Local government has the ability and responsibility to restore the community to 'normal', including all individuals, businesses, industry, and tourism. Local government is



the level of government closest to the community. One of the functions of local government is to coordinate the implementation of federal and state government laws and regulations and disseminate information from a wide variety of sources in a cohesive manner. Therefore, local government is best placed to manage the delivery of a variety of services and support from the start.

In recovery, there is an urgency to getting funding into areas as soon as possible. Announcements of funding availability were made by the federal and state Governments quickly after the fires impacted our regions. These were most appreciated, however, in some instances, the application process has resulted in substantial delays in being able to respond.

The experience of the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires indicated the following rapid-response interventions were needed to ensure community recovery and resilience:

- Waste disposal;
- Road and bridge repairs;
- Telecommunications reinstatement;
- Water supplies and sewer repairs;
- Power supply provision;
- Temporary accommodation;
- Food and urgent necessities;
- Mental health support;
- Fencing repairs to contain livestock; and
- Distribution and storage of donations and supplies

## **Motion number 45 City of Whyalla SA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce across all levels of government, departments and government agencies, a consistent hierarchy and classification of population places.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Post the Covid pandemic and recent extreme weather events resulting in catastrophic damage to assets and infrastructure –

where governments have been investing to rebuild better for the future –

a serious review of the level of services, infrastructure and support required to meet the needs of communities and businesses in different localities is needed.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The unprecedented growth in regional centres during the Covid-19 pandemic is well recognised, fuelled by lifestyle choices and the transformation of our workplaces, with greater flexibility delivered via automation and technology. A consequential impact of this

growth is a high demand for housing, a demand which cannot be met in most regional areas.

Although growth is happening on the one hand, there is also the untested capacity of business and community to bounce back following the disruptions of CoVID. There are also significant labour shortages, particularly in the agriculture and hospitality sectors. These issues require a collaborative effort across all levels of government.

The type of services and infrastructure required (in this prevailing environment) in each locality can depend on population (growing or declining), location in Australia, GRP, jobs, micro-climates, key industry(s), relative position to other communities, etc. All these factors impact on government (all levels) support/funding and whether a location can successfully work in partnership with all levels of government.

However, currently there is no consistent classification as to what the difference is between a town, city, regional city, rural city, rural town, capital city, remote town, hamlet, village, etc.

Most locations in Australia outside major cities are classed as designated regional areas for migration purposes.

Population and urban planning is complicated by the void of consistent, across governments place classifications.

The Australian Government committed to the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) created by the United Nations. This international framework creates the opportunity for all levels of government to share common goals and work together.

The NUA emphasises the crucial role cities play in achieving sustainable development for future generations.

From this perspective it is essential places are correctly classified to clearly reflect the role and contribution of the place in the broader regional context, and consequently the support and contribution such a place could reasonably expect to give and receive from state and federal governments to enable and facilitate the necessary services, infrastructure and amenity expected of a city.

By way of example, based on population alone, City of Whyalla is relatively small compared with regional cities in other states. However, when you consider the role and function of Whyalla and its importance to South Australia and the nation given the City's steelworks, iron exports and impending production, use and export of hydrogen, coupled with the adjacent Cultana Defence Training Facility, it is argued that state and federal collaboration and investment in our city should be at a higher level. This situation is exacerbated by the inherent structural flaw in the form and composition of South Australia as a 'one-city state'.

It is proposed that having an agreed hierarchy and classification of localities would assist decision-makers at all levels of government to work in partnership and determine appropriate funding models needed to support regional cities/capitals and regionalisation.

Indeed, such a framework would support future population growth in the regions through improved liveability, benefiting all Australians.

## Motion number 46 East Gippsland Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to expand the scope, reduce the evidence required, implement fairer, and more consistent, processes between states for seeking funding under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.**

### OBJECTIVE

To provide a fit-for-purpose funding mechanism to support local communities in response, recovery, reconstruction, and betterment activities after disasters.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

In times of national disasters, it has proven to be increasingly difficult to seek funding through complex mechanisms to enable communities to respond and recover. An avenue to allocate funding fairly and easily, with an inclusive definition of disaster relief, is considered essential.

Expanding the scope to include important community infrastructure (beyond the current definition of essential infrastructure), and to accommodate the cumulative and compounding effects of multiple disasters (where it may be difficult to complete DRFA requirements before the impact of the next event).

The key arguments behind this motion are:

1. The DRFA is an essential program and, with improvements to the scope and application mechanism, can continue to build resilience in local communities.
2. Activities through DRFA are excellent examples of partnerships between Australian Government and local government to progress economic resilience by generating and maintaining locally based jobs and thereby stimulating local economies.
3. The scope and application amendments will decrease the cumulative effects of multiple disasters, thereby increasing the resilience of our community.
4. The scope changes can provide the opportunity to extend betterment funding to Victoria to restore essential public assets damaged to a more resilient standard:
  - a. so infrastructure and communities are more resilient to future disasters;
  - b. so future costs associated with disasters are reduced;
  - c. to address assessed natural hazard risks, and
  - d. in alignment with the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

## Motion number 46.1 Shoalhaven City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to protect communities against critical power loss during natural disasters through the delivery of a targeted program to support the installation of stand-alone power systems (SAPS) in at-risk communities.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Protecting power supplies and the essential services that can help people survive natural disasters is a national issue. In recent years, Australian communities have faced catastrophic bushfires, severe storms, and widespread flooding, leaving some communities isolated and without power for days, cut-off from evacuation. Loss of electricity often means no communication, no ability to access critical safety information in times when this is most important, and no access to payment facilities to access petrol, food, and basic supplies.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements states that the provision of essential services is especially critical before, during and after a natural disaster when people are at their most vulnerable. Disruptions to essential services were a common occurrence during the 2019-2020 bushfire season for many regional communities in disaster-affected areas. These disruptions, among other difficulties, meant that people could not access information on the threat posed by the fires, purchase essential goods due to either supply chain issues or the inability to use EFTPOS, or contact friends or family.

The report from the Royal Commission also recognises that given that electricity and telecommunications are highly interconnected, a holistic understanding of risks and the mitigations applied is required to prevent outages and facilitate the rapid restoration of services. (Chapter 9 Essential Services):

<https://bit.ly/39q8wG2>

The provision of renewable stand-alone power systems in areas which are exposed to natural disasters would enable communities to maintain access to essential energy-reliant services, including emergency information, communications, lighting, heating, and cooling. Stand-alone power systems, such as microgrids, can improve electricity stability, operating as fail-safe systems that can be activated when there is a threat to power supply.

In the 2021 report Neighbourhood Issue: Climate costs and risks to Councils, the Climate Council recommended that federal, state and territory Governments invest in preparing before climate disasters strike rather than responding after the damage is done, and support residents and businesses exposed to extreme weather events to build resilience.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report (2021), extreme weather and climate impacts such as heatwaves, fire weather, heavy rainfall, and more severe flooding are all occurring more frequently and with greater intensity, and the likelihood of compounding extreme weather events happening at the

same time or in succession is increasing. As these events continue to escalate in frequency and severity, protecting at-risk communities must remain a national priority.

## **Motion number 47 Forbes Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government and Insurance Council of Australia to lobby for property insurance policies to retain a compulsory nominated amount to ensure the satisfactory demolition of the structure to better protect the public from ongoing derelict sites.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Currently, when a property is burnt down, owners are able to walk away with their insurance payout, leaving councils to chase the land owner to adequately demolish, clean up and make good sites. This can take years to achieve, leaving derelict eyesores dotted around our towns and cities.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The inclusion of a compulsory demolition reserve (based on a reasonable market cost for demolition works) within a property's insurance policy would help to ensure the timely clean-up and remediation of fire damaged buildings.

Whilst councils can always rely on the orders provisions as listed in the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, a system such as has been suggested would see sites potentially cleaned up much quicker post-emergency incident without the need to flex any regulatory muscles for compliance.

## **Motion number 48 Shire of Morawa WA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government:**

- 1. To request that all state and territory governments fully implement recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and provide further resources and assistance to local governments to increase their capacity and capability to effectively discharge the considerable emergency management responsibilities devolved to them.**
- 2. To provide leadership and coordination to state and territory governments in responding to recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disasters.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

In October 2020 a report from the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements (the report) was released. However, the responses by state and territory governments to these recommendations has been varied at best. In Western Australia, the state

government's response to 11.1 is 'support in principle' and that 'this occurs in practice in Western Australia'.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Recommendations 11.1 of the Royal Commission report states:

State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.

Recommendation 11.2 states: State and territory governments should review their arrangements for sharing resources between their local governments during natural disasters, including whether those arrangements:

- 1) provide sufficient surge capacity, and
- 2) take into account all the risks that the state or territory may face during a natural disaster.

The WA State Government's Emergency Management Capability Summary: State-wide overview of Local Governments 2019 concludes that overall metropolitan local governments have higher capability in all areas when compared with country local governments, and that capability tended to decrease with decreasing local government size and increasing remoteness.

Morawa and the Midwest experienced this first-hand with Cyclone Seroja, with all the smaller local governments struggling with capacity and capability to drive recovery.

While the WA government is active in assisting local governments to understand risk and capability, it does not support the delivery of risk treatment options to address capability gaps, or to increase local government capability. In response to Cyclone Seroja, State Recovery team was instigated. However, they are limited in terms of which areas they can respond to as the onus of recovery sits with local government even if they lack the general capacity.

Arrangements for resource-sharing between local governments vary between jurisdictions. In WA, significant barriers exist due to varying industrial relations arrangements between councils and a lack of spare capacity in local government resourcing. A holistic, coordinated, and innovative approach is necessary to identify and/or develop surge capacity across local government. If this capacity is created, it must be able to be quickly deployed and funded under the Commonwealth-State funding arrangements to ensure an efficient response to disasters.

The practice of state and territory governments delegating some of their responsibility for disaster preparedness, response and recovery to local governments is only effective if local governments are adequately resourced and have the capability to meet those responsibilities. State and territory government responses to Recommendations 11.1 and

11.2 have varied. Commonwealth-level leadership and coordination will ensure that local governments are adequately resourced across all jurisdictions.

### **Motion number 48.1 Shoalhaven City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to accept and implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on National Natural Disasters pertaining to an enhanced role for the Commonwealth in coordinating the established levels of state, territory, and local council response. This will ensure a national response to emergencies that will facilitate our communities' resilience following disasters, in particular, more effective and faster responses from the Australian Defence Force.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Australian Government is asked to take the lead in coordinating aspects of natural disaster response, so that all levels of government are better able to defend and restore our communities in times of crisis.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Natural Disasters like bushfires and floods are border and jurisdiction-agnostic, and response and recovery need to be tailored accordingly. Separation of local, state, and federal agencies responding and assisting the community to recover should make better use of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for assistance. We make the following recommendations for Commonwealth involvement, in particular coordinating more advance notice to be given when the ADF is deployed to an area to facilitate identification of appropriate projects; and deployment of defence resources sooner to assist in clean-ups.

### **Motion number 49 Newcastle City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address the economic hardship people in rural and regional areas are experiencing due to the unique combined impacts of COVID-19, unprecedented bushfires, long-running drought and/or flooding by providing additional support for recovery. This relief would include:**

- 1. Initiatives targeting the tourism and creative industries;**
- 2. An evaluation of and response to the youth and gender impacts of COVID-19;**
- 3. Initiatives that will boost jobs and long-term community resilience to climate; and**
- 4. Restoration of funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To draw national attention to the struggle of rural and regional communities in relation to a unique set of circumstances following COVID-19. This includes the most devastating bushfires on record, prolonged drought, flooding, tourism challenges, and ongoing challenges in maintaining local country roads.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Support for regional economic recovery by stimulating economic growth and building economic resilience in regional and rural communities should be an ongoing focus for all levels of government. The objectives of targeted funding streams to better assist regional communities, particularly following extreme weather events and natural disasters, should include:

- increased economic and social benefits through enabling infrastructure;
- increased employment opportunities and decrease skills shortages;
- Increases in the capacity of the business community by enhancing employment, business and economic opportunities with a focus on tourism and primary industries, including small business or other sectors;
- increased business capability, including Aboriginal businesses;
- Increase in longer term resilience for future emergency events;
- increased and restored visitor confidence in the region; and
- protection and enhancement of Aboriginal culture, and support participation and ownership.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Motion number 50 City of Stirling WA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Work with state and territory governments to develop a sustainable, equitable and efficient national funding model for the implementation of coastal hazard management actions to mitigate coastal erosion and inundation; and**
- 2. Charge the Productivity Commission with undertaking an investigation into an appropriate funding framework that shares the cost of coastal hazard management appropriately among all levels of government and the community.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Stronger Community Resilience – Australian communities that can respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations

Address the Risks of Climate Change – Action by all levels of government to mitigate climate change and adapt to unavoidable change

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Sea-level rise (and associated coastal hazards such as storm erosion, coastal inundation and shoreline recession) is affecting coastal communities across Australia and will continue to affect these communities for several centuries to millennia.



Over the next 50 years alone, it has been estimated that at least \$30 billion (net present cost) of investment in large-scale coastal protection and adaptation projects is needed to manage coastal hazards.

The responsibility for addressing coastal hazards has largely been devolved to local governments; however, the two main sources of funding currently available to local governments, including rate revenues and state government grants, are inadequate.

The Commonwealth has recognised that coastal hazards are an issue of national importance but is yet to provide adequate funding to address these hazards. A number of reviews and inquiries into coastal hazard management have been undertaken, which identify the risks to coastal settlements across Australia caused by increasing sea levels and the limited capacity of local governments to fulfil coastal hazard management responsibilities.

It is considered that the Productivity Commission should be tasked to investigate a funding framework that shares the cost of coastal hazard management appropriately among all levels of government and the community.

A sustainable, equitable and efficient funding framework will help preserve Australia's public beaches and foreshores, while minimising climate change impacts on assets such as tourist destinations, ports, marinas, harbours, and private property.

Without such a framework, local governments will not be able to implement adequate measures to adapt to coastal hazards, resulting in the widespread loss of public beaches and foreshores, tourism dependent businesses and employment, private property, unmanaged displacement of coastal residents, as well as legal challenges and political action from disenfranchised property owners.

## **Motion number 51 Canterbury Bankstown Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to align with the NSW Government and resilient Sydney member councils' plans for reducing the impacts of climate change and provide an economic framework to drive achievable targets for carbon reduction by no later than 2050.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Australian Government's Net Zero emissions target by 2050 was an opportunity for our nation to set a new course for the future. While a technology-led response to emissions reduction appeared promising, it relied on yet-to-be-developed technologies to cut emissions in 10-20 years. This risky policy approach is unable to provide zero emissions by 2050, according to scientists.

A strategic shift from coal and liquified natural gas production towards renewal energy alternatives is required to truly pivot towards a new way of reducing carbon emissions. This will involve the Australian Government proposing new (and realistic) policies to deliver the

objective of net zero emissions by 2050, and the provision of a clear economic driver: setting a price for carbon.

State government carbon neutral responses such as the NSW Climate Change Policy Framework, coupled with decarbonisation projects and a push for electrical alternatives, are viable, realistic renewable energy measures that mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The Australian Government must partner with state and local governments to deliver a clear, realistic, and tangible economic framework that puts net zero emissions (namely, a shift from non-renewable energy and fuels to 100 percent renewable) at the epicentre of its national approach to combatting climate change. It must also work with industry to set the direction for the future. This will result in the biggest economic transformation Australia has seen since WWII.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Australians emit 1.3 percent of global emissions annually, even though our population equates to 0.3 percent of the global population. We are one of the biggest global emitters per capita. In order to not over-consume and stay within its carbon budget, drastic and immediate action is required.

The Australian Government must set a price on carbon, commit to a shift from fossil fuels (not just a reduction), and work with other tiers of government to align its approach and delivery.

State and local governments are moving towards renewal energy options to replace traditional energy sources such as coal or gas. Decarbonisation projects, renewable energy investments and associated projects, the proposed decommissioning of coal plants, and the gradual reduction in carbon emissions through electrical alternatives, are geared towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, at the latest.

It is imperative that the Australian Government work towards real and tangible outcomes, particularly around the tonnes of carbon dioxide stored per hectare of soil per year, to seriously address the impacts of climate change. Alignment with state and local governments on reducing the impacts of climate change is required, and partnerships must be developed to appropriately address this critical global issue.

## **Motion number 52 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to remove restrictions preventing the development of nuclear energy as a viable option in the production of base-load electricity following the decommissioning of coal-fired power stations throughout Australia.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To ensure the security of reliable base-load electricity supply across the nation.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Australia is rapidly transitioning to renewable energy sources and at the same time, decommissioning most of its coal fire power stations. These renewables are unable to deliver reliable base load power 24/7, thereby putting at risk our social and economic wellbeing due to potential power outages to domestic supply but more importantly disruption to Australia's manufacturing industries.

In keeping with reducing Australia's carbon emissions, modern nuclear energy power stations offer efficient base-load power and have a small footprint compared to all the renewables. Australia has an abundance of uranium as the fuel source. Nuclear power production has developed exponentially since its early days and is now considered to be safe and reliable with nations such as Germany and France leading the way. In the first instance, it is time the Australian Government allowed an informed and mature debate on the subject. Further, the Federal Government needs to remove legislative restrictions so that investment proposals and opportunities can be explored within our shores.

## **Motion number 53 Newcastle City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Formally recognise we are in a state of climate emergency;**
- 2. Appoint a minister for climate change/emergency to champion climate change efforts across the country;**
- 3. Establish a national climate change taskforce to enable a whole-of-government approach to climate action; and**
- 4. Commit to actively work with local government, industry, and communities to:**
  - a) reduce waste production;**
  - b) set a zero emissions target;**
  - c) support the development of renewable energy industries;**
  - d) provide incentives to all sectors to change to more efficient technologies;**
  - e) significantly increase urban vegetation cover and rehabilitate degraded rural environments; and**
  - f) increase support for households to access energy efficient demands.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

To meet the increasing push for across the world and across all tiers of Australian government to be proactive in terms of action targeting climate change and to declare a climate emergency. Many local governments across Australia have declared a climate emergency and it is incumbent upon the Federal Government to take the lead on this issue.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The science of climate change is well established:

Climate change is real and human activities are the main cause. (IPCC)

The concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth. (IPCC)

The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution. (IPCC)

The most abundant greenhouse gas, accounting for about two-thirds of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), is largely the product of burning fossil fuels. (IPCC)

Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is responsible for more than 25 percent of the warming we are experiencing today. It is a powerful pollutant with a global warming potential over 80 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub> during the 20 years after it is released into the atmosphere. (Methane Emissions fact sheet, UNEP)

Impacts of a 1.1-degree increase are here today in the increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events from heatwaves, droughts, flooding, winter storms, hurricanes, and wildfires. (IPCC)

The global average temperature in 2019 was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period. WMO

2019 concluded a decade of exceptional global heat, retreating ice and record sea levels driven by greenhouse gases produced by human activities. (WMO)

30 percent of the world's population is exposed to deadly heat waves more than 20 days a year. (Cooling and Climate Change fact sheet, UNEP)

Average temperatures for the five-year (2015-2019) and 10-year (2010-2019) periods are the highest on record. (WMO)

2019 was the second hottest year on record. (WMO)

In 2019, total greenhouse gas emissions, including land-use change, reached a new high of 59.1 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e). (EGR, 2020)

Based on today's insufficient global commitments to reduce climate polluting emissions, a rebound in greenhouse gases from a return to high-carbon societies after the pandemic may push 2030 emissions even higher up to 60 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e. (EGR, 2020)

## Motion number 53.1 Newcastle City Council NSW and Randwick City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Note that over 100 local councils, including Newcastle, representing nine million Australians (as well as over 2000 jurisdictions worldwide) have declared a climate and biodiversity emergency, acknowledging that urgent collaborative action at all levels of government is necessary to protect our environment and community for future generations; and**
- 2. Urgently develop a gas-decarbonisation roadmap setting business, industry, and**

**households up to be resilient and sustainable in a decarbonising world, while safeguarding jobs in important manufacturing industries.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

This motion addresses the following key questions in the NGA 2022 discussion paper:

1. Climate Change: How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes? What partnerships are available to achieve climate neutrality?
2. Natural Disasters: What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to address natural disasters to assist in recovery and build resilience?

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The gas industry is responsible for 19 percent of Australia's GHG emissions;

Recent modelling of decarbonisation targets by CSIRO and Climate Works for AEMO has projected a substantial reduction in demand for natural gas under three scenarios consistent with strong action towards Australia's net zero by 2050 target;

New analysis by Dr Saul Griffith and The Australia Institute demonstrates that by 2030 Australian families could be saving \$5,000 per year by replacing their current cars with electric vehicles, switching their natural gas heating systems (water heating, space heating, or kitchen) to electric heat pumps, and furnishing their electricity with solar from their rooftops;

A July 2021 study by Northmore Gordon and companion report from the Climate Council illustrates a potential pathway for NSW to reduce its gas consumption by 25 percent within five years, 70 percent in 10-15 years, and entirely eliminate gas use by mid-century:

The Victorian Government is developing a Gas Substitution Roadmap throughout 2021 to provide a strategic framework for decarbonising natural gas in Victoria. Additional pathways to decarbonise gas in Victoria are identified in the Northmore Gordon study, commissioned by Environment Victoria, 'Victorian Gas Market Demand Side Measures to Avoid Forecast Supply Shortfall'.

The Australian Capital Territory Government in 2020 removed the mandate for gas connections to new suburbs and is moving to ban new gas pipelines to developing suburbs and banning all new gas connections across the territory from next year. This is undertaken in conjunction with an uptake in renewables and the planned depreciation of the existing gas network.

The Australian Energy Regulator has reported that gas pipelines are rapidly becoming stranded assets.

1. The February 2022 LGNSW Special Conference resolved to advocate to the NSW State Government to urgently develop a gas decarbonisation roadmap.

2. The March 2022 meeting of SSROC (Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils) endorsed a submission to the Draft Design and Place SEPP recommending that Section 21(a) of the DP SEPP be amended to exclude on-site gas for cooking, heating and hot water and apply to all residential development to transition to net zero.

### Motion number 53.2 Brimbank City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Declare a climate emergency;**
- 2. Establish a national renewable energy target of 100 percent for 2030;**
- 3. Declare a price on carbon pollution, preferably the Australian Carbon Dividend Plan, as soon as possible; and**
- 4. Replicate the success of the 20 Million Trees program to re-establish green corridors, urban forests, and threatened ecological communities.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The declaration of a climate emergency is a bold but necessary action that sees socially just climate action as a necessity to be undertaken at scale and speed. We need to respond appropriately to this urgent crisis to create a better, fairer, more prosperous, and liveable society.

Implementation in Australia of a meaningful and popular price on carbon pollution, coupled with a 100 percent renewable energy target, would significantly reduce emissions whilst kick-starting the industrial revolution required. The declaration of a climate emergency would send a clear signal to the community about the scale and speed of change required.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Climate change is an immediate, real, and all-encompassing threat. An appropriate science-based and coordinated public policy response is the only responsible course of action.

### Motion number 53.3 Nillumbik Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the zero-emissions targets of local government climate emergency acknowledgements and declarations by:**

- 1. Legislating a federal government target of zero emissions by 2035;**
- 2. Supporting a renewable energy-led COVID economic recovery in preference to the nationally proposed gas-led recovery (by providing funding support on a national scale for increased renewable energy infrastructure); and**
- 3. Preparing the national grid to support electric vehicles and increased battery storage integration.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

There is only one way forward. The Australian government needs to implement strong climate policy that will activate the reduction and elimination of carbon emissions quickly, in order to slow down and stop global warming. Local governments around Australia are responding to the Climate Emergency but we need the federal government to step up and be a leader in enabling a renewable energy-led economy with a prepared national grid.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

More than 100 councils across the country have declared a Climate Emergency while investing in renewables and are setting ambitious targets for cutting emissions.

Local communities are telling their locally elected officials that 2050 is not soon enough to achieve net-zero emissions at the local government level, and by default, at the national level – and are advocating for strong zero-emissions targets to be set.

In 2021 the federal government committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 but hasn't yet legislated it. Therefore, there is currently no basis to enforce a course of action that will result in net-zero emissions.

## **Motion number 53.4 Mornington Peninsula Shire VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Legislate to reach net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest, with five-yearly interim emissions targets; and**
- 2. Provide a policy framework and ongoing funding to assist communities reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

As the impacts of climate change continue to worsen, the gap between those capable of adapting and those who cannot, is growing wider.

Local governments are ideally placed to work directly with communities and local and state organisations to deliver on-ground programs that build resilience to both the acute and long-term climate change impacts.

We support ALGA's advocacy to the Federal government for building resilience and urge the Federal government to reach well beyond this request and current commitments to climate change.

The MAV has a target of zero carbon emissions for all Victorian councils by 2050. The Shire's target through our Climate Emergency Plan aims for 2040, and if successful, would provide an example of best practice to share across the local government sector in Victoria and across Australia.

The targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation set out in our Climate Emergency Plan and our partnership projects with the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance

(SECCCA) and other stakeholders strongly align with the ALGA Federal Election Priorities for Building Resilience.

Building resilience to the impacts of climate change is a cornerstone of our Climate Emergency response. Our recent work with Jesuit Social Services and RMIT University has shown that segments of our community are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The Shire's core climate change policy objectives are outlined in the Shire's Climate Emergency Plan.

## **Motion number 53.5 Shire of Augusta Margaret River WA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to set targets to achieve net zero emissions by 2030 and require and resource net zero action plans for all sectors and government departments.**

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports confirm that whilst a certain degree of climate change is inevitable, there is still a small window of opportunity to avoid some of the most catastrophic impacts. In light of this, 106 local governments have declared a climate emergency and many more are undertaking urgent climate action. The Federal Government's current carbon reduction targets are insufficient to address the climate emergency.

This is the crucial decade for climate action.

Rapidly transitioning to a net zero economy has broad benefits well beyond the obvious climate change mitigation benefits. A modern circular economy built on localised renewable energy can generate skilled jobs and help communities to build back better with less reliance on international fossil fuel markets in increasingly volatile times. We can re-engineer work to ensure that we grow the industries that people want to work in and will be in demand in the future markets. Australia has the opportunity to be a world leader in innovation and cheap renewable energy.

### **OBJECTIVE**

No community in Australia remains untouched by climate change.

Climate change is an immense challenge for all levels of government, but its impacts are felt most acutely at the local level. The window for effective action on climate is rapidly closing – this is the crucial decade for action.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Physical Science Report in August 2021 issued a dire warning described by the United Nations as a code red for humanity. The follow-up IPCC Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability Report reinforced the call for urgent action this decade.



Beyond Zero Emissions identifies 1.8 million new jobs for Australians associated with transitioning to a net zero economy.

The abundance of wind and sun in Australia mean that it is well placed to become a strong manufacturing nation based on cheap renewable energy, skilled workers, and local raw materials.

There are also huge opportunities in regenerative agriculture to capture carbon and build resilience to a changing climate with a robust and thriving agricultural sector. Strategic tree-planting on agricultural land can capture carbon, provide urgently needed building products and improve agricultural productivity.

Lifting construction standards and retrofitting existing buildings to meet net zero will create new opportunities for manufacturing and boost the construction industry. These buildings will also be climate-ready with much lower running costs and higher comfort – ensuring our vulnerable community members are provided for.

Transitioning to a circular economy provides opportunities for new industries and secures access to rare materials. It also reduces the need for landfill and the associated environmental and health impacts. Reclamation and waste-to-energy opportunities can also be investigated for the huge volumes of waste generated following natural disasters.

The integration of electric vehicles into the grid will help to address issues around grid stability by providing energy storage and dispatchable power. This will require infrastructure that can support vehicle to grid connections and regulation to manage it. Transitioning our vehicles will have huge air quality and noise benefits, along with protection from international fuel supply issues.

A rapid transition to net zero brings with it an incredible range of opportunities – particularly for regional areas. Each sector needs to understand their role in the process and how to make the most of the opportunities presented. Ensuring an equitable and just transition will require appropriate planning and resourcing.

## Motion number 53.6 Darebin City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Recognise that we are in a state of Climate Emergency and take urgent action to rapidly cut carbon emissions and support local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change;**
- 2. Put in place interim targets and steep emissions reductions during this decade as part of the net zero commitment, and in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 percent as agreed to at the United Nations Climate Conference, COP26 Glasgow;**
- 3. Support job-creation, research, and investment to transition to a low-carbon economy and to position Australia as leaders in these new industries;**
- 4. Invest in infrastructure upgrades to the national electricity grid to facilitate the transition to 100 percent renewables;**
- 5. Fix the regulatory processes and policy frameworks to fast-track new renewable energy**

projects, battery storage and electric vehicles

**6. Commit to the phase-out of fossil fuels and support affected workers as we transition to a renewable economy;**

**7. Improve the National Construction Code to ensure we don't build more poor-performing buildings that will lock in carbon emissions for decades to come;**

**8. Support a dedicated federal funding stream to local government for climate mitigation and adaptation;**

**9. Commit to a substantial increase in funding to strengthen community resilience, reduce disaster response and recovery costs, and reduce the exposure of local governments and their communities to climate impacts;**

**10. Adopt a partnership approach with local government to identify and invest in local climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, including through the creation of a new \$200 million Local Government Climate Change Response Fund;**

**11. Provide funding for a new Climate Disaster Fund, funded to a level equivalent to 10 percent of council operational budgets, to increase resilience of Australian local governments and their communities to the impacts of climate change.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Advocating for Federal Government action on climate change directly aligns with ALGA's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan's Pillar on addressing the risks of climate change, and also aligns with the 2022 NGA Discussion Paper's policy priorities on climate change and environment.

Addressing climate change is not only a local, state, or national issue – it is global one.

Reflecting on the task ahead the COP26, President Alok Sharma said:

'We can now say with credibility that we have kept 1.5 degrees alive. But its pulse is weak, and it will only survive if we keep our promises and translate commitments into rapid action.'

Australia must play its part in this global effort. Local governments are committed to working with our state and federal counterparts to tackle the challenge ahead, and the sector is planning and implementing large emission reduction and adaptation projects in their cities.

The emission reductions planned by just 60 of Australia's 527 local governments will achieve 96 percent of the current national target (a 28percent reduction by 2030). This effort and ambition can be enhanced with the support of Federal funding.

However, urgent Federal action is needed to deliver on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and support to transition to a low-carbon economy.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

While State and local governments are taking decisive action on climate change, the Federal Government is missing in action.

At COP26, Australia failed to commit to new interim targets, and its Net Zero modelling still includes large coal and gas exports in 2050. Australia did not join with the nearly 200 countries who committed to rapidly phase out coal power.

Australia is the world's second-largest export of thermal coal and has one of the most emissions-intensive energy grids. This is a need to transition to a new, low-carbon fast-tracked economic and sustainable future.

The bushfires of 2019-2020 demonstrated the clear need to take urgent action. Failure to do so exposes our communities to the ongoing risk of more frequent and severe bushfires, dangerous heatwaves, and the increased risk of flooding. We also run the risk of missing out on economic opportunities as the global economy is re-shaping to a low carbon future.

The Federal Government can facilitate the transition to 100 percent renewables by helping upgrade the electricity grid and tackling regulatory reform. This would help create jobs and enable increased renewable energy uptake.

Simon Corbell, the head of the Clean Energy Investor Group said: 'It is imperative to get grid investment right – and fast to future proof Australia's renewable energy economy, environmental outcomes and investment potential.'

The Federal government should support industries and research to rebuild our economy after COVID-19 and reduce emissions and support renewables. The Million Jobs Plan produced by Beyond Zero Emissions identified that strategic investment in key sectors could create 1.8 million jobs in just 5 years. These include:

- Renewable energy and transmission;
- Retrofits and new buildings;
- Clean manufacturing and mining;
- Land regeneration;
- Electric buses and new green transport; and

Circular economy.

Local governments across the country are taking decisive action to address climate change.

For example, Darebin City Council and 45 other Victorian Councils formed the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) to enable a switch to 100 percent renewable energy for their electricity contracts. This will save 260,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum and is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken in the local government sector. VECO demonstrates what can be achieved through collaboration.

A dedicated federal funding stream to support this work, including through a new \$200 million Local Government Climate Change Fund, would help us to continue and expand on climate change mitigation and adaptation to support.

## Motion number 53.7 Maribyrnong City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to formally recognise and declare that we are in a state of climate emergency and actively work with all levels of government and industry to achieve a target of zero emissions by 2050.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Climate Change Emergency

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

With the recognition of the climate emergency by many local councils across Australia, and many jurisdictions and countries worldwide, the need for urgent action by all tiers of government and community is apparent. The collective recognition of the climate emergency by state and federal government will greatly assist and affirm the commitment by all tiers of government in addressing climate change and the climate emergency. To enable a targeted and whole-of-government approach to climate action, a taskforce needs to be established to identify and provide budget allocation recommendations to government so there is a collective way forward and commitment to fund and act on the climate emergency including initiatives to protect our natural environment.

## Motion number 54 Yarra City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Acknowledge and endorse ALGA's call for a Local Government Climate Response Partnership fund of \$200 million per annum over four years to help councils address the impacts of climate change in their communities;**
- 2. Acknowledge that such a fund would create the multi-level governance called for in the Paris Agreement of 2015;**
- 3. Note that significant funds and support for local government will be needed to prevent the worst impacts of climate change on local communities and so call on the Federal Government to create a local government climate response partnership fund, of at least \$200 million per annum, and work with local governments on existing and emerging local and regional projects to rapidly drive down emissions before 2030.**
- 4. Put in place a climate action regulatory reform working group to remove regulatory, policy and other barriers to climate action for local governments and communities and ensure policy coherence and synchronisation at all levels of government and with relevant industry stakeholders.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Australia is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted in December 2015 with a goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The agreement also requires multilevel action; all tiers of government working together to achieve this target. In Australia, local governments around the nation

have long been at the forefront of climate action, yet local governments do not feature in the national government's plans for climate action.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called on the next Australian government to support communities in their climate-change response by investing in a Local Government Climate Change Partnership Fund of \$200 million per annum over four years. This fund would contribute to the national objective of meeting the Australian government's 2030 emission reduction target, but also protect local communities, their environment and infrastructure from the worst impacts of climate change. These impacts are being keenly felt across Australia now, and the costs in terms of damage and lives lost steadily increasing.

Local governments are the most poorly funded level of government yet are taking significant action to mitigate against climate change and protect their communities from its worst impacts. All governments need to work in partnership on this urgent and large-scale task to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Local governments need more funding, policy, regulatory and practical support.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The impacts of climate change are being felt keenly across Australia with an increase in the frequency and severity of intense weather events.

The most recent IPCC report which highlighted the forecast impacts on Australia in particular, received little public attention due to being overshadowed by those very impacts – the devastating floods along the east coast causing loss of life and property and significant environmental damage.

The need to work collectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global temperature rises to protect communities has never been more urgent. The costs of inaction are mounting and being experienced right now.

Local government has been at the forefront of climate action for many years, resulting in significant emission reductions across the nation through local action, with many local governments already carbon neutral in their operations. One hundred and four councils representing 9.9 million citizens around Australia have declared a climate emergency, and most councils have developed climate action plans with targets for emission reductions.

A report on the commitments of local government, State of Play released in 2021, demonstrated that if all the emission reduction targets set by just 60 Australian local governments were met, emissions would be reduced by 88,200 kt. This would bring Australia 96 percent of the way to meeting its current short-term target of a 28 percent reduction by 2030.

Local government has the capacity to deliver on Australia's short-term emission reduction targets and much more in partnership with communities who are eager to support and participate in climate action.

However, local governments are hampered in taking the action they and their communities have ambition for, due to limited financing, lack of policy support and coherence across the

three levels of government, and regulatory impediments which prevent local councils from taking progressive and innovative action which will help reduce emissions.

Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has signed onto the Paris Agreement which calls for multi-level governance on climate action, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Whilst local government does not at present feature in the national government's climate action plans, there is an opportunity now for it to partner with councils across Australia through a proposed Local Government Climate Change Partnership Fund and to work with local governments and other stakeholders to put in place a Climate Action Regulatory Reform Working Group to remove regulatory, policy and other barriers to climate action for local governments.

These two actions will address two of the frequently cited barriers to action for local governments and create the multilevel action called for in the Paris Agreement.

We are already experiencing the costs of inaction on climate change. Australia is uniquely vulnerable to more frequent and extreme weather events with their huge personal, economic, and environmental costs. These will have a compounding impact on communities' ability to recover unless decisive action is taken now to limit worst-case scenarios.

An investment in multi-level action on climate now will provide a multitude of returns for the future of local communities across Australia.

## **Motion number 54.1 Shellharbour City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide financial support for climate-resilience projects that also include betterment of infrastructure in response to changing weather and rainfall patterns affecting local communities.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The impacts of climate change are a national and global issue being experienced at a local level by communities. The ability for communities to adapt and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change will benefit from Federal leadership and funding programs designed to improve infrastructure to meet this need.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Climate resilience and adaptation to climate change is set to be the most significant challenge of the current generation. In 2019, Geoscience Australia released an update to Australian Rainfall and Runoff, and with it came updates to design rainfall depths and improvements to flood estimation techniques, including new guidance on how climate change considerations can be made by practitioners.

The most recent climate science signals that we will continue to see an increase in the frequency of damaging flooding and storm inundation in the community. Recent major flooding across NSW and Queensland has highlighted the need for better preparedness in the community and more resilient infrastructure to adapt to the changing national and global climate. The betterment of existing infrastructure and damaged assets should be prioritised to adapt to the inevitable changes to the climate and increased rainfall and storm events.

In addition, there is increasing pressure and demand on natural resources such as water supply and water use, particularly in drier weather periods and drought. It is becoming increasingly important to support water-sensitive communities to develop water systems that mitigate and adapt to climate change, considering catchment management through to potable water supply.

Projects that aim to increase the uptake and success of water sensitive design and systems to reduce pressure of rapid urban development on our coasts, catchments and waterways will assist in our national response to climate resilience.

## Motion number 54.2 Greater Dandenong City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Commit to a Local Government Climate Response Partnership fund of \$200 million per annum over four years, to help councils address the impacts of climate change in their communities;**
- 2. Acknowledge that such a fund would create the multilevel governance called for in the Paris Agreement of 2015 and assist in driving down emissions by 2030; and**
- 3. Note that significant funds and support for local government will be needed to prevent the worst impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, such as those from multi-cultural backgrounds, older persons and those living with financial and housing insecurity.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Australia is a signatory to the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted in December 2015 with a goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The agreement also requires multi-level action: all tiers of government working together to achieve this target.

In Australia, local governments around the nation have long been at the forefront of climate action, yet local governments do not feature in the national government's plans for climate action. There are currently 205 LGAs around Australia included in the recent National Emergency Declaration.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called on the next Australian government to support communities in their climate change response by investing in a Local Government Climate Change Partnership Fund of \$200 million per annum over four years.

This fund would contribute to the national objective of meeting the Australian government's 2030 emission reduction target, but also protect local communities, their environment and infrastructure from the worst impacts of climate change.

These impacts are being keenly felt across Australia now, and the costs in terms of damage and lives lost are steadily increasing. Local governments are the most poorly funded level of government yet are taking significant action to mitigate against climate change and protect their communities from its worst impacts.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local, state, and federal governments need to work in partnership on this urgent and large-scale task to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Local governments need more funding, policy, regulatory and practical support in this task.

The impacts of climate change are being felt keenly across Australia with an increase in the frequency and severity of intense weather events.

The most recent IPCC report [Ref: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (ipcc.ch)] which highlighted the forecast impacts on Australia in particular, received little public attention due to being overshadowed by those very impacts – the devastating floods along the east coast causing loss of life and property and significant environmental damage.

The report also provides evidence that vulnerable communities will be profoundly impacted by climate change. Communities with vulnerabilities such as those from multi-cultural backgrounds, older persons, disabled persons, and those living with financial and housing insecurity, often do not have the resources to recover from direct climate events. It is critical that local governments have equitable strategies to assist these groups, in climate change mitigation, adaptation and recovery.

### **Motion number 54.3 Tweed Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide a substantive increase in Commonwealth-funded programs to assist local communities in addressing climate change risk and adaptation.**

**That the National General Assembly continues to advocate to the Federal Government for provision of funding for local government authorities to prepare climate change risk-assessments and adaptation plans to inform federal resilience funding priorities.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Local government relies on state and federal policy and investment to reduce community carbon emissions sources, grid electricity use and transport fuels cost-effectively.

Consistency across Australia would greatly assist in ensuring a diligent and strategic approach for LGs in developing responsible decision-making in response to climate change.



## KEY ARGUMENTS

Thirty-four cities and shires in Australia have signed to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the world's largest cooperative effort among mayors and city leaders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, track progress, and prepare for the impacts of climate change (<https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/>).

One of the benefits of joining this cooperative is the benefit of benchmarking councils' efforts against a common standard and having clear guidance about what best-practice responses to climate change involve.

Consistency in climate risk assessments and adaptation pathways for LGs across Australia would ensure efficient and equitable approaches to:

- Preparation of detailed risk assessments: comprehensive understanding of very high and high ranked risks, quantitative analysis, ranking importance;
- Benchmarking LGs current and future adaptation responses against relevant industries; and
- Facilitate multi-criteria analyses of adaptation options to describe recommended priorities taking into consideration:
  - o Council's own institutional and administrative capacity;
  - o Costs;
  - o Adverse impacts;
  - o Benefits;
  - o Co-benefits;
  - o Subsequent risks;
  - o Cross dependency analysis;
  - o Consideration and funding for short-term and long-term options in response to high and very high Risks; and.
  - o Highlight interim steps needed to progress, scoping work needed and implications.

## Motion number 54.4 Shellharbour City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased financial support for local government climate-response projects, initiatives and infrastructure that reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.**

## OBJECTIVE

The Federal Government has committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050, as have all Australian states and territories. Having a deep understanding and connection with their community, local government is well positioned to engage with their communities to deliver meaningful progress on achieving emissions targets. Federal leadership and funding

programs designed to support projects, initiatives and infrastructure that reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases will be essential.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Organisations and governments at every level are increasingly setting net zero emissions targets in response to the impacts of climate change on the community, to assist in achieving global emissions reduction targets. Having a deep understanding and connection with their community, councils are well positioned to use a place-based approach to support community net-zero emissions and implement climate resilience projects within their respective communities.

The Local Government Climate Emergency Toolkits cites areas where local government can effectively contribute to climate emergency action, including energy, transport, communication, advocacy, circular economy, industry and built environment, agriculture and open space, transparency, and accountability. A national approach to support actions towards climate resilience will help fund meaningful change and adaptation to the climate challenges facing Australian communities.

Appropriate infrastructure will provide a critical role in responding to carbon emissions reductions, including but not limited to electrical vehicle charging infrastructure, community solar and battery banks, increased take-up of emerging technologies, and others.

## **Motion number 54.5 Shire of Augusta Margaret River WA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund and support local governments to protect biodiversity and to undertake local climate change mitigation, adaption and build local resilience to climate change and biodiversity loss.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Local government is the layer of government that is closest to the community and has played an important role in championing climate-change action, natural disaster preparation, resilience and recovery, and local environmental management. With strong community partnerships already in place across Australia, it makes sense for the Australian Government to fund and support local governments to leverage these partnerships for collaborative local action on issues of national importance.

Local governments across Australia manage thousands of hectares of reserved land which is home to flora and fauna species acknowledged as being under threat. It is estimated that across Australia some 1,800 plant and animal species and woodlands, forests and wetlands are at risk of extinction due to the pressures of climate change, land use practices, habitat loss and invasive species.

Clearly, climate change and biodiversity protection are closely intertwined, and properly resourced, local government can play a key role as both a land manager and change manager to mitigate and adapt to climate change and protect biodiversity.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

Recent climate related disasters bring into stark focus the need to prepare for, and adapt, to the changing climate now and the need to rapidly reduce emissions to limit further climate change. These disasters are impacting heavily on our biodiversity, with a range of species and ecosystems on the brink of extinction.

Addressing these issues will be a challenging and multifaceted process. It will require all levels of government to work together and rely on strong partnerships with industry and collaboration with community. Whilst ideally positioned to assist in the delivery of programs local government is not sufficiently resourced to fund them alone.

### Reducing Emissions

Local governments are leading the transition to net zero with 10 councils already carbon neutral and over one-fifth of councils already committed to ambitious reduction targets. At least 165 local governments (representing over 65 percent of Australians) are now members of the Cities Power Partnership (CPP) – Australia's largest network of local councils leading the way to a thriving, zero-emissions future.

Presently, there exists a disconnect between federal and state government climate change mitigation targets and the actions required at a local level to achieve these targets. This presents an incredible opportunity for all levels of government to work together and provide the local funding required to unlock the opportunities associated with transitioning to a net zero economy.

### Adapting to Climate Change

Evidence shows the return on investment is higher for spending on disaster preparation rather than disaster recovery, yet 97 percent of all Australian disaster funding is spent in the wake of an event.

Many local governments are already struggling to cope with the burden of compounding climate impacts and re-occurring natural disasters.

A nationally coordinated approach is required with collaboration between all three layers of government. The Australian Government has a key role to play in providing significant resourcing to support local capacity-building.

Local governments will need to work closely with their communities to identify site specific risks, needs and opportunities. This process is empowering for communities as they move from a state of anxiety about the future into a state of local action. The importance of this resilience-building process cannot be understated.

Broad benefits include mental health and community resilience benefits, reducing the impacts and costs associated with emergencies (personal and government), rapid and strategic response to emergencies, and managing community expectations.

## Supporting Biodiversity

Local governments are developing strong partnerships with local community groups and volunteers to better manage reserved land and local biodiversity. Despite our best efforts, our reserves are suffering with the impacts of land clearing, population pressures and climate change. More funding is required to help our communities protect Australia's iconic biodiversity values and our essential life-support systems.

## Motion number 54.6 Mitchell Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to act on the latest climate science by acknowledging the climate emergency and providing support to local government to transition to a beyond zero emissions economy.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

For the Federal Government to acknowledge the climate emergency and provide support to local governments as they work to ensure that their communities are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Business as usual and incremental or gradual improvements are insufficient to ensure a safe climate that allows current and future generations, communities, and ecosystems to survive and flourish. The technical solutions needed to transition to a zero emissions economy and beyond have been identified by science and research.

Local government is well placed to create positive environmental and social outcomes through positive action on climate change. Many councils have declared or acknowledged the climate emergency and set corporate and community targets as well as strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, building on a strong desire from their communities to act now.

The community is calling on local government to acknowledge the climate emergency and act. Unfortunately, action by local governments is restricted by both by fiscal and human resourcing constraints as well as limited strategic direction from the Federal Government commensurate with the latest climate change science and international commitments.

The business of local governments is being adversely impacted by climate change. Its capacity to maintain and deliver infrastructure that is appropriate to the changing and increasingly severe climatic conditions is particularly under threat. Federal Government financial support to local governments would be a welcome step to activating further necessary actions and programs in response to climate change. The Federal Government has a key role in facilitating a whole-of-government response to the climate emergency as Australia transitions to a beyond zero emissions economy.

## Motion number 54.7 Berrigan Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to work more closely with local councils to support their efforts to reduce emissions through the reduction of costs related directly to climate-change management (such as landfill fees) where councils can demonstrate progress across an agreed framework of climate policy, emission reductions, climate mitigation management and adaptation responses.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

With the Australian Government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, local councils will be at the forefront of delivering this promise to their communities. Support for local governments to assist in reaching these targets is therefore imperative in order to ensure local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes is possible.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local governments have and will play a critical role in helping their communities to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Councils are current adopting many different strategies to reduce emissions through energy efficiency and renewable energy, thereby focusing strongly on the federal government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. Local governments are the first to respond to localised climate-change impacts as evidenced by recent fires and floods experienced across our nation. Strong connections to the community and local knowledge mean local governments are often best placed to recognise the need for adaptation at a local scale. Worsening extreme weather is compounding costs for councils, including increased damage to assets, rising insurance premiums and increasing liability risks. Protecting our communities from worsening extreme weather events and minimizing the costs borne by them requires climate leadership at all levels of government. A strong partnership between federal, State, and local government will build capacity in our communities to adapt more readily to climate change.

## Motion number 54.8 South Burnett Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding to support resource communities to lead, plan and transition their economies to support decarbonisation goals. Councils are seeking leadership from the Federal government to work in a bipartisan and collaborative manner across all levels of government and empower communities to be part of the conversation.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Climate change and environment

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Our Council recognises that the Australian energy market is rapidly changing and that those changes will have an impact upon two of our long-standing economic and employment

contributors, being Stanwell Corporation's Tarong power stations (1843MW) and Meandu Mine (annual coal capability of 7.6 million tonnes).

Council recognises the pace of the National Electricity Market's (NEM) transition from an energy landscape characterised by large thermal generators, towards low-carbon technologies will continue to accelerate. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has publicly reported Tarong power station's planned exit from the NEM in 2036-2037, however Council recognises the station's end-of-life date is largely uncertain. The site's eventual closure will also trigger the closure of Meandu Mine (the station's sole long-term fuel source), meaning our community is significantly vulnerable to any sudden change. Council seeks to be part of the solution, and work with both state and federal governments to prepare and position our region to continue in its role as an energy powerhouse for Queensland, and into our neighbouring southern states.

We are seeking funding and resources to establish a bipartisan committee that will support the resource communities to transition and further diversify its economy in the pursuit of decarbonisation goals.

### **Motion number 54.9 Redland City Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide targeted support to businesses, sporting and community organisations impacted by global climatic and health challenges such as COVID-19.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The ongoing COVID pandemic and climatic challenges have had significant impacts on businesses, community, and sporting groups across the nation. This includes significant financial, social, and mental health impacts. These unprecedented challenges will have ongoing impacts requiring a coordinated national approach.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The impact of COVID-19 worldwide is unprecedented. While the pandemic is first and foremost a health crisis, it has had significant ramifications on the nation's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.

This crisis is not a typical downturn brought about by balance of payments, financial or debt issues.

In the initial months, since COVID-19 hit, rising panic and consumer hoarding behaviours an artificial shortage of goods. Some businesses either reduced their hours of operations or closed down. In other cases, staff were stood down or laid off, creating financial pressures on anxious households.

The economic fallout was significant at the national level, particularly on employment, production, and economic activity. As a response to the crisis, the Federal and state

governments implemented a package of stimulus measures to support businesses and communities.

Redland City Council put together in 2020 a \$2 million social and economic package to support residents, businesses, and community groups. The package included a \$370,000 COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Grants program to provide targeted funding support to small businesses and community organisations to access professional business advisory services, such as human resources or accounting, and re-engineer their operations to ensure viability and continuance of Council's grant operations. This grant program also helped community organisations implement support and relief programs to the community's vulnerable and disadvantaged.

As the economy moves towards recovery, businesses are needing further on-going support in the form of grants to recoup economic losses and build resilience to deal with future shocks.

COVID-19 highlighted the need to better understand our vulnerable communities and ensure that our social support systems and community networks are resilient and capable of supporting vulnerable residents through the shock of any hazard event. Redland City Council responded through the development of the Redlands Coast Community Resilience Framework to enhance capacity across sectors and reinforce collaborations that support areas of risk and vulnerability. The Framework integrated the disaster management and community development systems to inform place-based decision-making and streamlined resource distribution.

Climate challenges will impact on all local governments over time, particularly coastal communities such as Redlands Coast.

With six residential islands and more than 300km of coastline, the Redlands community faces added challenges in responding to weather events and face future challenges relating to property and business viability.

The 2022 flooding in South-East Queensland showed the financial, social, and environmental impacts of such events across the region.

These events result in a degree of anxiety for the community and business, impacting their ongoing viability and confidence.

Financial assistance programs including in the form of grants are needed to support communities most at risk from climate challenges such as coastal erosion, understand and build social and economic resilience to future climate challenges.

# CLOSING THE GAP

## Motion number 55 East Arnhem Regional Council NT

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure collaboration of all levels of Government, including partnerships, policy and program development and implementation responsible for issues affecting Indigenous Australians. In addition, the National General Assembly reaffirms its commitment as a national priority to call on the federal, state and territory governments to commit to and progress nationally consistent recognition of Indigenous local government councils – where First Nations people are a majority presence on council and among electors – as Aboriginal Community Controlled local governments across Australia at all levels of government. The motion continues a shared value and commitment of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) that aligns with the Closing the Gap Agreement, policy development, principles and practices of indigenous procurement and implementation affecting Indigenous Australians, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous Local Government Councils.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Closing the Gap agreement is a significant milestone in the recognition of local government as a partner in progress for the achievement of outcomes to address entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians.

Moving forward, it is important that the voices of Indigenous councils and elected officials are heard loud and clear and that their knowledge and experiences underpin the development of effective policy, programs and procurement practices that work towards better outcomes for Aboriginal Australia.

Policy formed under Closing the Gap can be enhanced by a diverse range of existing and emerging approaches to shared decision-making and self-determination across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities if they are consistent with the national policy and contribute to Closing the Gap at the local level. This recognises the importance of both national priorities for collective action and of enabling local communities to set their own priorities and tailor services to their unique place-based contexts.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

At the heart of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, there are four agreed priority reform targets and 16 socio-economic targets in areas including education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

As the level of government closest to the people, Indigenous Local Government plays an essential role in supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs



in partnership with local Indigenous peoples that address these priorities at the local and regional level. In many Indigenous communities, councils are proud to be the major employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and benefit from the skills of our highly trained, culturally embedded people in the work we do.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has long worked to give Indigenous Australians a greater say on, and input, into matters that directly affect their lives. As a result, local governments have many aspirations, in particular that it will help to support current employment and accelerate new employment opportunities for Indigenous peoples at the local government level.

Local governments have also advocated strongly for local government representatives to be engaged in the co-design of the Indigenous Voice and for national recognition of Aboriginal community-controlled councils to ensure their ambitions can be realised.

Last year, ALGA was proud to be a co-signatory in a landmark agreement that marks a new chapter in the national effort to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

ALGA's Closing the Gap Implementation Plan will support Australian local governments to harness the opportunities provided to communities by the national Closing the Gap Plan and assist state and territory governments to work with local governments in the implementation of the National Closing the Gap Agreement.

Partnerships embraced by federal, state, territory and local governments can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities and help us confidently prepare for the future. Authentic partnership can address national issues, including Closing the Gap at the local level, and further strengthen the local government sector to advance community wellbeing, local economic development, create jobs, and address environmental challenges and complex social issues.

The first step in progress is nationally consistent recognition of Indigenous Local Government Councils as Aboriginal Community Controlled Local Government Councils.

The motion supports and strengthens ALGA's Implementation plan in respect to Closing the Gap Agreement:

- a. Ensure local governments understand the Agreement and its commitments and encourage its adoption by local governments.
- b. Assist the state and territory governments to work with local governments in the implementation of the Agreement.
- c. Support strengthened shared decision-making at the local level, supporting local governments to be part of the partnerships with Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## Motion number 56 Newcastle City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue to demonstrate strong leadership in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by supporting constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To give voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by ensuring that local government is informed by lived experience, insight, and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Uluru Statement from The Heart is a call by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for real and practical change in Australia through the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament and the establishment of a Makarata Commission to undertake treaty-making and truth-telling.

The Uluru Statement From the Heart represents a historic consensus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## Motion number 56.1 Inner West Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Support the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call for Indigenous constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament and hold a referendum in the new term of federal parliament to achieve it; and**
- 2. Request that the Australian Local Government Association work with the Uluru Statement from the Heart's campaign to develop a resource kit for councils seeking to host public forums to inform their communities about the proposed referendum.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have consistently called for self-determination, rather than symbolism, to make a real difference to their lives. A Voice to Parliament will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people agency to help inform decisions that impact their lives.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the

Creation, according to the common law from time immemorial, and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or mother nature, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future

## **Motion number 57 Central Desert Regional Council NT**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate additional/continued funding towards remote community housing in the Northern Territory to address housing inequity and overcrowding.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Housing is one of the 17 socio-economic targets in the Closing the Gap agreement between the Coalition of Peaks and the Australian Governments.

The National Partnership for Remote Housing NT is set to expire in June 2023.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In December 2021 through to February 2022 the numbers of COVID 19 cases grew in remote communities as the Australian health system, particularly in the NT, moved away from lockdowns and introduced COVID@home to ease the burden on the health system. This move magnified the inequity of housing in remote communities where a four-bedroom house was found to have more than 13 persons living in it at one time.

Council would like to advocate for the renewal or extension of the National Partnership agreement which will reduce overcrowding, improve living conditions, and contribute to health outcomes and economic development through creation of jobs and provision of infrastructure which can accommodate the much-needed workforce in remote communities.

## **Motion number 58 Darebin City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Continue advancing all co-design efforts to establish a National Indigenous Voice on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities;**
- 2. Partner with the local government sector, through ALGA's national agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, to help facilitate outcomes across the agreed Closing the Gap priority reform targets, including around education, employment, health, and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Communities; and**
- 3. Formally partner with ALGA and the local government sector, including through the establishment of an ongoing advisory or representative voice for local government comprising of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to guide the broad work relating to First Nations peoples, truth-telling sovereignty, and treaty-making.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

ALGA is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across the country, and has an ongoing role and commitment towards truth telling, and justice, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal people nationally continue to experience structural and systemic discrimination and disadvantage relative to other Australians across all measures: life expectancy, health, employment, education, out-of-home-care and incarceration. This requires both urgent and sustained attention from all levels of government.

The ALGA NGA discussion paper identifies numerous issues and challenges that continue to impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including around workforce and

skills, climate change, environment, housing affordability and ongoing COVID-19 recovery – which all must continue to be considered in the context of the existing inequalities experienced by Aboriginal people.

Darebin Council welcomes ALGA's co-signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, and the development of a Closing the Gap Implementation Plan which will support local governments to work more effectively around education, employment, health, and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

As the peak body representing local government in Australia, ALGA is well positioned to continue advocacy efforts alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to support stronger commitments to Traditional Land owners, truth telling, and respectful engagement to inform decision-making.

ALGA's Local Government Closing the Gap: A way forward for Australian communities provides a new resource for local governments to accelerate efforts to provide greater opportunities for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

More broadly, however, ongoing advocacy is required to ensure genuine and meaningful efforts are made across federal, state and local levels to ensure we continue to support and facilitate outcomes, that help close the gap, across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The co-design of a future National Indigenous Voice on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, will provide a key pathway for Indigenous Australians to provide advice and input on matters that are important to improve their lives. With the Federal Government now seeking to continue progressing discussions with states, territories and local governments to encourage participation in Local and Regional Voice arrangements, now is the time for ALGA to elevate advocacy efforts in this context.

The establishment of a National Advisory Body to the ALGA, formed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, would also further enhance ALGA's role in this space, informing direction and decisions, improving cultural awareness, the path to recognition, and the path to self-determination.

## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY & WASTE**

**Motion number 59 Stonnington City VIC and Darebin City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Increase investment to support Australia's transition to a circular economy in order to reduce waste, improve the recovery of precious resources, and create new jobs;**
- 2. Turn off the 'tap' of waste by requiring and creating incentives for higher use of**

- recycled materials and by phasing out problematic and unnecessary waste;
3. Expand the product stewardship schemes and introduce a new materials levy to drive industry change;
  4. Ban the import and production of hard-to-recycle materials (except for essential needs such as some medical uses);
  5. Co-invest in new major regional waste facilities to help attract and build new markets;
  6. Prioritise job creation and industry transition through the circular economy as part of COVID-19 recovery efforts ;
  7. Fund technology and research that leads to an advanced domestic circular economy sector and positions Australia as a leading expert in this new economic sector; and
  8. Partner with local government to help guide and inform federal policy and investment decisions around supporting circular economy, recycling, product packaging, and waste reform opportunities.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

ALGA's 2022 NGA Discussion Paper priority themes in relation to the Circular Economy and Environment.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

As a central player in the waste management system, local government and their communities have a direct interest in strategies and decisions affecting the circular economy.

To bring about the required transition to a circular economy, it is imperative that industry is properly encouraged and required to find solutions to waste and recycling issues, in partnership with local governments.

Recent reforms imposed by the Victorian State Government to local government will impact on all inner-city councils' financial position, and ultimately the cost will be borne by the ratepayer

#### **Motion number 59.1 North Sydney Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently step in to address the structural issues with waste and recycling as a result of the China Sword policy in order to promote and delivered a circular and sustainable waste practices.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Promote and support a circular economy and sustainable waste practices

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

On 1 January 2018, China implemented its National Sword Policy which restricted the importation of 24 categories of solid waste and limits contamination of those materials to

less than 0.5 per cent. These restrictions have impacted the waste sector with stockpiling of waste as waste collectors across the country try to find new markets.

The flow on effects of these imposed limits have resulted in the waste sector having to both restrict waste collections, stockpile waste, and increase prices. These changes are not sustainable, nor do they address the underlying issue that Australia is producing too much waste, especially to landfill.

What is needed is a national response to address to the underlying structural issues with waste and recycling including reform of current practices and policies relating to waste disposal, recycling, and sustainable waste management.

As the level of government responsible for waste services within the community, we call on the Federal Government to work with Local Government to develop a national Waste Management Framework.

## Motion number 59.2 Mitchell Shire VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the establishment of recycling and reprocessing markets in Australia to support a true local circular economy where products and materials are kept in use throughout their product lifecycle and reuse of our precious resources is prioritised by building a demand and market for locally reusable and recycled products.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

For the Federal Government to support the reuse of recyclable materials and locally made recycled products to accelerate the establishment of a thriving local circular economy.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The amount of waste generated in Australia continues to grow. This is driven by a range of factors such as population growth, increased consumption, excessive packaging, and poor product design. The best way to manage waste is to create less in the first place. The waste hierarchy prioritises waste avoidance and minimisation.

A circular economy retains the value of materials in the economy for as long as possible, reducing the reliance on virgin materials by providing an opportunity to create new industries, markets, and products. Applying the circular economy principles to waste management in Australia requires changes to product design, production, use and reuse, recycling, and disposal. To help drive markets for recycled materials, minimum recycled content standards for products should be mandated across the country. The use of virgin materials for packaging should be phased out and replaced with 100 percent recycled content alternatives. Increasing the use of recycled materials and building demand and markets for recycled products will support innovation and investment to support a local circular economy.

To establish a strong onshore circular economy, the Federal government must demonstrate national leadership by facilitating both economically and environmentally sustainable reprocessing and manufacturing of recycled materials and products. In particular, supporting recycled content mandates and locally made recycled products will help accelerate a local circular economy by limiting a reliance on virgin material

### **Motion number 59.3 Tamworth Regional Council NSW**

**That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Federal Government to consider additional funding programs to support the construction and on-going running costs associated with the Australian Government’s commitment to reduce food being landfilled through the National Waste Policy, and the associated national Waste Policy Action Plan (2019).**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Australian Government has made a commitment to reduce food being landfilled through the National Waste Policy, and the associated national Waste Policy Action Plan (2019). Local governments in NSW, as part of the commitment, will be required to introduce separate Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collections by 2030.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Meeting the commitment requires purpose-built facilities, designed with innovative processing technology which will accept and treats organic waste streams such as garden and food organics. This infrastructure comes at a high capital cost, recoverable through relatively small rate bases for regional and rural Councils. State funding has been made available to support councils but is a small proportion of the total capital cost of the project.

### **Motion number 60 City of Darwin NT**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to direct and support investment in the development of small-scale waste management technologies, systems, and solutions specific to the needs of regional and remote communities, as an adjunct to existing efforts that rely on private industry participation leveraging the waste streams of large-scale population bases.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the motion is to seek to accelerate the development and commercialisation of technologies, systems, and solutions to improve waste management outcomes specifically for regional and remote communities.

Local governments across Australia share a common dilemma – the cost of managing waste volumes exceeds the community’s capacity and willingness to pay, especially when meeting



the challenges brought by escalating regulatory regimes and expectations relating to environmental outcomes.

The high costs associated with comparably small waste management facilities in regional locations mean operations routinely fail to achieve return for the cost of capital outlay.

This motion seeks to achieve better environmental waste management outcomes delivered by councils in regional and remote settings by increasing the focus on practical R&D technology rather than private sector profit-making R&D with its innate emphasis on solutions for large scale, metropolitan waste resources.

Successfully bringing affordable, practical technologies to regional Australia that councils can acquire, implement, and manage will correct the disadvantage and cost burden currently being experienced through the lack of scale necessary to attract private investment.

This equity-seeking initiative will assist regional and remote Australia to catch up to the advances metropolitan zones are achieving in environmental and circular economy outcomes.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Regional and remote communities across Australia share the same waste management challenges as metropolitan/high population concentration centres but lack the scale of resource that is necessary to attract private sector investment in recycling and recovery technologies or the economic incentives that are a necessary precursor to the establishment of circular economy principles.

For decades, trials leveraging community and government aspirations for technologies aimed at improving environmental outcomes for waste management have relied upon R&D investment driven by economic reward –

the advent of a burgeoning industry sector generating jobs, wealth, prosperity, and profit from waste while simultaneously reducing pollution, environmental risk, and landfill volumes.

Regional and remote communities generate comparatively small volumes of waste. The complexity of delivering the same style waste management services in a regional and remote context for small and dispersed communities adds significantly to the cost ratio and cost-to-serve, exacerbating the issue of each given community's capacity to pay.

This motion calls for the establishment of a national R&D investment partnerships program with a deliberate focus and funding preference for projects where the development and commercialisation of new technologies can simply 'get the job done in a cost-effective way with improved environmental outcomes for communities' and of a kind that councils can acquire, run, and operate.

This proposal is a significant and deliberate shift from the R&D impetus relying on the motivation of the private resource recovery and recycling sector for whom the business case in regional/remote locations is unlikely to ever stack up.

Seeking an acute focus by the Australian Government on achieving waste management equity for regional and remote Australia is necessary if we are to achieve national aspirations relating to environmental management, environmental protection, and the development of a circular economy.

This investment by the Australian Government would see a partnership approach across regional and remote Australia for waste management to:

- establish trials capable of delivering innovations of a kind that are affordable at small scale;
- deliver strong environmental outcomes;
- improve the value of capital investment return for regional and remote rate payers; and
- create a pipeline of solutions that can be readily adapted and adopted for sharing between councils without the impost of patents, IP or other barriers that are innate when there is a reliance on tangible economic returns in exchange for technology development.

### **Motion number 60.1 Shoalhaven City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to streamline process and directly allocate funding for circular economy projects that will allow councils to manage localised remanufacturing proposals and implement discounted buyback schemes for recycled products.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Australian Government, through tax programs imposed on waste generators and short to long-term fund allocation, has the ability to assist councils to increase recycled material recovery efficiencies at local and regional scales, bolstering jobs and further cycling both waste stream products and money through our economy.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Federal Government's National Waste Action Plan (in conjunction with circular economy principles in the National Waste Policy 2018) aims to improve resource recovery, increase the use of recycled materials, and build markets for recycled products.

Councils nationwide assume responsibility for the end-to-end management of waste throughout its lifecycle, from kerbside pickup through to landfill and resource recovery centres, as well as site closure and remediated lands management. A task no other stand-alone industry or government undertakes for our communities, and which is done through specific rates and charges levied at a local level.

With the advent of the National Waste Export Regulation as of 2021, the need to find more efficient processing of recycling streams as well as re-manufacturing processes is now not just a reality but is critical to ensure circular economy principles can be achieved (including the proposition to recover 80percent of all waste by 2030).

It is known that for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, 9.2 jobs are created. In comparison, only 2.8 jobs are created where that waste goes to landfill.

It is proposed that the Australian Government consider directly allocating specific funding (directly through, or in addition to the Recycling Modernisation Fund) to councils who can prove business cases which adhere to the National Waste Policy 2018 and consider streamlined approvals processes that will allow them to manage localised remanufacturing proposals and implement discounted buyback schemes for recycled products. Help us keep materials in local economies for longer.

## Motion number 60.2 South Burnett Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide dedicated funding to support regional local governments to undertake targeted feasibility studies and business cases to explore existing and new opportunities to partner in and support the creation of a circular economy and create localised resource recovery practices.**

### OBJECTIVE

The Circular Economy - Environment

### KEY ARGUMENTS

Queensland councils, like our counterparts interstate, continue to work on a range of strategic partnerships investigating various approaches to their waste and resource-recovery challenges. Within our own region, South Burnett Regional Council as an agricultural powerhouse, and home to Cherbourg Aboriginal Council's material recycling facility (MRF), opportunities exist to create a circular economy, and further explore resource recovery or partner with the agricultural sector. The South Burnett aspires to become a region of choice for ag-tech related studies and pilot programs.

Whether it is Cairns Regional Council building a new material recovery facility, NQROC with its community education and awareness 'Recycle right- keep it simple' campaign or WBBROC working on a regional partnership investigating long term waste management solutions, the message is clear.

We have many councils contributing both human and financial resources as well as seeking to find sustainable long-term solutions for waste management and resource recovery and it's not centred on everything going to landfill but a broader more holistic approach towards a circular economy future.

A circular economy will value-add opportunities, including those that integrate with or leverage agriculture. It will also create a potential avenue for future growth in investment and manufacturing and will support regional resilience.

### **Motion number 60.3 Central Desert Regional Council NT**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate funds towards water and waste recycling initiatives in remote communities.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

National Waste Policy Action Plan – significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry.

Water security statement 2022

NT Water Security Plan and Directions Paper

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

All communities must have access to waste management and processing; yet most Central Australian communities only have access to landfills that fill up rapidly. Similar to other states there are vast amounts of legacy waste, a growing reduction of available land that can be dug and filled for waste purposes, and a growing focus towards recycling.

Regional councils should be focusing on not only determining use of recycled content in road construction and improving the quality of our recyclable materials but also exploring cost-effective water recycling technologies as most Central Australia communities are water-stressed.

A renewed focus should be given by the Federal government towards investment in water recycling initiatives as water forms a vital part in the liveability of remote communities and contributes significantly to economic and social development/growth.

### **Motion number 60.4 Tweed Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to advocate for the continued development of national recycling initiatives.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The development of national recycling initiatives in Australia will reduce red tape, remove inconsistent waste policies from state to state, and provide greater transparency to the waste sector.

For the past two decades, state governments have introduced recycling initiatives that vary across jurisdictions. For example, Tweed residents currently pay a landfill levy of approximately \$85 per tonne for the landfilling of waste within Tweed, compared to approximately \$140 per tonne in Sydney, and \$0 in central NSW. Until recently, QLD did not

have a waste levy, resulting in cheaper access to landfill within QLD. This resulted in waste being transported interstate, where industry would identify and access the cheapest landfill. It was estimated that over one million tonnes of landfill were being transported from the Sydney Metropolitan region to QLD each year. QLD have recently proposed to increase their waste levy by \$50 per tonne over the next five years, which is likely to see waste transported from QLD to NSW as the QLD waste levy reaches \$130 to \$140 per tonne.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

National product stewardship programs that have been implemented by the Federal Government offer local government and the waste/recycling sector a greater understanding and transparency of recycling initiatives.

National recycling initiatives provide industry with consistent policy frameworks across states and territories.

Local government is well positioned to support a national framework for waste and resource recovery in Australia that aligns with the National Waste Policy.

State-based recycling initiatives lack consistency and frustrate effective recycling initiatives.

The success of product stewardship programs demonstrates that a national approach to recycling in Australia is effective.

Product stewardship programs apply the cost of recycling a product on the consumer at the point of purchase, which reduces the cost of recycling a product away from the recycling processor, which has historically seen a cost placed on councils who operate waste facilities throughout NSW.

By comparison, New Zealand and European countries adopt a consistent approach to waste and recycling initiatives. There are national waste levies that do not differ within a country or region.

## **Motion number 61 Randwick City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Establish a program to fund and support councils to transition their communities to a zero-waste circular economy, in which there is no place for incinerators (including waste to energy incinerators) or the incineration of medical waste; and**
- 2. Remove incinerators from the Australian Renewable Energy Target and remove native forest biomass as a renewable component of bioenergy/fuel and its eligibility for subsidy.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

This motion addresses the following key questions in the 2022 discussion paper:

1. Climate Change: How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes? What partnerships are available to achieve climate neutrality?

2. The Circular Economy: How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy? What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government to progress these objectives?

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Incinerators produce toxic emissions which reduce air quality, generate highly toxic ash residues, and establish markets for non-renewable waste as fuel streams. Local communities around Australia, including in the Sydney Basin, are opposing the construction of Incinerators in their neighbourhoods.

Waste as fuel is non-renewable, and plants elsewhere in the world have struggled to source a fuel stream, making this technology unreliable as an energy source. It contradicts avoidance, reuse, recycling, and a circular economy.

Our local communities are keen to play their part in resource recovery, and federal funding would assist councils to innovate through pilot projects, community programs and programs in schools.

Councils collect public, domestic, and business waste as well as generating their own operational and construction waste, and as such play a crucial role in the realising of a circular economy. Councils need support to evaluate new policies and practices before incorporating them into their own operations. Funding would also assist councils to create processes and practices to increase recycling, and to procure and use recycled products in council construction projects.

### **Motion number 61.1 Inner West Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to say Yes to the Circular Economy and No to Incinerators.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Partnerships are vital to the transition to a circular economy, and councils are uniquely placed when it comes to recovery and reuse of what, until now, has been considered waste.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Waste incinerators degrade air quality, produce large quantities of greenhouse gases and discharge toxic heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants, e.g., dioxins, that do not break down and build up in people, thereby harming their health as well as the environment. Incinerators generate highly toxic ash that cannot be treated or recycled and must be stored forever in a hazardous waste landfill.

Once established, the ever-increasing demand of incinerators for fuel kills off any downstream reuse and recycling initiatives and establishes a market for otherwise recyclable material as a fuel stream. This completely contradicts the principles of avoidance, reuse and recycling and prevents the creation of a circular economy.

Our local communities are keen to play their part in resource recovery, and federal funding would assist councils to innovate through pilot projects, community programs and programs in schools.

Councils collect public, domestic, and business waste as well as generating their own operational and construction waste, and as such play a crucial role in the realising of a circular economy but need support to evaluate new policies and practices before rolling them into their operation.

Examples include smart electric garbage trucks and bins for collection, micro factories for local processing and streaming to improve resource recovery, aligning labelling with collections, and informing consumers through projects at council facilities and events, and aligning labelling with drop-offs and collections.

Funding would also assist councils to innovate processes and practices to avoid, reduce and increase recycling and the procurement and use of recycled products in community construction projects as well as their own.

## **Motion number 62 Town of Bassendean WA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to change the Australian Packaging Covenant to a mandatory product stewardship scheme, constituted under the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Waste Management, including the recycling of packaging products in kerbside collection, is often the responsibility of the local government, who either contract these services to a private company or provide them to residents directly.

Community and political expectation are that packaging products labelled 'recyclable' are recycled. And herein lies the problem. The parties who produce the product have no responsibility to ensure that it is labelled correctly for recycling/disposal, nor are they responsible for what happens once it leaves their manufacturing facility.

This means that local government has a large part of the responsibility for, and cost associated with, recycling a product but without any input into how packaging is made, what it is made from, and how it is labelled for disposal/recycling.

Rather than have local government and their contractors playing catch-up to a vast array of packaging which is produced, mandatory product stewardship should be introduced for all

packaging. This would shift the current packaging business model of take, make and waste approach to being part of the circular economy.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The cost of recycling packaging is largely borne by local governments, and consequently the community, who collect this material in their kerbside collection systems. Packaging manufacturers are free to produce packaging made of ever more complex and disparate materials, making them harder to recycle. They are also free to label these products as recyclable, even when the packaging item is not widely recycled by local governments or other parties. There is also increasing community and political expectation regarding the management of products at the end of their useful life.

Some products, such as aerosol sprays, are dangerous and cause significant damage to collection infrastructure. There are less dangerous alternatives that can be used to create these products and better ways to collect them. For instance, there are non-flammable propellants that can be used in aerosols.

There are various approaches to product stewardship being implemented currently, with legislation at a national and state/territory level with a range of mandatory, co-regulatory and voluntary approaches. To date, schemes have been developed with varying levels of government direction and consistency (of approach and output). At a national level there appears to be a clear preference for the development of voluntary schemes, and while a few may be effective, these approaches do not guarantee the outcomes that local government and the community need.

All types of packaging are part of a co-regulatory scheme which is facilitated by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO). APCO released the APC Collective Impact Report in November 2021. This report provides insight into the progress of APCO and its members in meeting their targets. The report highlights that APCO and its members have seen a reduction in the percentage of packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable as well as a reduction in plastic packaging being recycled or composted.

APCO also provides a breakdown of recovered material by material type. Of serious concern is the performance of plastic packaging, with only 16 percent recovered according to APCO report.

APCO CEO Brooke Donnelly has identified that APCO needs to accelerate its efforts to meet the 2025 National Packaging Targets. APCO has over many years, focused on funding projects and packaging design. It does not address the costs of recycling packaging material or give producers any physical responsibility for their products at end-of life. Instead, it relies on the local government and therefore the community to pay to recover their end-of-life products. Nationally, Environment Ministers have agreed that all packaging should be recyclable, re-useable or compostable by 2025 or before.

On 2 March 2022, the fifth UN Environmental Assembly concluded with the development of broad terms for a global agreement to slow and ultimately halt plastic pollution. This, coupled with the millions of people globally actively supporting a commitment to reduce



single-use plastic use during July as a part of Plastic Free July, highlights that there is wide public support for reducing plastics and ensuring that they are recovered effectively.

### Motion number 62.1 City of Unley SA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian, state and territory governments to jointly undertake an investigation of the adequacy of the current policy on packaging and product recycling information and to consider establishing a consistent national approach that mandates the provision of information and advice by all manufacturers or wholesalers/retailers regarding the relevant recycling stream for all packaging as well as products produced or sold in Australia.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The National Waste Policy (2018) and the National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019-2030) establishes six targets, including making comprehensive, economy wide, and timely data publicly available to support better consumer investment and policy decisions.

In all Australian jurisdictions, there is responsibility to support and give effect to the National Waste Policy Action Plan through local government, departments of environment, and nationally through the national ministerial council.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Councils, as the main level of government responsible for collecting and managing waste in Australia, need to have the information to ensure end-of-life products are directed to the right waste or recycling stream. Many products and packaging fail to include information about how they should be disposed of. Whilst there is a voluntary code, there is no obligation on manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers to provide information about which waste stream the product/packaging should be directed to.

The current scheme operating in Australia is a voluntary co-regulatory scheme which focuses on packaging and does not cover products. This scheme forms part of the National Waste Action Plan (2019-2030).

Packaging is overseen by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) which ensures collaboration to keep packaging materials out of landfill and ensure the maximum local economic value of the materials, energy, and labour. APCO oversees the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines and leads the ANZPAC Plastics Pact.

A consistent national approach for the sorting, storage and collection of waste and resource recovery (recyclable) materials is needed to ensure:

- uniform recycling standards;
- consistent national waste and resource recovery messaging and education;
- improved resource recovery opportunities while reducing contamination; and
- Consistent development standards, controls, and infrastructure for all sectors for waste control.

A fundamental aspect of this is to establish consistent labelling requirements for all products/packaging to ensure their appropriate and easy disposal. Councils rely on residents to do this well, noting that consumers already bear a significant time burden by ensuring that waste is placed in the relevant waste stream given the level of scrutiny and decision-making required. Women generally spend more time recycling further, adding to their higher domestic burden.

For councils, waste services are one of the largest expenditure lines, increasingly requiring nuanced policy and community education strategies to reduce waste, contamination, and cost.

The key question is whether the current voluntary system is adequate and if there is a need to move towards a more comprehensive and possibly mandatory scheme. Requesting a national investigation is consistent with the directions of the national action plan and will allow a mid-stream review of progress towards achieving targets; how well the action plan is being implemented and whether greater effort is needed on this issue to meet national objectives.

ABS 2018-2019 data:

- Residential waste constitutes 20 percent of total Australian waste
- Australia generated 76 million tonnes of waste (an increase of 10 percent since 2016-2017). Over half is sent for recycling.
- \$17 billion is spent on waste services (an 18 percent increase since 2016-2017).
- Households are the third largest waste generator at 12.4 million tonnes / 16.3 percent after Manufacturing 12.8 million tonnes / 16.9 percent; Construction, 12.7 million tonnes / 16.8 percent), Electricity, gas, water 10.9 million tonnes / 14.4 percent).
- Households contribute the largest amount of plastic waste (47 percent) and organic waste (42 percent).
- Households incurred the third largest expenditure on waste collection, treatment, and disposal services: \$595 million after Construction, Manufacturing and Agriculture).

## Motion number 62.2 Yarra City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide national leadership to grow the circular economy and reduce levels of household and commercial waste by:**

- 1. Implementing a national ban on food waste going into landfill;**
- 2. Implementing stricter national sustainable packaging standards and a product stewardship scheme; and**
- 3. Providing increased funding to industry and local government to support local processing solutions, sector innovation and market development.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

To reduce household and commercial waste and grow the circular economy through national leadership from the Federal Government.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Volatility in global commodity prices for recyclable material over the past five years has caused wide-spread disruption in the international waste sector. This has led to significant disruption in Australia where the vast majority of our domestic kerbside recycling has traditionally been exported overseas.

As a result, local governments have been left exposed to higher processing fees and increased costs while governments continue to grapple with how to shift our domestic recycling system towards a more sustainable, circular economy and tackle traditionally high levels of avoidable waste.

In March 2020, the federal, state and territory governments, and the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), as members of the former Council of Australian Governments (COAG), agreed that the export of waste glass, plastic (including processed engineered fuel), tyres and paper be regulated by the Australian government. This, in effect, vastly restricted waste being exported overseas.

What remains a key and pressing issue is the need for national action to reduce our level of avoidable household and commercial waste and grow a circular economy.

A food waste ban and stricter packaging standards and product stewardship will drive innovation and circular economy solutions in the waste section while complementing new initiatives that target sector and market development through local processing solutions.

## **Motion number 62.3 City of Mount Gambier SA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a fund of \$100 million per annum, over four years, to support local government circular waste innovation projects.**

**A significant portion of the fund should be dedicated to supporting projects in regional areas. Due to resourcing constraints in regional areas, any grants provided through the program should not require matched funding.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

According to the national waste account published by the ABS, in 2018-2019 Australia sent 20.5 million tonnes of waste to landfill. A significant proportion of this material could have been circulated back through the national economy, generating revenue and jobs through reuse and recycling.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

A substantial amount of the cost of processing waste and recycling is born by local councils and their ratepayers. The majority of recyclable materials are sorted and then sent to other

locations. Much of this material could be retained in local communities, and utilised to stimulate local economies, generating jobs and valuable products. This is particularly the case in regional areas, where the tyranny of distance often significantly reduces the viability of recycling operations, as materials have to be transported long distances in order to be utilised.

It is estimated that for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, 9.2 jobs are created, compared with only 2.8 jobs when the same amount of waste is sent to landfill. Investing in circular economy projects will create local jobs and stimulate local economies as well as reduce waste to landfill.

## **Motion number 63 Gladstone Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) to reduce barriers to local government jointly tendering for recyclables processing and innovative resource recovery services by exploring options to amend:**

- 1. Sections 2BA or 2C to reduce the application of part IV for example, by removing recyclables processing or innovative resource recovery services, for which tenders are sought, from the definition of 'business'; or**
- 2. Section 51 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) to introduce exceptions to part IV in circumstances where local governments:**
  - a. undertake joint tendering exercises for recyclables processing and/or innovative resource recovery services**
  - b. hold collaborative forums to discuss waste diversion, resource recovery and recyclables processing procurement strategy and initiatives.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The key principles of the Australian Government National Waste Policy 2018 include avoiding waste and improving resource recovery. The policy recognises that by working together to improve waste management, we can create opportunities for jobs, protect the environment and better manage valuable and finite resources. The ALGA Strategic Plan 2020-2023 highlights waste reduction and recycling as a key objective and therefore the proposed motion complements ALGA advocacy.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Regional aggregation of waste volumes has increased the options for recovery and more efficient disposal, supported investment in new infrastructure, and attracted greater competition and industry interest (Arcadis, Queensland Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Report, February 2017).

Procurement within the recyclables processing and broader resource recovery spaces have presented some challenges for regional councils due to remoteness, low populations and volumes of material resulting in poor economies of scale, lack of viable end markets and

processing opportunities. However, there is also potential to create new opportunities for councils working together on a regional scale to achieve necessary economies of scale, transport efficiencies and/or infrastructure investment attraction.

Such opportunities for collaboration are presently being stymied by current Competition and Consumer Act requirements which require local governments, as each other's competitors, to seek ACCC authorisation to engage in collaborative joint tender exercises in the recyclables processing and resource recovery spaces to avoid breach of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth). Whilst Gladstone Regional Council has had a positive experience with the ACCC, Competition and Consumer Act requirements have meant that councils have needed to factor in an additional six months into strategic procurement plans, together with the resources required to achieve a favourable ACCC determination. When local governments are already grappling with different contract expiry dates for individually procured services, the additional Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) hurdle may significantly impede local government collaboration and ultimately reduce resource recovery.

The motion has been deliberately restricted to procurement involving a tender process to give the Australian Government confidence that there are sufficient safeguards in place under the sound contracting provisions of each state's local government legislation to ensure healthy market competition.

## **Motion number 64 Forbes Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to implement a rebate system of 40 cents per litre for the use of S45R crumbed rubber bitumen in asphalt, construction seals and reseals.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Twenty million tyres are disposed of and end up in landfill across Australia every year. The current situation is that the vast majority of councils are required to manage huge stockpiles of tyres that are growing every year. This creates a large environmental problem that will continue to grow unless a suitable and economically viable use for these tyres is mandated.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Presently, there is limited opportunity for the reuse of tyres as their supply outstrips the demand for crumbed rubber matting for playgrounds, equestrian centres, and other uses. There is the possibility of recycling rubber to oil, steel, and carbon, but again the supply eclipses demand.

The use of crumbed rubber in road bitumen is readily available and provides a superior bitumen product that is more durable and lasts much longer than standard grades of bitumen. The S45R crumbed rubber bitumen specification is not as extensively used as it could be because S45R bitumen currently costs around 40c per litre more than standard

grade bitumen, such as C170 or C240 bitumen. The benefits of crumbed rubber bitumen include:

- Improved aggregate adhesion in highly stressed areas;
- Superior rheology for seals subject to traffic and environmentally induced cracks;
- Higher adhesive strength to withstand stripping action of high-speed traffic;
- Higher viscosity at elevated temperatures combats bleeding of binder.

The composition of S45R is 15 percent crumbed rubber by weight. S55R bitumen is 20 percent crumbed rubber by weight and S60R is 25 percent. To generate demand, a market must be created for the use of crumbed rubber in asphalt works, bitumen construction seals and bitumen reseals by road authorities across Australia. The solution to create a market.

A rebate system, similar to the diesel fuel rebate, would provide a mechanism for gaining acceptance of the use of crumbed rubber by providing a financial incentive to users. The rebate system would provide councils and other road authorities with a financial incentive based on a rebate of 40 cents per litre of the use of S45R bitumen in asphalt, construction seals and reseals. A typical rural council will spray between 600,000 litres and 800,000 litres per year.

This rebate will solve a looming environmental disaster by providing sustainable reuse of tyres with the added bonus of a superior product. Ensuring the rebate is untied will allow participating road authorities to build their cash reserves for general purpose use within their organisations. This solution has the potential to use around 70,000 tonnes of crumbed rubber each year, across Australia.

## Motion number 65 Blacktown City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to remove the GST paid on sustainable and reusable alternatives to disposable and single-use products.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Resource recovery and the modernising waste and recycling in Australia is a vital component of our national sustainability.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local government is limited in how it can support the community to adopt behaviours that promote waste avoidance and reuse.

Through consultation with our community on this issue we have found that the largest barrier people have to making this change is the initial cost. While over their lifetime these products would be cheaper than their disposable counterparts, the initial costs are much higher and deter participation.

Councils have been providing rebates to encourage and provide the community access to reusable products. The permanent removal of the GST on these items will assist in overcoming the community's barriers to participation.

For example, the use of cloth nappies removes approximately 2,500 nappies from landfill in the first 12 months of a child's life. Encouraging this type of behaviour change would provide great resource and carbon benefits.

## WATER & ENVIRONMENT

### Motion number 66 South Burnett Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to double the \$3.5 billion National Water Grid Fund towards the construction of new and augmented water infrastructure projects across regional Australia and provides annual competitive funding rounds for the acceptance of funding applications.**

#### OBJECTIVE

Collaboration and Partnerships – Building Back Better Businesses

#### KEY ARGUMENTS

Our Council would like to acknowledge that the Australian Government is committed to working with the state and territory governments to identify, plan and deliver nationally important water infrastructure that increases our nation's water security, reliability, and sustainability. Local government is an important partner in this process and has much to contribute.

Under the Framework, the Australian Government will identify and invest in projects that:

1. Support primary industries and unlock potential improving water access and security for agricultural and industrial use will support regional economic growth and development and open up new opportunities.
2. Promote the growth and sustainability of regional economies increasing water supply certainty for farmers, businesses, primary industries, and regional communities will encourage long-term planning and investment and help ensure that access to reliable water sources is not a limiting factor to regional economic growth.
3. Build resilience strengthening the National Water Grid will capture and store water, so it is more readily available in regions when it is needed during droughts and in response to changing climate patterns.

Australia's existing regional water infrastructure cannot meet our long-term water supply needs. Infrastructure Australia's 2019 Australian Infrastructure Audit found Australia's water infrastructure faces unprecedented challenges from ageing assets, growing demand, and a changing climate. The Productivity Commission's 2018 inquiry into national water reform recommended policy settings around infrastructure investment be enhanced. We call on

the Federal Government to not only continue this fund but to double the allocation to construct this important nation building infrastructure.

## **Motion number 66.1 Western Downs Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to deliver a long-term, bulk water source for regional communities to enable economic development opportunities, including hydrogen and agriculture.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Regional areas contribute significantly to the national economy. The Regional Australian Institute estimates that regional Australia accounts for around 40 percent of national economic output and employs around one-third of Australia's workforce.

The mining, agriculture and manufacturing industries have traditionally driven economic growth, with health care and construction more recently contributing to the success of regions.

The United Nations Conference (COP) of Parties 26 held in Glasgow 2021 has catalysed efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Regional areas traditionally driven by carbon-based fuels are favourably placed for renewable energy investment due to legacy infrastructure as well as the available pool of highly skilled workers.

Delivery of long-term bulk water source for regional communities will support operations and further enable economic growth. This opens further hydrogen production opportunities and export opportunities as well as greatly benefitting the strong agricultural sector.

The Regional Australian Institute estimates that 1 in 5 households living in metropolitan areas is considering moving regionally. Investment in long-term bulk water sources will make the regions more attractive to live and work. This will assist with de-urbanising metropolitan areas.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

A number of regional areas across Australia, including the Surat Basin, have seen strong investment in the resources industry over the past 15 years. Legacy infrastructure, as well as the available pool of highly skilled workforce as a result of this investment, positions these regions favourably for renewable energy generation, recognised by the proposed development of renewable energy zones across Australia.

Australian Government collaboration with local governments to enable the transition to renewable energy developments and to invest in a long-term bulk water supply, will leverage current power infrastructure and enable green hydrogen production from water electrolysis (electrolytic hydrogen) and renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.



Current economies traditionally driven by carbon-based fuels, gain significant interest from industry to establish high value industries due to supply chain advantages in the energy sectors. The single limiting factor for rapid industry development of Queensland is a reliable water source.

In Queensland, the Nathan Dam and Pipelines project was intended to provide long-term reliable water supplies to mining, power, urban and existing agricultural customers in the Surat Coal Basin and the Dawson sub-region of Central Queensland. The project was originally linked to key customers in the mining sector that allowed a significant portion of the water allocation to be linked to high-value investment return.

Existing energy companies are diversifying their energy portfolios to include renewable and green sources of energy generation. There is great interest in green hydrogen production, and this opportunity has the ability to transform regional economies by creating export opportunities as well as greatly benefit the strong agricultural sector.

The Surat Basin region has established itself as an energy hub on the back of some of Queensland's most productive agricultural land and beef production.

The region's resilience during prolonged drought events has driven the need to become highly efficient in water management. These gains in consumer efficiency places the diverse industry portfolios in a prime position to take advantage of new water sources.

## Motion number 67 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commence a mature and informed discussion, inclusive of all relevant Commonwealth guidelines, on the use of wastewater for specific purposes other than parks and gardens and including road maintenance undertaken by local government.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Climate projections have revealed that Australia's average temperature will increase which is projected to lead to extreme fire-danger days, bush fires, and heatwaves.

Increased frequency and severity of heatwaves will lead to a need for more shade and green spaces. Droughts are projected to become longer and more widespread, which will exacerbate water shortages.

Climate-change impacts on rural and regional communities may be especially severe. Decreasing agricultural yields will erode the resilience of some industries, and as the market for fossil fuels changes, resource-dependent communities may also experience challenges in the future.

It is critical that communities are prepared for the impacts of climate change and adopt complementary strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

## KEY ARGUMENTS

Australian councils and communities are taking steps to tackle climate change in a way that can stimulate economic growth and gain efficiencies in the management of their assets. Increasing climate variability mean that many areas of Australia are facing water shortages and alternative sources of water are becoming more important as water restrictions become more widespread. One option for an alternative water source is to re-use water such as storm water, greywater, and treated sewage. This can be achieved through a combination of careful management, appropriate use, and education of water users, these types of water can be recycled safely and sustainably.

In light of water security issues in Australia and internationally, a report prepared by Namoi Unlimited says that there is a lack of information and knowledge regarding wastewater reuse opportunities. There is an understanding of wastewater reuse for irrigation and some domestic uses (e.g., toilet flushing), there is a gap in the literature regarding wastewater reuse for road construction and maintenance, and more specifically gravel roads.

Part of the solution to address water shortages and increase yield is the provision and application of recycled water. The guidelines for the safe use of recycled water are set by the Commonwealth Government (the Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling) and applied and regulated by each state.

The Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling are designed to provide an authoritative reference that can be used to support beneficial and sustainable recycling of waters generated from sewage, grey water, and stormwater. The guidelines series were produced in two phases. Phase 1 established a complete set of guidelines for the management of health and environmental risks associated with recycled water. Phase 2 extended on specific aspects of the Phase 1 guidance. These guidelines are part of the National Water Quality Management Strategy.

Managing Health and Environmental Risks Phase 1 requires review and research to provide state governments with the information to consider, approve and expand the alternative uses for recycled water to assist with the safe use of alternative water sources. However, the uses described in the document are limited, and a mechanism to enable the piloting and testing of new uses in a safe and controlled environment should also be considered.

## Motion number 68 Wyndham City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide additional funding for tree planting to:**

- 1. Increase tree canopy cover;**
- 2. Reduce the impacts of a changing climate; and**
- 3. Improve biodiversity and create habitat for native fauna.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Climate change – Australia's changing climate is having an impact in every corner of the country, from increased rainfall in the northern part the country to droughts and heat waves. There is an opportunity for the Federal Government to partner with local governments to plant millions of native trees to manage the impacts of climate change, cool our cities and towns, support the resilience of our energy and transport networks, and build habitat for native fauna.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

As the Australian climate changes, higher average temperatures will have an increasingly negative impact on the liveability and resilience of our communities. Australia has warmed by more than 1 degrees since 1910, with most warming since 1950.

The heat island effect means that Australia's urban areas are 1-3 degrees hotter than rural areas due to dark hard surfaces, such as asphalt, tiled roofs, carparks, and concrete, absorbing heat from the sun and radiating it back into the atmosphere. Increased temperatures and the heat island effect are expected to negatively impact people's health, the reliability of our transport networks, and increase pressure on the energy grid.

Tree planting and increasing tree-canopy cover can help reduce the heat island effect and reduce extreme heat events, reduce run-off, and aid in flood mitigation, and create attractive and appealing places for residents to live, work and play.

Correct species selection is today more important than ever, to secure species diversity and climate-ready species that can adapt to climate change. Native tree species should still remain a focus as this will support native fauna that have suffered from loss of habitat due to land clearing and urban development. Biodiversity loss is a direct result of reduced habitat and impacts a variety of native fauna across our region. Re-establishing habitat corridors that include native trees, flowers and grasses will increase the resilience of our ecosystems and improve conditions for native fauna.

Increased tree planting can also play a role in carbon capture and storage and help Australia achieve net zero emissions by 2050. CO2 Australia estimates that tree planting can capture and store as much as 15.7 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year after only four years of growth.

Infrastructure Victoria (IV) has recommended a target 30 percent tree-canopy coverage in growth areas. IV suggested this could be accomplished by providing direct funding to extend the urban tree canopy, reforming the developer open space contribution scheme, and working with utility providers to remove barriers to tree planting.

## Motion number 69 North Sydney Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address, protect and increase tree canopy, particularly urban tree canopy and forest, to minimise the impacts of climate change and to protect biodiversity and habitat.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Address climate change

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Urban tree canopy is a form of green infrastructure providing shade, which reduces ambient temperatures and mitigates the heat island effect

According to a recent RMIT report, more than half of Sydney's councils have lost urban forest cover since 2013. The loss of urban forest cover is consistent across the country. The decline in tree canopy has been attributed to development pressures, poor planning, and a failure to value trees.

Protecting and increasing tree canopy has multiple benefits which include reducing summer peak temperatures and air pollution, providing wildlife corridors and habitat, protecting, and enhancing biodiversity, providing visual relief and aesthetic benefits, and improving community well-being.

Whilst many councils in NSW and across Australia have developed urban greening strategies, local communities cannot do it alone. By working in partnership with local councils, the Federal Government will be able to move more quickly and effectively to develop and deliver initiatives to address the impacts of climate change and the increasing urban heat island effect which are being felt across the country.

## Motion number 70 Redland City Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased funding to support on-the-ground council activities aimed at protecting our local koala population, including:**

- 1. The development of the Koala Watch app to a commercially viable standard enabling delivery of eco-tourism, citizen science and conservation benefits; and**
- 2. Supporting efforts (financially and via policy and legislative alignment) to combat disease and increase the understanding of koala population dynamics.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Koalas were officially classed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) 1999 on February 11, 2022. The impact of prolonged drought, followed by the Black Summer bushfires, and the cumulative impacts of disease, urbanisation and habitat loss over the past 20 years led to the advice. The reclassification is supported by evidence in Queensland Government reports that highlight a

decrease in koala numbers by 80 percent in parts of the species range in South- East Queensland.

The Federal Government announced an additional \$50 million investment in koalas including:

- \$20 million in grants and funding for larger projects led by NRM, NGOs, and Indigenous groups;
- \$10 million to extend the National Koala Monitoring Program;
- \$10 million in grants for small-scale community projects and local activities including habitat protection and restoration, managing threats, health and care facilities, and citizen science projects;
- \$2 million in grants to improve koala health outcomes through applied research activities and the practical application of research outcomes to address fundamental health challenges such as koala retrovirus, koala herpes viruses and Chlamydia; and
- \$1 million to expand the national training program in koala care, treatment, and triage.

This motion supports the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the National Koala Conservation and Management Strategy 2009-2014.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

It is noted that federal financial assistance has not been specifically directed toward local government entities to help enhance current or planned koala conservation initiatives and actions. This motion requests federal assistance to flow through to local councils to support on the ground projects and initiatives that will support the national koala population.

### **Motion number 71 Bayside City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise the harmful impacts of second-generation rodenticides, prohibit their use in Australia and promote alternative methods of rodent management.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is an Australian Government independent statutory authority responsible for assessing and registering agricultural and Veterinary (agvet) chemicals for supply in Australia. This is up to and including the point of retail sale. The Federal Government could regulate the use of second-generation coagulant rodenticide via this authority to prevent the distribution within Australia. A federal approach would also ensure that a consistent approach is in place across all states and territories and ensure the best national outcome is achieved.

This motion aligns with the Environment theme of the National Congress specifically relating to Goal 3 and 4 – Care for nature in all its diversity, and share and build knowledge,

## KEY ARGUMENTS

All levels of government have a responsibility to protect endangered species. This has been enshrined in law federal law, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) <https://bit.ly/3s8O6Yv> and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 <https://bit.ly/3LHOs0c>.

Powerful Owls are listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. They are known to live and hunt in urban areas and their survival in these areas is tenuous at best.

There is emerging evidence that a particular group of rat poisons, known as second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) are associated with a sharp increase in Powerful Owl deaths. As many eight Powerful Owls were found dead in Melbourne over the period of less than a year. Given that these birds are incredibly rare and tend to live a good 30 and usually up to 50 years, this was an alarming figure and led to a ground-breaking piece of research, investigating the cause of death of Powerful Owls throughout Australia. What the study found was that 83 percent of the dead Powerful Owls studied had SGARs in their system. <https://bit.ly/3s5GMwS>

The authors of this study commented: Like many top-order predators, powerful owls are long-lived, have relatively low fecundity and populations occur at low densities. Any additional threatening processes, such as poisoning with toxicants, could have significant ramifications for the viability of populations in urbanizing landscapes. Even if not lethal or acutely toxic, toxicants could have potentially sub-clinical health impacts on fitness, reproduction, and immune function (Rattner et al., 2014). The prevalence of toxicants and in particular SGARs in the food web of Powerful Owls therefore requires urgent attention and like other parts of the world, increased regulation of the sale of SGARs in Australia should be considered (Eisemann et al., 2018; Lohr and Davis, 2018).

There are many other options besides this particular form of poison for rodent management. They include:

- Basic measures such as 'Seal up, trap up and clean up' <https://bit.ly/3y8JRAc> other rat poisons, such as warfarin that were not detected in dead Powerful Owls but have proven efficacy.

It is imperative that all levels of government accept our responsibility to protect Powerful Owls and a simple and effective way of doing

## Motion number 72 Bayside City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop wildlife-friendly lighting standards.**

### OBJECTIVE

The Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy (in conjunction with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Government of Western

Australia) have developed 'National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife – Including marine turtles, seabirds and migratory seabirds'. The Federal Government via the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment could develop legislation or further standards to require best-practice lighting design to be implemented across Australia. This proposed motion aligns with the Environment theme, specifically Goal 2 – Care for nature in all its diversity.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Worldwide studies have shown that artificial light is known to adversely affect many species and ecological communities by either changing behaviour and/or physiology and reducing survivorship or reproductive output.

Artificial light can also have an indirect effect of changing the availability of habitat or food resources for certain species and can also attract predators and invasive pests.

The National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife – Including marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds state:

Artificial light at night is increasing globally by about two percent per year. Animals perceive light differently from humans and artificial light can disrupt critical behaviour and cause physiological changes in wildlife.

An important consideration in the management of artificial light for wildlife is understanding how light is perceived by animals, as animals perceive light differently from humans. Understanding the sensitivity of wildlife to different light wavelengths is critical to assessing the potential effects of artificial light on wildlife.

Most animals are sensitive to ultra-violet (UV) violet/blue light, while some birds are sensitive to longer wavelength yellow/orange and some snakes, can detect infra-red wavelengths.

The need and installation of night lighting has traditionally focused on human vision. To manage light appropriately for wildlife, it is important to understand how light is defined and measured, and to consider light from the wildlife's perspective.

While some artificial light at night is important to provide for human safety, amenity, and increased productivity, it is critical to note that natural darkness has its own conservation value. Natural darkness should and can be protected through good lighting design and management for the benefit of all living things.

Best practice lighting design incorporates the following design principles:

1. Start with natural darkness and only add light for specific purposes.
2. Use adaptive light controls to manage light timing, intensity, and colour.
3. Light only the object or area intended keep lights close to the ground, directed, and shielded to avoid light spill.
4. Use the lowest intensity lighting appropriate for the task.

5. Use non-reflective, dark-coloured surfaces.
6. Use lights with reduced or filtered blue, violet, and ultra-violet wavelengths.

While standards should be aimed at reducing the impact of excess lighting on native wildlife, it is also imperative that they do not lose sight of the importance of community and personal safety.

## **Motion number 73 South Burnett Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with local governments to fund the establishment of regional biosecurity report cards designed to measure the extent and success of management programs that target new, emerging and established invasive species.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Environment

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local governments have a long-term historic association with the management of invasive species and are considered leaders in their respective communities, playing a critical role in environmental management and protection. At a regional scale the level of coordination, collaboration and reporting for invasive species is often variable and inconsistent given the diverse range of stakeholders involved. This situation often leads to poor utilisation of resources directed at the management of invasive species.

In Australia, invasive species are ranked as the No 1 greatest issue effecting the environment. The challenge for all stakeholders is to work together to prevent the situation from getting worse.

Regionally Scaled Biosecurity Reporting establishes a targeted outcome and reporting framework for invasive pest species, producing an effective national to local community network pathway for response and management programs. This resolution would fit with the recently released National Biosecurity Strategy Consultation Draft.

This motion needs to be debated at a national level given Australia's wildlife, environment, and way of life is under unprecedented attack and not one single local government across our nation is free of invasive species, hence the necessity for a coordinated national approach.

## **Motion number 74 Maribyrnong City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to take a broader view in respect of economic recovery and growth to reduce the reliance on infrastructure and construction to drive job creation and economic recovery post-COVID.**



**This should include increased investment in skills and training, health, arts and agriculture, environmental restoration, supply chain improvements, and initiatives that further diversify the economy and improve Australia's self-sufficiency.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Economic growth and recovery

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

While it is recognised that investment in key transport and community infrastructure is critical to managing Australia's growing population, there is a need for all levels of government to work together and do more to support the economic recovery, growth, and establishment of other key employment sectors. This is critical to maintaining job diversity and ensuring that Australia's economy is resilient to future economic changes/shocks domestically and globally.

## **ARTS AND CULTURE**

### **Motion number 75 Darebin City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Develop a national cultural plan to support the short, medium, and long-term needs of the creative and cultural sectors;**
- 2. Partner with local government to develop a creative sector federal investment strategy that directly invests in local creative and cultural industries as part of immediate COVID-19 recovery efforts;**
- 3. Expand eligibility and scale of existing federal government creative COVID-19 support programs, including the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund, to continue providing increased support for more local artists, festivals, concerts, tours, exhibitions, visual, digital, creative, and cultural organisations;**
- 4. Expand representation of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Creative Economy Taskforce, by providing a seat at the table and representation for the local government sector;**
- 5. Prioritise new COVID-19 creative sector support investment towards sustaining and helping our most vulnerable artistic and cultural community cohorts, including Aboriginal, multicultural, the newly arrived, women and young creatives; and**
- 6. Ensure local government is directly provided with a fair and equitable share of new funding and resources to supporting local and regional creative activities, festivals, events, and organisations.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Advocating to enhance support for local creative and cultural initiatives, directly align with ALGA's 2020-23 Strategic Plan (Stronger Community Resilience), and the 2022 NGA's Discussion Paper's priorities around COVID-19 recovery challenges, jobs, building back business, workforce shortages and re-engineering work.

Pre-COVID, Australia's creative and cultural economy contributed more than \$111 billion or 6.4 percent of our country's total gross domestic product (GDP) and employed close to 600,000 people or 5.5 percent of the workforce.

However as highlighted in the Final Report of the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's creative and cultural industries in October 2021, sculpting a National Cultural Plan, Australia's cultural industries were significantly affected by COVID-19, which resulted in the closures of public venues, performance spaces, community hub, and Indigenous artistic centres.

Whilst the Federal Government's support measures overseen by the Creative Economy COVID-19 Taskforce, including the COVID-19 Arts Sustainability Fund, played a role to sustain various elements of the cultural sector, a vast number of creatives have remained ineligible for various initiatives, and far more is required in to revive cultural economic and community activity, including through the 22 recommendations contained in the National Cultural Plan Report.

Without urgent action by the Federal Government, Australian communities risk losing a generation of creatives.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

In the lead up to the pandemic, Australia's cultural and creative industries had grown by 30 percent over the past decade to become one of the nation's most important economic drivers.

Prior to COVID-19, the sector contributed more than \$111 billion or 6.4 percent of our country's total gross domestic product (GDP) and employed close to 600,000 people or 5.5 percent of the workforce.

As identified in the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Cultural Sector, local government plays an increasingly important role in community art and cultural activities.

Local, state, territory and commonwealth governments make combined contributions towards cultural expenditure of more than \$6.86 billion of public funds towards arts and culture annually.

However, the Parliamentary Inquiry identified that from 2007-08 to 2017-18, local government funding has played an increasingly important role.

Per capita, local government funding increased by 11 percent, state and territory expenditure increased by 3.9 percent, whilst federal government expenditure was 18.9 percent less per capita towards cultural activities compared with a decade ago.

Councils account for a considerable investment in the creative and cultural sector, at almost 30 percent of the total national local government expenditure.

Despite the role of local government in sustaining a vibrant creative industry, councils have been largely overlooked by the Federal Government as part of its COVID-19 response and recovery efforts towards the sector.

The absence of any formal voice for local government on the Federal Government's COVID-19 Creative Economy Taskforce, combined with restricted eligibility criteria preventing many local artists and organisations from accessing existing funding support packages, and limited access for local governments to help inform and access Federal creative sector assistance, mean the role of local government to assist is being largely undervalued.

Just as local government played a leading role in helping keep local communities safe during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, councils can also play a leading role in partnership with the Federal Government to help revive our creative sector.

As identified by the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry, local governments have a key role to play in helping to guide the development of a recommended new National Cultural Plan.

But further to this, local government can also work to identify and complement reforms around existing Federal Creative Support Programs, including the RISE Fund, the COVID-19 Arts Sustainability Fund, the Show Stopper Loan Scheme, and the Regional Arts Fund.

A significant number of artists and enterprises have not been eligible for many of these Federal Government COVID-19 creative funding initiatives, and many continue to fall between the gaps. Expansion of eligibility of these programs to include all artist practitioners and entities, sole traders and those not formally registered as businesses, can provide significant and immediate relief, and form the catalyst in the development of a new Federal Creative Sector Investment Strategy.

Without a long-term federal partnership with local government through the development of new cultural and investment strategies, the industry will continue to experience ongoing challenges and uncertainty.

## Motion number 76 Wyndham City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase needs-based funding for the construction of and upgrades to community, arts and culture and sports infrastructure.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Building back better businesses. As Australia looks to rebuild from the turbulence and economic shocks of the past two years there is an opportunity for the Federal Government to partner with local governments to support businesses through construction and upgrades to community infrastructure.

Local governments have a long and proven track record in leveraging community infrastructure to create jobs and benefit both the local economy and community. However, the high cost of construction limits the ability of local governments to act without financial support.

Investing in community, sports and recreational infrastructure is not a handout for businesses; it provides confirmed future work enabling business to invest in staff and equipment, while providing legacy infrastructure that will improve social cohesion, improve health outcomes, and provide ongoing economic stimulus for generations.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Community, sports, and recreational infrastructure plays a critical role in building strong and resilient communities. It promotes social inclusion, improves community pride and participation, and has been found to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

Australians make over 100 million visits to public pools every year and over 80 per cent of Australians attended an art and cultural venue or event, including arts galleries and museums, music performances and theatres in 2017-18. Despite the growth of online content, the popularity of Australia's libraries continues to grow. In 2016-17, public libraries in Victoria welcomed over 30 million visitors.

Community infrastructure also plays a key role in ensuring our communities are resilient. In time of emergencies, our community facilities become emergency centres and places of refuge.

Community infrastructure is also a driver of economic activity. Australia's arts and cultural sector supports direct and indirect jobs and generates exports, contributing \$111.7 billion (or 6.4 percent of GDP) to the economy in 2016-17. Sports and recreational infrastructure contribute \$6.3 billion to the Australian economy through increased economic activity and productivity improvements. In Victoria, public libraries generated \$1.1 billion of direct and indirect benefits in 2016-17. Community infrastructure also contributes 4.9 billion in health benefits and reduces the pressure on public health services.

Infrastructure Australia's (IA) has confirmed the value of community and sports infrastructure. IA's 'An Assessment of Australia's Future Infrastructure Needs' identified that well-integrated arts and cultural infrastructure can enhance the value of other types of infrastructure, such as public transport or green infrastructure. The construction of community sports infrastructure can also play a key role in creating new jobs, stimulating economic activity, and helping in the post covid economic recovery.

## **Motion number 77 Melton City VIC**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased funding for cultural and sporting infrastructure in line with projected growth and greatest need.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The social and well-being impacts of COVID-19, especially in outer regions in the capital cities, has highlighted the need for infrastructure that promotes health and activity. Importantly, the sporting and cultural infrastructure provides social connectivity and a sense of community. Many municipalities are in great need of sporting and cultural infrastructure that are outside of local councils' capacity to provide. Liveable cities are developed by providing a sense of place, a sense of community and physical and mental health well-being. The local pool, library, community centres, football oval, netball court and arts spaces are the infrastructure that enables activity, engagement, cohesion, and cultural safety. We need a healthy mind and a healthy body, and it is imperative that every opportunity for local government to access funding to deliver this critical infrastructure is available where needed.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

KPMG's 2018 report 'The Value of Community Sport Infrastructure' said this infrastructure supported 56.5 million hours of volunteer time annually, was used by eight million people annually, generated local employment and volunteering opportunities and reduced the risk of drownings and falls. It also added at least \$16.2 billion to the national economy every year. Sporting infrastructure also provided social inclusion, community pride, a reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour and increased levels of trust.

The Western Australian (WA) Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+ argues that 'cultural infrastructure attracts cultural tourism is a catalyst for urban renewal, is a growth stimulator for the creative, knowledge and innovation economies, and is the mechanism for economic, health, environmental, and social outcomes'

Cultural and sporting infrastructure is the fabric of local communities but there is an unfair distribution resulting in under-investment and inequity. Additional funding opportunities are required for cultural, recreation and leisure facilities, including aquatic facilities, indoor sport stadiums, and multi-use community facilities, with spaces for young people and the arts. Current funding is not adequate to support the infrastructure required to service increased needs and not provided to the areas of greatest need.

Sporting and cultural organisations also provide opportunities for volunteering and community connectedness, delivering positive long-term mental health wellbeing and community connectedness to lower isolation.

Providing greater participation opportunities will improve healthier lifestyles and increase social connectivity. This contributes to healthier, more resilient, and liveable communities. Local government already contributes its fair share of this funding, and the National General Assembly is seeking a commitment from the Federal government to work in partnership with local councils with increased opportunity of funding.

## Motion number 78 Lake Macquarie City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create a dedicated funding stream to support councils to facilitate events at a community level to stimulate post-COVID economic recovery for businesses and individuals working in the tourism, hospitality, arts, and entertainment industries.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

A funding stream that supports councils to facilitate community events that use and promote local suppliers in the affected industries will help to stimulate post-COVID economic recovery in these hard-hit industries at a grassroots level.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The lockdowns and government-imposed restrictions imposed at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020 disproportionately affected the tourism, hospitality, arts, and entertainment industries due to their inability to operate effectively or at all in many cases. Most event funding streams at state and federal level are designed to support large events on a regional, state, or national scale, which may draw suppliers and patrons from outside of the immediate area. Councils, however, are uniquely placed to support these industries at the community level through focused programs of smaller events that provide business opportunities to local artists, performers, and service providers.

## WORKFORCE

### Motion number 79 Darebin City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Recognise the unprecedented impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had in compounding Australia's workforce shortages, particularly in the hospitality and agriculture sectors;**
- 2. Acknowledge the role that prolonged international and interstate border closures have had in compounding workforce shortages across the agriculture and hospitality industries which are generally highly dependent on backpackers, overseas students, and migrant workers;**
- 3. Respond to the changing nature of work across Australia as a result of the COVID19 pandemic, and the opportunities associated with working from home and the changing nature of workforce expectations amongst Australian workers;**
- 4. Invest in skills, training, and pathway opportunities to support more vulnerable community cohorts, including as a priority, socio-economic disadvantaged cohorts, longer-term unemployed and asylum-seekers, refugees to be connected to employment pathways across sectors experiencing genuine skills shortages;**
- 5. In reopening Australia's borders, prioritise opportunities to strategically increase Australia's humanitarian intake, particularly in the context of growing global tensions and**

**displacement, to support more asylum seekers and refugees find a safe place to live, raise a family, and work; and**

**6. Establish a national COVID-19 migration workforce and skills recovery taskforce, which is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all of these opportunities, and which provides ALGA and the local government sector with a seat at the table.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The ALGA discussion paper identifies a number of national issues impacting on the economy and economic participation, such as the opening of Australia's borders, workforce shortages, reengineering work, as well as ongoing issues of unemployment and underemployment.

While these issues vary across Australia, all communities are facing these challenges at a local level as they recover from the varied impacts which Covid-19 has had on their community.

We face a fundamental change in Australia's workforce and workplaces with opportunities associated with working from home and the changing nature of workforce expectations.

Concurrently, Australia continues to support vulnerable community cohorts to recover from the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on their economic participation and wellbeing.

These issues require a collective response across all levels of government to ensure we can respond to these new challenges and to enable all Australians to actively participate in economic life, and also provide a generational opportunity to support more disadvantaged community cohorts into jobs pathways, including via accommodating more asylum-seekers and refugees into employment and skills pathways across Australian regions.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Economic participation is a key social determinant of individual and community wellbeing. Our education, skills, occupation, and income strongly influence the opportunities we have and the choices that we can make regarding our overall health and wellbeing.

Investing in skills, training, and pathway opportunities to support more vulnerable community cohorts to be connected to employment pathways not only benefits individuals and families but their entire community and economy. Connecting these job seekers to sectors experiencing genuine skills shortages will enable us to address this increasing challenge.

Further to this, increasing Australia's humanitarian intake provides a significant opportunity to address skill shortages and gaps across key domestic sectors, while also serving the primary purpose of providing asylum-seekers and refugees with their fundamental human right to live in safety, free from violence and persecution.

While our foremost priority to increase resettlement of asylum-seekers and refugees humanitarian intake remains providing them safety, the skills they bring provide economic considerations towards increasing our annual humanitarian intake.

Generations of previous asylum-seekers and refugees who have come to Australia for better lives, have gone on to successfully and proudly build careers, businesses and make overwhelmingly positive contributions to Australia's social, cultural, and economic fabric, which can continue to be the case with future humanitarian intakes to Australia.

However, Australia's annual humanitarian intake was cut in 2020 from 18,750 places to 13,750. It is understood the Federal Government intends to maintain the current 13,750 intake level, however in the context of ongoing and evolving global tensions and displacements of people, including through the recent Afghanistan and Ukraine crisis, a generational opportunity exists for Australia to review and increase its refugee and asylum-seeker intake to not only provide for more humanitarian outcomes, but to also support employment, skill, and socio-economic outcomes across Australian regions.

The establishment of a national COVID-19 migration, workforce and skills recovery taskforce to oversee and coordinate all of these opportunities and pathways will further strengthen a national approach to these opportunities.

## **Motion number 80 Shoalhaven City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address the need for recovery and skills shortages across the country by creating a national vocational training strategy and associated funding to increase the number of individuals participating in training across the country.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Federal funding support to significantly increase community participation in vocational training to address skills shortages across the country.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Significant skills shortages have been identified in over 150 occupations nationally. From trades to managers, hairdressers and professionals, every sector across the country is crying out for people.

Increased resourcing to effective vocational training is critical to address this sector-wide need. A cross government partnership between federal and state governments is critical to addressing this growing issue in local government communities across the country.

## **Motion number 81 Berrigan Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to work with local councils to assist with the identification of existing skills and the types of on-the-job training in local government that might meet micro-credentialing requirements and assist local councils to take up these options at the leading edge.**



## **OBJECTIVE**

The issue for many rural and remote councils in attracting and retaining employees is gaining access to suitably qualified staff. Where they are accessed, ongoing training and professional development can be difficult given the increased costs posed by travel, accommodation, etc, to attend training. Allowing micro-credentialling through approved Registered Training Organisation (RTO) partners will allow greater recognition of local government as a career pathway for professionals and demonstrate the depth and quality of work undertaken by local governments across the country.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

One of the primary recommendations of the National Productivity Commission's 2021 findings is that industry work towards a framework that allows for micro-credentialling within the current vocational education framework.

The rules governing RTO management are onerous and beyond the scope and resourcing facilities of most local governments. Allowing relevant partnerships with TAFEs, universities, and other RTO service-providers to assess the skills developed through the various streams of local government work will assist councils to work towards attaining relevant qualifications. It will also provide the opportunity for communities to understand the broad and flexible career opportunities offered by councils across the nation.

Blockchain technology advancements may make micro-credentialling a reality where input data can be verified and matched against requirement outcomes in a closed and uniquely managed and monitored system. Allowing for micro-credentialling as a credible source of education and attainment of recognised skill sets would assist greatly with attracting and retaining staff and would provide unique opportunities for local governments to showcase the depth of skills in the sector and acknowledge the range of skills accessible in these environments.

## **Motion number 82 Western Downs Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create incentives to attract and train qualified childcare staff.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Regional and remote areas in Australia face unique challenges in the provision of childcare services.

According to a survey from Australia Talks (2021), 57 percent of rural families struggle to access early childhood education and care (ECEC) services, equating to six out of 10 regional families. In some instances, families have to travel over 100km to the nearest childcare centre. In metropolitan areas this is four out of 10 families.

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority predicts the sector will need an extra 39,000 staff across Australia by 2023. This workforce gap further exacerbates challenges for regional and remote childcare centres to attract and retain staff.

Gaps in these critical services have a negative impact on the liveability Australia wide and the ability to attract and retain families in regional and remote areas.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Regional and remote areas in Australia face unique challenges in the provision of childcare services. Despite the high demand for services, existing childcare centres and family day care are unable to increase their capacity due to the difficulty in attracting qualified staff.

This is exacerbated by stringent staff-child ratios and floorspace requirements. These requirements make services for children aged 0-3 years old less profitable compared to kindergarten arrangements in which staff members can supervise a higher number of children, therefore generating a higher profit. As family day-cares are limited in the number, the spaces available for children aged 0-3 years old are even more limited.

As a result of the gaps in childcare services, many families in Australia struggle to access early childhood education and care. Gaps in these critical services have a negative impact on the liveability and ability of regional areas to attract and retain families.

The lack of access to childcare poses significant challenges for parents wishing to return to work and parents who wish to access these services for other reasons, including the social development of their children.

Child Care is a foundational requirement for addressing the skills shortages across all industries. The Federal Government should act to ensure that parents who wish to return to work can do so.

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create incentives to attract childcare workers and fund local training centres to meet the demand across Australia. Incentives to be considered:

- Increased wages to attract more staff to the industry;
- Increase childcare subsidies to ensure more places and affordability of care;
- Local training facilities in regional Australia;
- Rural rotations; and
- Distribution Priority Areas to attract skilled workers from overseas to regional and remote locations.

It is expected that the above federal incentives will attract more staff to work in the early childhood education and care industry, and more staff to work in regional and remote locations to meet the demand for care.

## Motion number 83 Murray River Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and relevant state governments to immediately relax the cross-border accreditation requirements for building surveyors to operate nationally under the Australian Building Code. Further to this, that the Federal Government introduces a rural/regional specific accreditation to ease the burden on regional councils.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The building certification industry nationally is significantly under pressure due to high-profile events such as the Opal Tower evacuation and failed cladding that has occurred in recent years in large city and high-density developments. Unfortunately, this has led to a comprehensive response from NSW Fair Trading to increase the requirements for building certifiers in terms of accreditation points of currency and an increase to the time for accreditation to approx. a 12–18-month process to be accredited in a different state (i.e., Vic to NSW).

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The increasing accreditation point for currency and higher levels of training for building certifiers has meant the following:

- Regional council building certifiers are required to do additional training almost on a monthly basis to keep their accreditation, even though the classes of development in regional areas is far less than the same scale of Sydney or Melbourne.
- Cross-border councils are not able to access interstate building certifiers as interstate accreditation is not recognised
- Private certifiers in cross-border areas are choosing to operate in Victoria for simplicity and commercial arrangements. Noting that a number of Victorian councils outsource the majority of their building certification, which has then meant access from NSW councils is limited.
- Councils are having to pay large sums of money (between \$200,000-\$400,000 per year per building certifier) to contract in services from private certification companies due to a shortage of building surveyors in the industry and high insurance costs as a result of the Opal Tower court case.

Murray River Council has taken the view of training building cadets over the past two years recognising the shortage of accredited and qualified Building certifiers. However, given the high demand for this service in the industry, it is likely that staff currently operating within local governments will seek private opportunities, due to the opportunity to earn double or triple the wage in the private sector due to the shortage.

Council is concerned that the rate of growth in our area, coupled with the lack of accredited building certifiers at council's disposal, will bring development and growth of our regional areas to a standstill in the immediate future. This will have a significant impact on the already struggling local and regional economy, even more so following the impacts of COVID on cross-border communities.

## Motion number 84 Newcastle City Council NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Note that in some jurisdictions, councillors, mayors and lord mayors are not automatically entitled to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution, despite Councillors being paid the appropriate superannuation entitlements in other jurisdictions;
2. Note that in some jurisdictions, councillors, mayors and lord mayors have the option of 'opting-in' to receive the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution only following the successful passing of a motion requiring same, allowing the issue to be politicised in council meetings;
3. Note that this sets a poor community standard and sends the wrong message to the community given that superannuation should be a universal mandatory system to support all workers in Australia; and
4. Rationalise the superannuation system for elected representatives from the local government level and mandate that all councillors across Australia automatically receive the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution.

### OBJECTIVE

The Superannuation Guarantee Contribution is a universal system, of world's best practice when it comes to ensuring adequate support for all workers in retirement.

In 2017, the Australian Tax Office (ATO) released findings that there are at least 2.4 million (about 30 percent) of workers who have been underpaid their superannuation entitlements. This is a concern, as the purpose of superannuation is to provide income in retirement to substitute or supplement the age pension.

If the NSW government continues to fail to ensure that mayors and councillors in NSW are compulsorily paid the SG (currently at 9.5 percent), what kind of a message is this sending employers that also fail to make the appropriate payments? Many mayors and councillors rely solely on the income they derive from their duties on local government and their legislated entitlement to superannuation should not be allowed to be used as a partisan, political plaything in the council chamber. What kind of community standard is being set from the continued failure to make the appropriate payment of superannuation?

In Victoria and Queensland, mayors and councillors are paid the appropriate superannuation entitlements.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

Exclusion from superannuation unfair to state's councillors and mayors

Opinion | Newcastle Herald - Cr Adam Shultz

13 December 2018

The Superannuation Guarantee (SG) contribution is compulsory for all employers in Australia. This applies to all employment in the private sector, not-for-profit or government related roles and all remunerated board roles where an individual earns more than \$450 in

a calendar month. Despite this, in NSW, mayors and councillors that serve on local government are excluded by the operation of section 251 of the Local Government Act 1993, which provides that mayors and councillors fees do not constitute salary for the purposes of any act.

A collective of Labor, Liberal and Independent councillors co-authored a motion on Lake Macquarie City Council that has passed and will advocate for change. We believe that the current situation is discriminatory and out of step with community expectations.

The federal government takes the non-payment of superannuation very seriously, with the Treasury Laws Amendment (2018 Measures No 4) Bill 2018 recently passing the Senate. This Bill will allow the ATO to instruct an employer to pay the SG amount and outstanding liabilities or face severe financial penalties and up to 12 months imprisonment, or both.

In Victoria and Queensland, mayors and councillors are paid the appropriate superannuation entitlements. It is time to stop discriminating against mayors and councillors in NSW.

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING

### Motion number 85 Brimbank City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Establish a dedicated and ongoing community resilience and fairness response package to ensure our most vulnerable community members are protected from the worst of the impacts of a prolonged pandemic, particularly the youth;**
- 2. Increase funding for local learning and job preparation programs and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment; and**
- 3. Reinvigorate, invest in, and grow local manufacturing.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

In Australia, the pandemic has compounded a decade of high youth unemployment. Young people have borne the brunt of job losses in businesses most affected by lockdown and social distancing restrictions, such as hospitality venues, retail outlets, gymnasiums, entertainment venues and the tourism sector. School-leavers missed out on opportunities to land their first job, and university students lost the service industry jobs supporting them through their studies.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

While the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact across many dimensions of our community, its effect on unemployment is particularly concerning, especially amongst young people and other vulnerable cohorts. Most young people weren't in jobs where they could work from home. Ongoing restrictions and prolonged lockdowns over a two-year

period have made it increasingly difficult for young people to retain their employment or find new employment.

## **Motion number 86 South Burnett Regional Council QLD**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support rural and regional communities with increased funding and facilities to meet the growing needs of youth with mental health issues, including early intervention programs and ensuring equity of access to services.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Collaboration and Partnerships – Mental Health

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Mental health problems are common in adolescence and early adulthood. It is estimated that in any given year one in four Australians aged 16-24 years will experience mental illness. Research shows that young people in regional areas face a higher risk of suicide and may be exposed to a unique set of structural, economic, and social factors that may result in poorer mental health outcomes.

The South Burnett local government area has a population of around 35,000 residents. Young people (aged 10-20 years) make up more than 12 percent of the population.

Around 25 percent of youth (aged 15-24 years) have a mental health care plan with their local doctor.

One in 13 (8 percent) young people aged 11-17 years had a major depressive disorder with the prevalence highest in girls aged 16-17 years (20 percent).

One in 12 (8 percent) adolescents aged 12-17 years had self-harmed in the previous 12 months.

Mental health concerns are prevalent due to many families experiencing unemployment, family breakup, and the effects of long-term drought.

While adolescence and young adulthood can be a particularly challenging time, it is importantly also a period in which there is great potential to increase protective factors associated with mental wellbeing and reduce the risk factors associated with mental illness.

Supportive social environments and social networks, including access to targeted programs that strengthen a person's capacity to regulate emotions and build resilience for managing difficult situations and adversity, can make a real difference in young people's lives.

## Motion number 87 Cumberland Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Create a local youth jobs program at the local government level;**
- 2. Establish a youth employment facilitator in each local government area;**
- 3. Provide a local youth employment recovery fund for each local government area; and**
- 4. Provide incentives for local employers to deliver well paid, meaningful, secure work for local youth.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To further develop the Commonwealth Funded Local Youth jobs program to allow facilitation at a local government level.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Young people are disproportionately disadvantaged by any economic downturn. They have been hit hardest by the COVID pandemic, with those under 35 accounting for almost 80 percent of the jobs lost during extended lock downs. Youth long-term unemployment has hit a five-year high. Youth employment has fallen even as the number of those in work has risen for every other age group. This experience has highlighted the systemic barriers that have impacted the lives of young adults for some time, compounding previous shortfalls in youth support programs.

Our young people are struggling to find secure, meaningful work with serious implications for their financial, physical, and mental health. For many, wages remain at pre-crisis level, 1 in 7 are underemployed and 1 in 3 are downgrading or working well below their qualification level.

The Commonwealth Local Jobs Program does not prioritise youth employment initiatives, is at the regional rather than local level, does not specify local councils as major stakeholders, and is seriously underfunded at just \$12.5 million per year for the entire country.

As the closest level of government to local communities, local councils have the greatest knowledge to identify current and emerging local employment opportunities. It is essential that local councils be provided with the necessary funding to support local business in engaging and skilling local youth for increased long term workforce participation.

## Motion number 88 Moreland City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Acknowledge the harm that gambling does across the country, the role that local government has in managing the impact of gambling harm on local communities and take practical action to minimise gambling harm;**
- 2. Ban all forms of gambling advertisements on broadcast and online platforms during live sports events;**
- 3. Establish and implement a national fund to invest in local community-based responses**

to gambling harm such as the successful Libraries After Dark program in Victoria; and  
**4. Establish a national community divestment fund to assist local sporting clubs and community groups to transition away from electronic gambling machines as an income stream.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Australians lost approximately \$25 billion on legal forms of gambling in 2018-19, representing the largest per-capita losses in the world (Letts 2018; QGSO 2021). Gambling harm has significant detrimental impacts, with social costs estimated at around \$7 billion in Victoria alone (Browne et al. 2017). The social costs of gambling include adverse financial impacts, emotional and psychological costs, relationship and family impacts and breakdown as well as productivity loss and work impacts. These gambling-related harms not only affect the people directly involved, but also their families, peers, colleagues, and the wider community (Goodwin et al. 2017).

There is emerging evidence that people pivoted to gambling during the COVID-19 pandemic and when venues reopened and there is a risk these harmful behaviours will continue. We must do more to support our local communities in these challenging times during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and other stresses.

A government-fund and government partnership would reduce the risk of gambling harm by:

- assisting local sporting clubs and community groups to transition away from gambling as a revenue stream; and
- investing in proven local government-facilitated community initiatives to strengthen community resilience.

A ban on all forms of gambling advertisements on broadcast and online platforms during live sports events is crucial to reducing gambling harm.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Participation in sports betting is rising, particularly in younger age groups: from 2014 to 2018, the rate of sports betting among 18–24-year-olds increased from 9.2 percent to approximately 11.5 percent, around double that of the overall adult population.

Online sports betting participation has increased as gambling industry advertising expenditure has increased – \$271.3 million in Australia in 2020 compared to \$89.7 million in 2011. These figures exclude social media, sponsorships, and in-program content, such as during live sports broadcasts. There were 136,918 gambling advertisements on Australian free-to-air TV in 2016 an average of 374 per day.

Gambling ads have high visibility, low public support and play a key role in normalising sports wagering. This is particularly so for children: three-quarters of Australian children aged 8-16 years who watch sport think betting on sport is normal and can name one or more sports betting companies. Gambling advertising and inducements are known to encourage riskier betting, increase the amount of money bet, and elicit excitement that



encourages people to bet. This is consistent with research on tobacco advertising, which has shown that advertisements for tobacco are linked with increased levels of smoking in adolescents.

Like online sports betting, electronic gambling machines are a drain on local economies and local businesses and communities cannot afford these losses. Of the \$25 billion total gambling losses in Australia in 2017-2018, losses on poker machines accounted for around 50 percent (\$12.52 billion).

While gambling venues offer employment opportunities, jobs intensity – jobs associated with gambling venues – is quite low at 3.2 jobs per million dollars of gambling income, compared with 20.2 jobs per million dollars of income from meals and food sales.

Gambling-related community benefits schemes have also been found to be inefficient in certain jurisdictions and fail to reach the communities they are meant to benefit. Gambling operators often seek to persuade governments and the public of their virtue by funding 'good causes'. In Australia, and other countries, gambling operators are also required by law to donate some of their revenue for community and charitable purposes. Recently published research examined three years of these contributions in Victoria, finding that clubs donated mostly to themselves, where operating expenses accounted for the vast majority of 'community benefits'. This is permitted under the regulations but is strongly at odds with the claim that that clubs provide significant support to the community.

While the full impact of the pandemic on gambling behaviours is still unfolding, there is emerging evidence that people pivoted to gambling during the pandemic and when venues re-opened. When surveying people who already gamble, the Australian Institute of Family Studies found that almost 1 in 3 survey participants signed up for a new online betting account during COVID-19, and 1 in 20 started gambling online. Even with limited access to venues, overall, participants gambled more often during COVID-19. The proportion who gambled four or more times a week increased from 23 percent to 32 percent. Of concern, 79 percent of participants were classified as being at risk of, or already experiencing, gambling-related harm. Without practical action to minimise gambling harm, there is real concern that harmful gambling behaviours will not just continue but increase and will continue to impact local government and its services.

## Motion number 89 Darebin City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Permanently increase JobSeeker Payments to at least \$69 a day;**
- 2. Support increases to the minimum wage in line with the cost of living;**
- 3. Ensure that increases to JobSeeker and the minimum wage do not come at the expense of other vital supports provided to people experiencing disadvantage and hardship; and**
- 4. Partner with local governments to facilitate these measures, and to identify and invest in targeted measures that address and respond to socio-economic disadvantage and inequality across Australian communities.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Advocating to increase JobSeeker and enhance Federal Government efforts to address socio-economic challenges across Australian communities, directly align with ALGA's 2020-23 Strategic Plans Stronger Community Resilience Pillar, and the 2022 NGA's Discussion Paper's priorities around COVID-19 Recovery Challenges, Jobs, Building Back Business, Workforce Shortages and Re-engineering Work.

As the closest level of government of the community, local governments continue to directly witness firsthand the significant impact that poverty and disadvantage have on a community's wellbeing. These pre-existing challenges which have now been compounded by the impact of the COVID-19, require a renewed partnership approach between federal and local government.

While socio-economic challenges vary between regions, throughout Australian municipalities poverty and disadvantage continue to have significant social and economic impacts.

Evidence suggests the provision of an appropriate social security payment for individuals seeking work, and an appropriate minimum wage for workers and households, can make a significant contribution in addressing socio-economic disadvantage, inequality, and poverty.

Increasing these payments can reduce inequality, and help ensure people, often the most vulnerable, can be lifted out of poverty, to participate as equal members of our and economy.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Australia's unemployment payment remains one of the lowest in the OECD and hasn't risen in line with national living standards for a quarter of a century.

While the Federal Government increased the payment in 2021, the payment to job-seekers still does not cover the cost of basic, essential items and leaves many recipients living in poverty.

Many recipients face food insecurity, inability to pay for utility bills, poorer health and wellbeing outcomes, and the increased prospect of homelessness. The cost of these issues is, in turn, felt by the community and all levels of government, as it then places increased strain and demand on more services to support people experiencing poverty.

But along with the unemployment benefit being insufficient, many people who are in full-time employment also struggle to cover the basic cost of living and necessities due to the current minimum wage.

Whilst the local government sector acknowledges the 2.5 percent increase to the national minimum wage in 2021, significant more scope exists for the Federal Government to implement measures that support and foster an increase to the minimum wage, whilst addressing the broader cost of living issues.

The impacts of COVID-19 have further compounded pre-existing inequality issues across Australia, with the economic impact has been felt harder in regions already experiencing greater levels of socio-economic distress.

However, the measures implemented during 2020 and 2021, including increased JobKeeper and the JobSeeker payments at the height of the pandemic, showed that with federal leadership, we can begin to meaningfully address inequality and disadvantage at local levels.

Research from the Australian National University's Centre for Social Research and Methods found that during 2020, the poverty gap lowered by 39 percent, and the number of people in poverty lowered by around 32 percent.

The decision to introduce increased JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments during 2020 meant that for the first many of our most disadvantaged were provided with an enhanced safety net during prolonged lockdowns, with many for the first time not living and experiencing life below the poverty line.

An appropriate ongoing social security payment and minimum wage can enhance the safety net across the country and living standards. It can also play a leading role in continuing to stimulate local economic activity throughout communities whilst addressing socio-economic disadvantage.

A renewed partnership approach between the Federal Government and local government, to help facilitate increased JobSeeker Payments and minimum wage rate, can also be integrated as part of a comprehensive partnership to identify, and invest in targeted measures that address and respond to socio-economic disadvantage and inequality across Australian communities.

Building off existing Federal government initiatives, including City Deal Frameworks, Regional Jobs and Skills Taskforce's, Local Jobs Programs, and Community Health and Wellbeing Services, the local government sector welcomes the chance to align its existing local services and resources that can help both levels better coordinate and respond to ongoing socio-economic challenges as part of COVID-19 recovery, and into the future.

### Motion number 89.1 Newcastle City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Note that the severe economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been cushioned by Commonwealth, state, and local policy interventions, including the JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments;**
- 2. Note that prior to the \$550 per fortnight increase in the JobSeeker payment in April 2020, the JobSeeker/NewStart rate had not been increased in real terms in 26 years.**
- 3. Note that in February 2021, the Commonwealth increased the JobSeeker rate by just \$50 a fortnight, to \$307 per week for a single adult, still well below the poverty line in Australia, and also coinciding with the end of the \$75 per week coronavirus supplement, which will leave recipients \$50 a week worse off than they currently are; and**

**4. Call on the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Commonwealth Parliament to permanently raise the rate of JobSeeker by between \$185 per week and \$275 per week.**

**OBJECTIVE**

The National General Assembly acknowledges the recent increase to the JobSeeker payment of \$25 per week, noting that the Coronavirus supplement of \$75 a week ended on 31 March 2021, leaving unemployed Australians \$50 a week worse off than previously.

**KEY ARGUMENTS**

A wide cross-section of Australian civil society has previously called on the Commonwealth to permanently 'Raise the Rate' to provide dignity and wellbeing to unemployed Australians, as well as an economic boost for businesses, including:

- Australia's chief banker, RBA Governor Philip Lowe;
- The Business Council of Australia, which said that the low JobSeeker rate: 'erodes the capacity of people to present themselves well or maintain their readiness for work';
- The Australian Council of Social Services;
- The Grattan Institute;
- The Sydney Morning Herald Editorial Board;
- Respected economists, including Professor Jeff Borland, who found that the JobSeeker supplement had: 'not made it harder to fill jobs, nor has it slowed the rate of people obtaining employment'; and
- The Reference Group on Welfare Reform to the Minister for Social Services

**Motion number 90 City of Charles Sturt SA**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to advocate that both major political parties expand the scope of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to enable local governments to receive Commonwealth contributory funding. This funding would contribute to community facilities and assets in support of NDIS eligible recipients, and other community members who may benefit from them. For example, improved accessibility of recreational facilities and other infrastructure assets.**

**OBJECTIVE**

While the NDIS framework aims to provide high-quality support and safe environments for all NDIS participants, local councils also seek to support this scheme through the provision of recreational facilities and other infrastructure assets.

**KEY ARGUMENTS**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) represents a fundamental change to the way people with disability are supported in their everyday lives.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is an independent statutory agency whose role it is to implement the NDIS.

NDIS aims to support a better life for hundreds of thousands of Australians with a significant and permanent disability and their families and carers.

As at 2021, and within the next five years, NDIS will provide more than \$22 billion in annual funding to an estimated 500,000 Australians.

In November 2021, Ms Tracy Mackey was appointed the new National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commissioner. Ms Mackey has been appointed for three years from 10 January 2022.

Local council communities are not just limited to NDIS-eligible recipients but other community members who could benefit from them also.

Expanding the NDIS to enable local governments to receive Commonwealth contributory funding would create an opportunity to plan community facilities and other infrastructure assets informed by the NDIS framework. This would support of NDIS eligible recipients and other community members who may benefit from them.

## Motion number 90.1 South Burnett Regional Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for a continuation of funding for rural communities in addition to the identified funded programs under the National Disability Insurance Schemes.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Collaboration and Partnerships

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The recognition of the diversity that exists within communities and identification of the varying needs of people with disability who reside in rural and remote areas is important. We believe that any strategy that continues to support service-delivery in rural and remote communities, particularly those communities that include a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, is vital to ensuring equality of access to services and quality of life outcomes.

There needs to be emphasis placed on the important role of genuine and collaborative engagement to inform the way agencies and service providers deliver the NDIS. Local government must be an equal partner in these discussion with the state and federal government so that our communities can truly become 'communities of choice' for those accessing the NDIS.

## Motion number 91 City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters SA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

- 1. Reaffirm its commitment to the National Strategy for Volunteering, and the ongoing monitoring of volunteer work through the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and**
- 2. Provide adequate funding to volunteer agencies, including local government, to support actions that increase volunteer participation and adapt volunteering programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Volunteering is key to keeping people feeling connected and provided with critical support, particularly the vulnerable, isolated, and disengaged members of the community. Our councils rely on volunteers to provide a myriad of local activities and programs in our playing fields, parks, community centres, libraries, and vital programs such as emergency services and community visitor schemes.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Volunteering plays a key role in sustaining healthy, resilient communities. It also contributes significantly to the quality, vibrancy, and coherence of our society. Prior to COVID-19, volunteering participation (through organisations and groups) had been declining over time.

Official data from the ABS shows that the formal volunteering rate declined from 36 percent in 2010 to 29 percent in 2019, with the decline most evident for women. Volunteers contributed nearly 600 million hours to the community in 2019, a 20 percent decrease since 2014.

Many of the problems that impede the volunteering sector today are long-standing issues such as inadequate resourcing of volunteer management, poor recognition of volunteers, and an overall lack of strategic development and investment.

Volunteering was hit hard by COVID-19. Research from the Australian National University revealed that two out of three volunteers (66 percent) stopped volunteering in 2020 during the early stages of COVID-19, with the reduction in volunteering being equivalent to 12.2 million hours per week. By May 2021, only half (56 percent) of volunteers who had stopped volunteering due to COVID-19 had returned.

Volunteering Australia is leading the development of the National Strategy for Volunteering, which will provide a blueprint for a reimagined future for volunteering in Australia. It will be designed and owned by the volunteering ecosystem, which includes local government. Councils not only manage their own volunteering programs, but also support thousands of grassroots associations which provide critical community connection opportunities and services for their citizens.

Recognising and leveraging the role of local government in supporting the volunteering ecosystem is critical in the face of declining rates of people volunteering through organisations, and the effects of COVID-19.

Local government recognises the significant contribution made by volunteers in both the running of community facilities and in the carrying out of community services.

Leadership at the national level is needed to work in partnership with local government, and other volunteer support agencies, to provide safe and rewarding opportunities for volunteers for the benefit of Australian communities.

## TAXATION REFORM

### Motion number 92 Gunnedah Shire Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to delay any cut or suspension of the current fuel excise tax arrangements until such time as a genuine reform package can be legislated to replace the tax with a mechanism which distributes this vital road maintenance funding across all road users regardless of fuel type.**

#### OBJECTIVE

The core funding stream for roads, which drive productivity and connectivity of all our LGAs, must be secured for longer than the immediate future. As the increasing trend of EVs and other road-going vehicles not powered by fossil fuels takes hold across the nation, the fuel excise tax will become a less effective means of capturing a 'user pays' funding stream. Genuine reform is urgently needed to preserve our roads into the future.

#### KEY ARGUMENTS

According to the Electric Vehicle Council of Australia's research report, State of Electric Vehicles, EVs represented approx. 1 percent of new vehicle sales in 2020. This was a near doubling from 2019 where EVs accounted for 0.6 percent of new vehicle sales. Crucially, more than 56 percent of respondents to their market research surveys indicated EVs would be considered in their next vehicle purchasing decision.

Clearly, the marketplace is moving, and this is being driven by consumers. 2022's fuel price crunch is only going to accelerate this transformation of our nation's main form of personal transport energy use.

FY20's fuel excise revenue collected by the ATO reached just over \$11 billion. The fuel excise level is a flat tax rate applied on top of the bowser price of fuel, so has not moved up in line with the increase in the cost of fuel. Rather, the increasing trend of EVs (granted, minor compared to COVID-19 impacts felt in FY21) will work to reduce the revenue generate from the user-pays tax scheme. So, whilst the fuel excise rate increases, lower than CPI, and inflationary pressures rapidly increase the national bill for road construction and maintenance, the principle means of spreading this burden across road-users will become less effective – an increasing share of road-users will receive a free drive via the use of EVs on the road network.

This will lead to a clear shortfall of funding and in turn a reduction in the level of service able to be provided to road users.

We need to act now and secure real reform in the area by introducing a replacement for fuel excise which has a future proof link to road usage.

## Motion number 93 Brighton Council TAS

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to remove/exempt Fringe Benefits Tax on electric or zero emission vehicles where use is restricted to travel between home and work.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) is administered by the Australian Government and adds a significant cost barrier to the transition to lower-emission vehicles.

Cost is one of the biggest barriers preventing broadscale switches to electric or zero emission vehicle in local government fleets.

Applying FBT to electric and zero emission vehicles effectively renders these vehicles prohibitively expensive. If an FBT exemption applied to electric vehicles, it would, in most cases, be cost-effective for example, for Brighton Council, to make the switch to electric options.

Greater climate change action is a key priority in the NGA discussion paper and amongst local governments throughout Australia. Achieving carbon neutrality at least cost and in the transport sector relies heavily on reducing cost barriers.

Electric vehicle markets are expanding rapidly throughout the world, yet in Australia electric vehicles represent less than 2 percent of all registered vehicles.

The FBT barrier for zero-emission vehicles should be raised at NGA as removing FBT is a fundamental way that multiple levels of government in Australia can work in partnership to facilitate larger-scale emission reductions in the transport sector and across government operations.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Many local governments across Australia are focussed on a least-cost transition to carbon neutrality. Lowering greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning vehicle fleets to non-fossil-fuel-based technology plays a key role.

The Australian Government Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) leads to the selection of larger and more inefficient vehicles rather than smaller more efficient vehicles and electric or zero emission options. Local governments are currently incentivised to buy diesel or petrol Utes for commuter restricted vehicles, over electric vehicle sedans due to the significant FBT savings. Sedans, restricted to commuter use, attract FBT, while Utes and vans do not attract FBT.



Options to transition the light vehicle fleet to lower-emission options are limited by market costs and vehicle availability as well as FBT. For example, Brighton Council recently reviewed vehicle fleet options and found limited opportunity as:

- the majority of light vehicles are commuter restricted;
- electric Utes and vans are either not readily available, or expensive; and
- the addition of FBT made the business case prohibitively expensive.

The FBT cost is significant, being approximately 20percent of the vehicle purchase price to be paid every year. More expensive vehicles attract a higher FBT for each vehicle, for example a vehicle in the \$40,000 range costs at least \$8,000 in FBT a year while a \$65,000 vehicle costs \$13,000 in FBT annually.

Brighton Council reviewed opportunities to switch to full electric vehicles as part of endorsing a corporate emission reduction target of 30 percent below 2021 levels by 2030, on the pathway to zero emissions by 2040. This highlighted the need to transition the light vehicle fleet to electric options on a case-by-case basis, however with FBT cost barriers switchovers are not currently cost effective.

Brighton Council gained strong support from the Tasmanian local government sector to lobby the Federal Government to remove FBT from fully electric and zero emission vehicles. At a Local Government of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting held in Launceston (March 2022), Tasmanian councils overwhelmingly voted in support of Brighton Council's motion that LGAT advocate to the Federal Government for this exemption. LGAT noted that the motion aligns with LGAT's Annual Plan 2022 to support local government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Brighton Council first brought this to the attention of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) at the end of last year, seeking endorsement from the STCA, via the Regional Climate Change Initiative, to send an advocacy letter on behalf of the STCA to The Hon. Angus Taylor MP, Federal Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions. This letter was sent to the Minister in December 2021 and a reply articulated that the current Liberal Coalition Government recently reviewed the application of FBT to electric vehicles as part of the national Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy and opted not to alter the existing FBT policy.

Communities look to governments for leadership on issues such as climate change action. It is a core priority in the National General Assembly (NGA) Discussion Paper 2022 and has been at previous NGAs.

## **Motion number 94 Broken Hill City Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create a regional tax incentive to equalise the current remote area Fringe Benefit Tax concessions from 50 percent to 100 percent to enable all employees residing in regional and remote communities across Australia access to the same allowances as their employers.**

**The tax incentive will assist to drive regional relocation, to smooth out the volatility of housing prices with the aim to address the regional housing affordability crisis across Australia (especially in regional areas affected by the boom-bust cycle of mining industries).**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Broken Hill City Council's motion aims to address the housing affordability crisis which is currently affecting many regional communities in Australia.

At the 27 October 2021, Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to contribute \$20,000 to stage 2 of the More than Mining Campaign as a founding member of the Australian Mining Cities Alliance.

The More than Mining campaign now has national representation from the Australian Mining Cities Alliance, as representative body for:

- Broken Hill City Council (NSW);
- Isaac Regional Council (QLD);
- Mount Isa City Council (QLD);
- City of Karratha (WA);
- City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (WA);
- Regional Development Australia Pilbara; and
- Karratha & Districts Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Additional funding support is derived from partnering remote mining Local Government Areas:

- West Cost Council (TAS);
- Shire of East Pilbara (WA);
- Town of Port Headland (WA);
- Shire of Coolgardie (WA);
- Shire of Leonora (WA); and
- Shire of Dundas (WA)

In-principal support from:

- Mareeba Shire (QLD);
- Tablelands Regional Council (QLD); and
- Regional Development Australia Tropical North QLD.

The support gained from across the country validates the strength of the tax reform proposal. The councils involved in the More than Mining Campaign want to put their weight behind solutions that will result in sustainable, stable, and inclusive regional communities, attractive to skilled and diverse residential workforces who will continue to fortify our nation's economic prosperity

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The More than Mining campaign was launched to unite regional councils to fight for affordable housing solutions for their communities which are being crippled by skyrocketing housing prices.

The goal of the campaign is to create a sustainable, stable, and inclusive regional communities, home to skilled and diverse residential workforces who continue to fortify our nation's economic prosperity. It seeks to ensure that residents who do not have a large income base are not forced out of rural, regional, and remote communities because of unaffordable housing during economic boom periods when rents and housing prices increase and aims to retain a permanent resident base in these communities

The More Than Mining tax reform proposes that current remote area Fringe Benefit Tax concessions be equalized from 50 percent to 100 percent to enable all employees residing in regional and remote mining communities across Australia access to the same allowances as their employers.

This means that individuals could buy a house, or rent a house, completely with pre-tax dollars. With a lower tax payment, people can be more secure in a decision to buy a house with improved borrowing capacity. This helps to normalise house prices and smooth out the boom-bust impacts on property values, making it financially more attractive for residents to live in regional mining towns and cities, and ultimately slowing population churn and stabilising the demand for housing in regional Australia.

It is a proposal for a systemic change to build strength and cohesion into the future within the communities who contribute so much to the nation's economic prosperity.

## **Motion number 95 Inner West Council NSW**

**That this National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to change the taxation code to eliminate incentives that reward activities and purchases that are worse for public health, are more expensive for households, result in worse domestic energy security, and worsen climate change.**

**The Assembly calls on the Federal Government to change the taxation code to address this, including:**

- 1. Support residential and commercial landlords to improve the health, comfort, and energy security of their tenants by changing the status of energy-efficient, water-efficient, and renewable appliances and structures so that they qualify for accelerated depreciation or extension of the Temporary Full Expensing Measures for Landlords for a period through to 2030;**
- 2. Amend the taxation system such that when a landlord replaces an appliance that has poor air quality outcomes with a cleaner system (e.g., gas cooktop with induction cooktop, or a gas heater versus reverse cycle air conditioner),**

this is also captured through the Temporary Full Expensing Measures for Landlords rather than a capital expense that is to be depreciated over its effective useful life;

3. Increase the effective useful lives for those appliances that actively contribute to poor indoor air quality and worsened health outcomes such that the depreciation claim will be smaller in each year;
4. Factoring in the weight and energy source of a vehicle when deciding the allowable depreciation, in recognition that the damage done to roads is proportional to the fourth power of the weight, and thus increases rapidly for heavier vehicles (using a different scale for electric vehicles);
5. In order to improve public health due to air pollution and lack of physical activity, phase in changes to the way that motor vehicle expenses can be deducted to encourage the uptake of bicycles, e-bikes, and electric cargo bikes for commuting and business purposes, and in those cases where cars or other motor vehicles are required, make changes to ensure that electric vehicles are favoured over petrol and diesel vehicles; and
6. Call on the Federal Government to make these amendments to the relevant tax legislation to give effect to these measures as soon as possible.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

In many cases throughout our society, the tax system specifically rewards activities and purchases that are worse for public health, are more expensive for households, result in worse domestic energy security, and worsen climate change.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Federal Government can change the taxation code to address this, including by:

- Supporting residential and commercial landlords to improve the health, comfort, and energy security of their tenants by changing the status of energy efficient, water efficient, and renewable appliances and structures so that they qualify for accelerated depreciation or extension of the Temporary Full Expensing Measures for Landlords for a period through to 2030; and
- Amending the taxation system such that when a landlord replaces an appliance that has poor air quality outcomes with a cleaner system (e.g., gas cooktop with induction cooktop, or a gas heater versus reverse cycle air conditioner), this is also captured through the Temporary Full Expensing Measures for Landlords rather than a capital expense that is to be depreciated over its effective useful life.

# ADDITIONAL ISSUES

## Motion number 96 City of Holdfast Bay SA

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian, state, and local government associations to investigate and, where feasible, work with willing councils to trial innovative public governance models (including liquid democracy) to strengthen the connectivity and relevance of the local government sector into the future.**

### OBJECTIVE

Trust in government has been in decline for decades across the globe. Notwithstanding this, trust increases with localisation. Where there is local trust, this should be used to strengthen the overall health of democracy.

For better or worse, technology has been disrupting every sphere of human endeavour at an increasing rate, leading to greater community expectations across the board. The same things cannot keep being delivered in the same ways.

While the principles of democracy are arguably more important today than they've ever been, the perceived relevance of institutions, including governments, is waning.

With the exception of universal suffrage being introduced, the existing model of democracy has remained largely unchanged for over a century. Public governance has been one of the last segments to explore and implement opportunities that new technologies offer, communities expect, and waning trust requires. Exploring such opportunities proactively and courageously can help rebuild trust in government and futureproof the connectivity and relevance of the local government sector into the future, particularly in the face of diminished trust, and ongoing pressures to streamline or minimise government expenditure.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

The Edelman Trust Barometer, an annual global survey of more than 36,000 respondents in 28 countries, has tracked trust for over 20 years. The Barometer has tracked an alarming erosion of trust in government, which is now the least trusted sector and widely perceived as being unable to solve societal problems.

While local governments are generally perceived as more trustworthy than their federal counterparts, there is nevertheless a significant trust gap. If left unchecked, a cycle of distrust can negatively affect social stability. On the other hand, there is an opportunity to build on existing local trust to strengthen the social fabric of our nation, from the ground up.

While technology has the potential to create significant gains and benefits, it has also contributed to social, economic, and environmental volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA) at local, state, national and global levels. Echo chambers, fake news, manufactured outrage and being addictive by design have all contributed to the fraying of social fabrics and have sown seeds of distrust and discontent.

Technology has also put pressure on all services to be fast/immediate, available anytime, personalised, and available via many channels (including digital). Expectations for services of this kind create a stark contrast against public governance models, which are not real-time or digitally accessible, and tend more towards bluntness than nuance or personalisation. Examples include party-line voting and only being able to exercise a vote every several years. With such a substantial contrast, it's not difficult to understand why many people eschew engagement in public governance.

In the face of VUCA conditions and threats to social stability, the health, strength, and vitality of democracy are all the more important. While voting is compulsory across all levels of government in many parts of Australia, trust levels indicate an underlying level of disengagement. Many people across our communities have forgotten (or are unaware of) Franklin D Roosevelt's words that 'government is ourselves and not an alien power over us'.

Innovative public government models can reverse the cycle of distrust and negative perceptions of relevance, while improving connectivity. Such models could include liquid democracy (delegative democracy whereby a community engages in collective decision-making through direct and dynamic participation), amongst others.

Choosing to proactively explore and, where feasible, trial new models of public governance can ensure local government builds on its strengths, provides added levels of connectivity to its communities, and leads by example, for state and federal counterparts to learn from. It also demonstrates significant courage and foresight, which are in keeping with the values and characteristics often found in local government.

The first steps would be to explore and articulate a range of possible models, followed by small-scale trials to test feasibility. Undertaking this as a sector-wide initiative protects democracy and provides appropriate public governance oversight, while also providing pathways to implementation should new models be worthwhile.

## Motion number 97 Livingstone Shire Council QLD

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to write to each state Premier, requesting that future COVID mandates that are likely to have negative impacts on local businesses and unvaccinated members of our communities be discussed with the ALGA Executive prior to introduction.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

A meeting of approximately 400 local business owners was held in Yeppoon on 15 November 2021 to raise concerns about the restrictions being introduced by the Queensland Government apparently to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the community, and to increase vaccination rates. This number represented the majority of businesses in Livingstone Shire.

The attendees were extremely concerned that the proposed mandates would result in the loss of employment for many workers, particularly in the hospitality industry, and would negatively affect trade to the point that their businesses would become unviable.

This is a situation not unique to Queensland. It is a situation occurring in all states of Australia. The motion seeks cooperation from state governments in discussing proposed future mandates with the ALGA Executive prior to the implementation of future mandates affecting business, so that member councils can be made aware of likely impacts on their communities' businesses, and to allow appropriate planning for the impacts to occur.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Concerns were also raised in relation to the lack of clarity around some of the mandates, particularly the potential liability relating to Workcover and workplace health and safety obligations.

The meeting sought assistance from Council to advocate for the mandates scheduled for introduction on 17 December 2021 to be reviewed, and hopefully withdrawn.

At a Special Meeting of Council on 17 December 2021, council resolved as follows: THAT:

1. Following the Premier's offer to Queensland Councils to provide feedback on her government's proposal to introduce COVID-19 restrictions for unvaccinated persons from 17 December 2021 Livingstone Shire Council advises that:

a. several hundred business owners within the Central Queensland region attended a meeting at Yeppoon on Monday 15 November 2021 and expressed strong and unreserved concern about the impacts that the new restrictions will have on business, patrons, and employees;

b. vaccination should be an individual's choice and employers should not be forced to exclude valued employees from the workplace for exercising that choice;

c. these restrictions will hinder Queensland's economic recovery by not allowing full participation following the re-opening of borders;

d. the restrictions will also hinder business (to the point of closure in some instances) operating at full potential as regional Queensland's pool of employee candidates will be reduced by the new restrictions;

e. local businesses remain unsure about their obligations and liabilities for employees under Work Health and Safety legislation;

2. Council respectfully requests that the Premier takes the concerns of the business community into account and reconsiders the decision to introduce restrictions for unvaccinated people from 17 December 2021.

Post the December 17, 2021, resolution leading up to Christmas, holiday makers brought good business to the shire's retail, accommodation, and hospitality operators. However, with constant messaging from state governments about the risks of contracting Covid-19 if

moving around the community, and further messaging to 'stay at home unless you absolutely need to go out', the traditional school holiday peak period ceased following New Year's Day.

## Motion number 98 Borough of Queenscliffe VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to adopt a unified approach to transitioning refugees on Temporary Protection Visas or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas to Permanent Protection Visas as quickly as possible.**

### OBJECTIVE

Many refugees on Temporary Protection Visas or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas have lived in our communities for eight years or more, they have established community ties, made friends, had children, run businesses, and contributed more than they have taken. They have also been a cohort within our communities most impacted by COVID as casual employment disappeared and access to support was restricted. The overarching theme of the ALGA priorities is 'Don't leave communities behind'. Refugees on Temporary Protection Visas or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas are a community being left behind.

### KEY ARGUMENTS

In 2014, the Australian government brought in new laws adversely affecting people who had come by sea to seek safety in Australia. The laws removed many of the safeguards enshrined in the UN Refugee Convention, an international treaty to which Australia is a signatory. For example, the new laws:

- Retrospectively changed the status of new-born children;
- Limited or excluded access to merit-based reviews; and
- Granted the relevant Minister powers to detain people at sea and transfer them to any country the Minister chooses without Parliamentary scrutiny.

The laws were called the Migration Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Act 2014.

The legacy caseload refers to approximately 30,000 people seeking asylum who arrived in Australia by boat between 13 August 2012 and 1 January 2014; and people who came to Australia by boat before 13 August 2012, but who had not had their protection visa applications finalised by 18 September 2013.

Temporary protection visas require refugees to continually reapply for protection every few years. Refugees are denied the right to be united with family and may be sent back to a country where they were previously persecuted. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has described these conditions as punitive and noted their impact on mental health.



The Borough of Queenscliffe became a Refugee Welcome Zone signatory in 2014. A refugee Welcome Zone is an initiative of the Refugee Council of Australia where councils have made a commitment to welcoming and upholding the human rights of refugees.

In 2019 the Australian Human Rights Commission prepared a report that deals directly with the issue of temporary protection for refugees Lives on Hold: Refugees and Asylum seekers in the Legacy Case Load 2019.

One of the key findings of this report was:

‘There is a significant risk that some people in the Legacy Caseload who are in need of protection will be denied refugee status and removed from Australia, contrary to Australia's non-refoulement obligations. A robust legal framework for refugee status determination is essential for Australia to comply with its international obligations.’

## Motion number 99 Newcastle City Council NSW

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

- 1. Note that the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons is the first treaty to comprehensively outlaw nuclear weapons and provide a pathway for their elimination. This Treaty entered into force on 22 January 2021 and all national governments have been invited to sign and ratify the treaty;**
- 2. Note that the Treaty entering into force is an important milestone on the path to a nuclear weapon-free world. It makes concrete the standard that nuclear weapons are illegal and illegitimate for all states, and a permanent part of international law; and**
- 3. Welcome the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons on 22 January 2021, and sign and ratify the treaty.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The National General Assembly remains deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world.

We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching, and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

Therefore, we warmly welcome the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons on 22 January 2021, and we call on our national government to sign and ratify it without delay.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The ICAN Cities Appeal is a global call from cities and towns in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world, particularly given the current conflict in Ukraine, is grave.

We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching, and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

## **Motion number 100 Murray River Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with local government to remove impediments within the National Construction Code Series (BCA) and associated Australian Standards, that dissuade industry from adopting 3D printing, and the Government provide instruments to incentivise private industry to develop 3D printing.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

There is mounting financial pressure on governments, with limited fiscal levers available, to slow the price trajectory of housing.

Major change across any industry is difficult for profit-driven entities, especially smaller players, to orchestrate, as simply the risk is high, the financial capacity is limited, and the reward will soon be diluted across their competitors.

There are investigations into housing affordability occurring in NSW already, which is commendable. Further opportunities can be harvested if the state partners with local government to review the building codes (which by default do not currently reflect the new technology).

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Often the scale of the research and development required is beyond even the most affluent or well-resourced. The longer an industry has been in existence, the harder it is to change, amplified by the educational institutions and financial commitments that both have long lead times and future commitments.

Furthermore, regulations (in this instance building codes and standards) are always slow to change and are often an even bigger impediment. In August 2021, the first 3D printed houses were sold in the USA. The investment in research and development in 3D printed structures over the next few years in many counties, largely driven by price pressures, government policies, international treaty obligations, but also because of the frailty of global supply chains, is profound.

## Motion number 101 Frankston City VIC

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for funding support to help develop international municipal relationships such as sister cities.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

Ongoing connection with overseas locations is essential to rebuild Australian local government relationships with international counterparts post the global pandemic.

Relationships promote peaceful partnerships with like-minded international locations. Current programs vary from basic cultural exchange programs to shared research and development projects between cities with relationships.

By forming relationships between countries, local government cities and locations, people of different cultures are able to celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that lessen the chance of new conflicts.

Councils throughout Australia have established and on-going international municipal relationships which are not funded at a central level.

International municipal relationships attract global goodwill and contribute to Australia's international standing.

### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Since the global pandemic, international municipal relationships have suffered due to the inability to travel to share and celebrate cultural differences and similarities.

A federally funded program would support local government organisations to enhance current relationships and establish new ones. This would include establishing relationships such as 'Sister Cities/Towns', 'Friendship Cities/Towns and Twinning Cities/Towns.

The funding would include expenditure for incoming and outgoing delegations, emergency aid/donations, cultural immersion/exchange initiatives, and gifts.

Due to the close proximity of Australia to the Asia-Pacific region funding priority should be reserved for projects and relationships in that region.

## Motion number 102 Break O'Day Council TAS

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for a change in date for Australia Day.**

### **OBJECTIVE**

The debate around the date of Australia Day has been a matter of discussion within previous NGAs and the wider community for many years. Nothing is achieved by successive Federal governments ignoring this matter as it will not go away over a period of time. It is time to address this matter and allow the community to move on.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Supporting 2017 Motion by Hobart City Council, which called on other local governments to lobby the Federal government to debate moving Australia Day from January 26.

The first official Australia Day was held on 30 July 1915, which was to raise funds for the World War 1 effort. Australia Day was seen as a way of drawing on the pride of Australians in their soldiers' recent achievements at Gallipoli.

With the change of date to 26 January, the original meaning has been lost. This date represents a sad past of trauma and loss for our First Nations People.

## **Motion number 103 Greater Dandenong City VIC**

**Greater Dandenong City Council, as joint mover with Brimbank City Council, Darebin City Council, Monash City Council, Moreland City Council and Yarra City Council, moves that this National General Assembly:**

- 1. acknowledges the Federal Government's swift and appropriate response to the Ukrainian crisis in taking refugees over the annual humanitarian visa program quota, to be settled in local government areas;**
- 2. acknowledges the contrasting Federal Government response to the recent crisis in Afghanistan, where Afghan refugees will be allocated spots within the existing annual humanitarian visa program, over a four-year period;**

**In addition, Greater Dandenong City Council as secretariat of the local government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum on behalf of the following Councils that are members:**

- a. Executive Members' Brimbank City Council, Casey City Council, Darebin City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Hume City Council, Kingston City Council, Monash City Council, Moreland City Council, Yarra City Council;**
- b. General Members' Ballarat City Council, Banyule City Council, Bendigo City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Canterbury Bankstown City Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Inner West City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Melbourne City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Port Phillip City Council, Randwick City Council, Wagga City Council, Whittlesea City Council, Wyndham City Council; and**
- c. Supporter Councils' Bass Coast Shire Council, Greater Geelong City Council, Hobart City Council, Launceston City Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Maroondah City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Borough of Queenscliffe, Wellington Shire Council, and Whitehorse City Council;**

**Calls for a consistent approach from the Federal Government to taking humanitarian refugees from active conflict zones.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Australia operates a dedicated humanitarian program that offers resettlement for refugees and others overseas who are in humanitarian need, and protection for people who arrive lawfully in Australia and engage Australia's protection obligations [Ref: <https://bit.ly/3kwtfdx>].

The annual humanitarian intake was cut in 2020 from 18,750 places to 13,750. It is understood the government believes the 13,750 annual figure remains about the right level, but it has not ruled out increasing the numbers.

Local government plays a unique and critical role in the humanitarian settlement program. Local governments engage in actions to promote multiculturalism, social inclusion and ensure equitable access to their programs and services for all community members. Many are undertaking activities to welcome new migrant and refugee arrivals to their community and the wider Australian community, such as through becoming Refugee Welcome Zones [Ref: <https://bit.ly/3Fe6S6g>].

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Australian Government has a record of responding swiftly and humanely to refugee crisis around the world by accepting refugees in addition to Australia's annual humanitarian program quota.

Recent examples include the Balkan conflict in the 1990s in which temporary visas were provided to people fleeing Kosovo, and the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015 in which 12,000 refugees were accepted. The Government has again swiftly agreed to take refugees from the current conflict in Ukraine and place them 'on top of the pile'.

## **Motion number 104 Greater Dandenong City VIC**

**This National General Assembly:**

**1. Acknowledges and informs the Federal Government that the limited amount of support provided by the Federal Government to people seeking asylum who are awaiting their status determination is resulting in increased costs for local governments across Australia; and**

**2. Calls on the Federal Government to:**

**a. appropriately fund the Department of Immigration so that asylum applications and appeals can be urgently addressed through a single Refugee Status Determination process and an independent and fair merits review;**

**b. allow all such people to access without delay or condition, Australia's Centrelink services and Medicare benefits; and**

**c. provide TPV holders with a pathway to permanency.**

**(Ref: Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum (2022), <https://bit.ly/3vyLu8x> )**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

The plight of refugees and people seeking asylum in this country is well known, it is contrary to common decency and needs to change now. This congress is called upon to once again seek changes at the federal level so as to increase Commonwealth support for people seeking asylum and alleviate the cost-shifting that has occurred by the federal government on to local governments.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The plight of refugees and people seeking asylum in this country is well known it is contrary to common decency and needs to change now. This congress is called upon to once again seek changes at the federal level so as to increase Commonwealth support for people seeking asylum and alleviate the cost shifting that has occurred by the Federal Government on to local governments.

### **Motion number 105 Bathurst Regional Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise the fact of frontier wars which occurred between First Australians and British forces during the colonisation of Australia.**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

This motion is presented for consideration by ALGA, regarding the national issue of recognising Frontier Wars which occurred across Australia during the process of British colonisation since 1788.

#### **KEY ARGUMENTS**

Evidence of frontier conflict is an important and critical part of our national identity which deserves due recognition at the national level, and is demonstrated, for example, by the University of Newcastle's online map known as Colonial Frontier Massacres, Australia, 1788 to 1930 (ref: <https://bit.ly/3OSY6is> ).

### **Motion number 106 Parkes Shire Council NSW**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:**

**Provide strong structured VET support programs for training next generation workforce that will support the renaissance of manufacturing in Australia such as; automation, programable logic, self-guidance, robotics, and drone technology.**

## **OBJECTIVE**

Workforce Shortages and Re-engineering Work - Skilled people is a critical issue for Australia. However, there is a solution, processes which once required large labour resources, can now be completed by automation and robotics. Low paid jobs are being replaced by fewer, but highly paid jobs that are internationally exportable.

We see mines becoming fully automated, GPS guidance in agricultural machinery is common, robotics are being deployed into factories, however these skills are scarce. We need to start training for the skills of tomorrow today.

## **KEY ARGUMENTS**

The COVID pandemic has been a massive disrupter across the world, particularly in supply lines. International supplies were particularly disrupted, highlighting a weakness in our national ability to survive when these supplies are cut-off.

Manufacturing has been in decline in Australia for decades, driven by high employment costs and international competition. Australia has a reliance on the export of bulk commodities and natural resources, often with little value-adding. For example, the central NSW branch of Regional Development Australia determined that over 65 percent of the region's produce leaves the area with no value-adding.

However, currently there appears to be a renewed interest in Australian manufacturing and value-adding, driven in part by the desire to on-shore, but also by advances in manufacturing.

Processes which once required large labour resources, can now be completed by automation and robotics. Low-paid jobs are being replaced by fewer, but highly paid jobs that are internationally exportable.

We see mines becoming fully automated, GPS guidance in agricultural machinery is common, and robotics are being deployed into factories. However, these skills are scarce. We need to start training for the skills of tomorrow today.



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# Attachment 2



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
1.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Commonwealth Government and both major political parties to support a referendum on financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution.	In 1974 a referendum to give the Commonwealth powers to borrow money for, and to make financial assistance grants directly to, any local government body was not carried, with 46.85% of votes in favour.	Support in principle
1.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to hold a referendum to amend the Australian Constitution to give the Australian federal government the power to fund local governments and to enshrine people's rights to democratically elect their council.	<p>In 1988, a referendum to recognise local government in the Constitution was not carried, with 33.62 of votes in favour.</p> <p>While trust in local government is higher than in state or federal levels, since these referenda, people have become even less positively inclined towards governments in general. Therefore, there is no reason to believe referenda on these matters would be any more successful today. However, the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution is approved.</p>	Support in principle
2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note, with disappointment, that local government remains unrepresented on the National Cabinet and requests that First Ministers review the decision to exclude local government from the national decision-making table;</li> <li>2. Recognise the importance of having local government representation on National Cabinet and the value of partnerships with councils in achieving the objectives of the National Cabinet and the national reform agenda; and</li> <li>3. Include a representative from the Australian Local Government Association on the National Cabinet, to</li> </ol>	<p>While local to state to federal is a reasonable and generally effective conduit, the sentiment of achieving a collegiate and collaborative tri-level relationship is supported.</p> <p>All tiers of government are working for the same citizenry so the aim of intergovernmental relationships is to ensure all citizen needs are covered between and across the three tiers, without duplication.</p> <p>On this basis, local government doesn't have "interests" over and above, or independent of, the citizenry that state and federal governments have equal interests in.</p>	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	ensure local government's interests are strongly represented at the national level.		
3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reverse its decision to remove the Local Government Ministerial portfolio, and the position be reinstated in its entirety.		Support
4	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to conduct a review into the local government Financial Assistance Grant Act 1995 and the basis on which grant funding for roads is allocated, to create a more equitable approach to allocation and one that recognises the infrastructure managed by local government in the rural, regional and remote regions of Australia.</p> <p>Vs</p> <p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government NOT to make changes to the methodology of Financial Assistance Grants funding until it is valued back to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.</p>	<p>Motion 4 (and its subsets) comes down to a decision to either call for a change in the way grants are decided or not to change the methodology.</p> <p>Administration recommends that Council not make changes to the methodology until it is valued back to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.</p>	Support NO CHANGE
4.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and remove the requirement to allocate 30% of the General Purpose Component of Financial Assistance Grants on the basis of population increases/decreases.		Not supported
4.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:		Not supported

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>1. Review and increase the amount of Financial Assistance Grants available through grants commissions.</p> <p>2. Review and amend the national principles of the local government Financial Assistance Grant to ensure no council is materially worse off in any changes made to the states' distribution methodologies.</p> <p>3. Advocate for state grants commissions to publish a full report when amending allocation methodologies, including 2021 methodology reviews and for the report to explain changes to formulas used to allocate Financial Assistance Grants.</p> <p>4. Require that amended state allocation methodologies comply with the national principles for distribution of the grant.</p>		
4.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level of at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue by the 2022/23 financial year.		Support
4.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.		Support
4.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase and maintain the national grant entitlement for Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1.0% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.		Support
4.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the local government Financial Assistance Grants to a minimum of 1% Commonwealth		Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	taxation revenue to better assist councils in post COVID-19 economic recovery.		
4.5	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognise the importance of Financial Assistance Grants to all councils.</li> <li>2. Increase the pool of funds available for the Financial Assistance Grants so that this equates to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.</li> <li>3. Ensure that the pool of funds is not decreased in future years.</li> </ol>		Support
4.6	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to halt the decline in the Financial Assistance Grants and restore to 1% equivalent of the Commonwealth taxation revenue.		Support
4.7	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to return funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.		Support
4.8	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.		Support
4.9	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore untied local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and distribute funds more equitably across local government communities who have limited capacity to raise or		Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	increase own-source revenue outside current rating streams.		
4.10	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide an increase in the amount of Financial Assistance Grants made to local government for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 year in recognition of the catastrophic financial results for the sector due to substantial costs incurred and revenue losses for all councils as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and for which there has been extremely limited, if any, Federal and State Government assistance.		Support
4.11	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for an increase in Financial Assistance Grants to support local governments to deliver a range of services, including roads maintenance.		Support
4.12	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate additional funding to councils to enable additional resources to ensure the timely delivery of infrastructure and regulatory services.		Support
5	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to significantly increase the roads component to an acceptable percentage of the council's cost of maintaining the local road network.	Regional and remote councils often have vast amounts of infrastructure to maintain with very limited means of raising rates. This is a genuine inequity which should be supplemented by state or federal means.	Support
6	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to investigate a nationwide database of benchmarking projects for local government, where information can be stored and shared among local government organisations.	<p>Many services provided by councils are discretionary. As such, there is no 'standard' council, which makes benchmarking problematic and a potentially blunt instrument.</p> <p>For councils who wish to pursue benchmarking across state borders there are existing opportunities such as the Australasian LG Performance Excellence Program.</p>	Not supported

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
		<p>Some states also have existing in-state benchmarking and performance assessments.</p> <p>Creating useful benchmarking is complex and expensive, and requires ongoing investment to stay relevant. Furthermore, benchmarking is not an exercise that benefits from economies of scale; the contrary is true as benchmarking becomes more complex the more variables and exceptions are included.</p>	
7	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide local government communities classified as rural or remote that have limited capacity to raise or increase own source revenue outside current rating streams to have access to federal grant funding with a co-contribution of 10% or less for capital works projects including planning/scoping of these works.</p>	<p>The difficulties many regional and remote councils have in creating revenue is acknowledged.</p>	Support
7.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to either cease the practice of expecting council co-contributions when applying for federal government grants or allow a council's in-kind contributions to be eligible towards the co-contribution from councils.</p>	<p>The difficulties many regional and remote councils have in creating revenue is acknowledged, therefore this is supported for regional and remote councils.</p>	Support
8	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide grant funding in advance to regional and rural councils and not in arrears so as to avoid impacting unfavourably on said council's cash flow.</p>	<p>The difficulties many regional and remote councils have in creating revenue is acknowledged, therefore this is supported for regional and remote councils.</p>	Support
9	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allow councils to use new grant funding opportunities for projects already contained within</p>	<p>This is strongly supported as it would better ensure that investments are made strategically rather than opportunistically.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	their operational plan that would have otherwise been funded from loans (currently they are excluded).		
10	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the Roads to Recovery Program funding from \$500 million to \$1 billion per year and extend the program beyond 30 June 2024.	The disproportionate burden of road maintenance to revenue raising ability of regional and remote councils is acknowledged.	Support
10.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program to councils in perpetuity, so as to continue its support of councils and their efforts to maintain and create community infrastructure and local roads for their communities.	Support in principle, noting that no government funding is in perpetuity and quantum should always be adjusted according to need, rather than historical allocations.	Support in principle
10.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate more funding to road infrastructure to sustainably manage state and federal transport infrastructure and backlog of work.	The disproportionate burden of road maintenance to revenue raising ability of regional and remote councils is acknowledged.	Support
10.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate additional roads funding towards unsealed roads in regional and remote areas.	The disproportionate burden of road maintenance to revenue raising ability of regional and remote councils is acknowledged.	Support
10.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support state and local government agencies by facilitating the delivery of infrastructure where there is a shortfall in contributions funding. Additional support will ensure the right infrastructure is provided to meet the increasing demands of NSW's growing population.	While the sentiment of working collaboratively with other tiers of government to meet community expectations in relation to infrastructure delivery is supported, the wording of the motion – being specific to NSW – is not supported.	Not supported
10.5	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) – or a similar non-competitive funding program focused on funding community infrastructure and local roads based on the	The disproportionate burden of road maintenance to revenue raising ability of regional and remote councils is acknowledged.	Support



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>characteristics and needs of the local government area in an ongoing capacity – so that all communities across Australia can benefit from sustained and consistent roads and community infrastructure upgrade projects without a reliance on competitive processes that often exclude projects due to local government's capacity to draft grant funding applications.</p>		
10.6	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue the Local Roads &amp; Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program funding for local governments and allocate a proportion of this funding for infrastructure design of community infrastructure in partnerships with local communities.</p>	<p>The LRCI is a valuable funding program, which supports investment in infrastructure.</p>	Support
10.7	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide councils with an additional one-off Roads to Recovery grant equal to 50percent of the annual funding for the maintenance, repair, and renewal of roads because of the prolonged wet and dry conditions across the Eastern Seaboard.</p>	<p>The impact of extreme weather events and natural disasters is acknowledged.</p>	Support
10.8	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in infrastructure that will assist local government to attract commercial investment to create localised jobs.</p>	<p>Investment should not be limited to areas defined as 'growth areas'.</p>	Support
10.9	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in nation building projects where it can be established, they will facilitate better road and transport connections between cities and with regions around Australia. The criteria for these projects should be based on the economic opportunities they create for freight and passenger movement, migration, service provision and business support, as these are known to contribute best to our national productivity.</p>	<p>Supported in principle. Consideration should also be given to sustainability issues, to ensure that infrastructure supports green transport and other innovations, not simply to perpetuate industrial paradigms.</p>	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
10.10	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase federal funding for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Roads to Recovery and Black Spot Program. The additional funding would assist in addressing the high level of road trauma on local roads within the Mornington Peninsula, provide for local needs of our community with additional paths, and facilitate significant road improvements on our key roads. This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reform the administration of the Black Spot Program. Improvements to the administration of the Black Spot Program would result in a more fair and equitable funding program for local governments to effectively implement road safety treatments in the highest-risk locations to achieve the highest reductions in road trauma.</p>	<p>Supported in principle, as the motion is foremost calling on increased federal funding for LRCI, Roads to Recovery and the Black Spot Program. Would prefer the motion to not reference one area specifically as all local governments benefit from these programs.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
11	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) framework to ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved opportunities for local government engagement;</li> <li>2. Transparency in corridor selection and development of works packages; and</li> <li>3. Regular and timely reviews and reporting of outcomes to all stakeholders</li> </ol>	<p>Some areas of South Australia are included in ROSI.</p>	<p>Support</p>
12	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reduce the community risks associated with motorised bikes (monkey bikes) in public places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allocate appropriate resources to tackle and reduce the community risks associated with motorised bikes</li> </ol>	<p>While motorised bikes may be an issue in some places, this is neither an issue for national government under existing inter-governmental conventions, nor is it significantly widespread enough to warrant federal intervention in state and local affairs.</p>	<p>Not supported</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>(monkey bikes) in public places except where they are specifically permitted in those public places;</p> <p>2. Implement clear legislation and appropriately equip state police to act and address monkey bikes in the community; and</p> <p>3. Facilitate a significant education campaign to highlight the rules around riding motorbikes in public places and the significant dangers and risks associated with riding dangerously and illegally.</p>		
13	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review how importation regulations are being enforced in regard to non-compliant personal mobility devices (PMDs) being imported and used in Australia, and to facilitate harmonisation of road rules as they apply to PMDs across Australia.</p>	<p>Personal mobility devices have an important role to play in reducing private vehicle dependence over time. While it acknowledged that regulation of personal mobility devices is important to ensure they are safe and their increased uptake transitions successfully amongst traditional transport, importation restrictions are a blunt instrument that are more likely to stifle innovation and adoption, rather than protect users.</p>	Not supported
14	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to accelerate the planning and implementation of faster rail corridors to support regional growth.</p>	<p>It is noted that existing commitments referred to in the motion exclude South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.</p>	Support in principle
14.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in an extension of Inland Rail to the Gladstone Port via an inland route.</p>	<p>The motion is very specific to one area and as such, does not belong as an ALGA motion.</p>	Not supported
15	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government's work with state and territories to immediately introduce legislation through the rail safety national law to improve safety lighting on trains and fund low-cost solar powered warning systems at passive level crossings.</p>	<p>The statistics quoted in the supporting evidence to the motion do not make a compelling case as to the urgency of these investments. Nevertheless, public safety motions are supported in principle.</p>	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
16	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate further funding to allow regional and rural councils to address upgrade requirements for aerodrome facilities to support linkages between these areas and larger domestic and international ports.</p>	<p>Air transport provides national benefit through important linkages to regional and remote areas but imposes significant costs on those communities.</p>	<p>Support</p>
17	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commence a thorough review of the Airports Act 1996 and Airports Regulations 1996 and give specific consideration to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The mechanisms needed in the legislation to ensure that airport strategic planning actively prioritises the protection of Commonwealth land for aviation-related purposes.</li> <li>2. The legislation embeds obligations on the Airport Lessee Company to ensure that aviation related businesses are prioritised to ensure commercial transactions on Commonwealth land cannot undermine existing businesses or the needs of aviation for the life of the established airport lease period.</li> <li>3. The views held by state or local government with respect to the land use planning implications on airport land are given a much more elevated level of consideration in determinations on draft major development plans or draft airport masterplans.</li> <li>4. The establishment of independent expert review processes to aid the Commonwealth Minister in considering draft major development plans or draft airport masterplans.</li> <li>5. Undertake a thorough review of all functions under the Airports Act 1996 and Airports Regulations 1996 requiring the Airport Lessee Company to provide</li> </ol>	<p>This motion is very specific to airport legislation.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	advice, assess or determine any matters relating to considerations regarding the safety of Airfields and/or Development which is proposed to occur on them.		
18	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a policy framework and a funding mechanism to ensure that local communities directly impacted by aircraft noise and other impacts of major airport operations receive adequate support from a national community offset package.	Aircraft noise can be detrimental to wellbeing as well as having economic impacts. While the principle of <i>caveat emptor</i> exists in relation to where people choose to live, expansions and increased traffic volumes can occur unexpectedly. In these cases, support to offset such related effects should be available.	Support
19	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with state, territory, and local governments to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invest in active and sustainable transport options, that can also stimulate emerging markets and low emission technologies;</li> <li>2. Position Australia as a leader in rapidly growing Electric Vehicle (EV) and transport markets by investing in local research and manufacturing opportunities and stimulating rapid uptake by users;</li> <li>3. Electrify the rail and bus networks;</li> <li>4. Support business to electrify freight transport;</li> <li>5. Provide infrastructure throughout local communities to transition to EVs and which leverage tourism opportunities;</li> <li>6. Implement policy settings to increase uptake of EVs; and</li> <li>7. Invest in infrastructure for walking and cycling.</li> </ol>	This motion correlates strongly with the intentions of Council's Strategic Plan and the proposed directions of the draft Integrated Transport Strategy.	Support
19.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a collaborative approach between all three levels of government to prepare and	Transitioning to sustainable and green transport options as soon as possible is strongly supported.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	deliver the change required to support the conversion from the internal combustion engine to electric, and possibly hydrogen, powered vehicles.		
20	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund a national rollout of electric vehicle charging stations for regional and remote local government areas.	Transitioning to sustainable and green transport options as soon as possible is strongly supported, as is ensuring that regional and remote areas are not left behind in the transition.	Support
21	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide greater national leadership to support the uptake of electric vehicles and market development across Australia by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agreeing and supporting a nationally consistent approach to EV taxes, levies and charges that provide long-term confidence for industry and consumers;</li> <li>2. Implementing best-practice national vehicle emissions standards;</li> <li>3. Providing incentives to businesses and private owners to purchase electric vehicles; and</li> <li>4. Significantly increasing investment in the installation of electric vehicle charging stations across Australia.</li> </ol>	<p>Transitioning to sustainable and green transport options as soon as possible is strongly supported, however it is noted that electric vehicles are only one pathway to transition.</p> <p>Simply replacing combustion vehicles with electric ones will not reduce congestion, nor will it address sustainability concerns relating to other materials which are required for vehicle production.</p> <p>Transitioning to electric vehicles needs to be augmented with behavioural change towards increased active transport, shared transport and public transit.</p>	Support
22	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Classify telecommunications as an essential service;</li> <li>2. Establish clearly defined plans and accountabilities to address back-up power and resilience for telecommunications sites; and</li> <li>3. Invest \$80 million over four years in an expanded Mobile Network Hardening Program to markedly</li> </ol>	The impacts of natural disasters and the importance of communications in emergency situations is acknowledged.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	improve the resilience of Australia's telecommunications networks.		
23	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to release its response to the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review and to implement its recommendations, to ensure that the digital divide between Australians living in regional, rural, and remote areas and those living in metropolitan communities is reduced.	Supported in principle however it should be noted that digital exclusion is pronounced along socio-economic parameters, which means it is also a significant issue in many metropolitan areas.	Support in principle
23.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fully implement the recommendations of the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Review: A step change in demand, and that local government be directly consulted in the development of new regulatory and policy arrangements as well as a new strategic approach to regional communications investment.	Support in principle, noting that expecting commercial providers to supply services that are not commercially viable is against the principles of market-driven services. This is why telecommunications should be categorised as an essential service.	Support in principle
23.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to redouble their efforts to both extend and improve mobile coverage in rural areas.	Support in principle as the importance of telecommunications services is acknowledged.	Support in principle
23.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure regional and rural councils are engaged with decisions regarding the provision of utility infrastructure (including electricity and digital connectivity) to support access to alternate systems and enable adoption of advancing technologies more readily and in larger numbers, thus keeping delivery costs to a minimum.	Investment in innovation is strongly supported as a method to move beyond traditional infrastructure which may not be viable in sparsely populated, rural and remote areas.	Support
23.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit increased funding and	Supported in principle however it should be noted that digital exclusion is pronounced along socio-economic	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	commitment to proportionally enhance regional and remote digital connectivity.	parameters, which means it is also a significant issue in many metropolitan areas.	
23.5	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to review the communications network and provide workable services to rural and remote areas.	Support in principle as the importance of telecommunications services is acknowledged.	Support in principle
23.6	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to improve telecommunication connectivity in remote parts of southern Australia with a focus on Tasmania.	Support the call to improve connectivity in remote parts of Australia, but not the exclusive focus on Tasmania.	Not supported
23.7	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding for connectivity in regional areas and revisit co-contributions as part of assessment criteria.	Support in principle as the importance of telecommunications services is acknowledged.	Support in principle
24	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend the necessary legislation, regulations and/or contractual arrangements to ensure that both Telstra and NBN Co, their subsidiaries and contractors, cannot pass the cost of relocating their buried infrastructure on to local government if the publicly available 'as built' (or 'as laid') plans do not accurately record the location(s) of their assets.	It is not uncommon that underground services are not where they are indicated on plans. While this is accepted as a reality, a more collaborative and equitable methodology to distributing the costs of unexpected utilities would be welcomed.	Support
25	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work in partnership with regional, rural, and interface councils to develop a holistic and integrated strategy to implement the Government's Regionalisation and Decentralisation Agenda.	There could be opportunities to decentralise and co-locate all tiers of government to improve connections to communities and citizens.	Support
25.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish and appropriately resource effective implementation of the regionalisation agenda through strengthening regional centres.	A strategic approach to regional investment is warranted.	Support in principle



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
26	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Progress City Deals to achieve its Smart Cities Plan, to drive national priorities tailored to local needs, develop plans for growth, and commit to the actions, investments, reforms, and governance required;</li> <li>2. Continue to support development and signing of City Deals across the nation, including to sign the north and west Melbourne City Deal to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and</li> <li>3. Unlock employment and economic development opportunities for the region that is home to 1 in 12 Australians, help create 300,000 new jobs and reboot business, boost social and economic inclusion, and leverage the regions' existing strengths in health, food production, manufacturing, and logistics.</li> </ol>	<p>The City Deals program is supported in principle, however, the specificity of the motion to benefit one area should not be a matter for the national agenda.</p>	<p>Support in principle (clause 1 of the motion)</p>
26.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue its support for the nine City Deals being implemented across Australia. Through ongoing review and monitoring of City Deals, there is an opportunity for the Australian Government to reinforce their commitment and strengthen local government's role in implementation.</p>	<p>The City Deals program is supported in principle.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
27	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a new growth areas portfolio which will be responsible for developing and implementing a national response to the challenges and inequities faced by growth-area communities.</p>	<p>It is agreed that capital cities need better planning and investment distribution.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
27.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop, prioritise and appropriately</p>	<p>Strategic investments are warranted.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	fund major social infrastructure for communities in Australia's rapidly growing urban fringe.		
28	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a new dedicated fund that councils can access to enable their municipal communities' transition to renewable energy, through deployment of community-scale energy storage systems.	Transitioning to sustainable and green technologies as soon as possible is strongly supported.	Support
28.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide appropriate support to allow communities to come together in storing affordable renewable energy, enabling sustainable and clean energy outcomes to be delivered.	Transitioning to sustainable and green technologies as soon as possible is strongly supported. Grass-roots innovations and community-led responses to climate action should be supported where feasible.	Support
29	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to encourage and support councils to play a direct role in the adoption of hydrogen from renewable power sources and contribute to the development of domestic hydrogen capabilities.	Transitioning to sustainable and green technologies as soon as possible is strongly supported. Participating in the development of new markets can be a beneficial government investment in public good. Opportunities would need to be carefully considered for sustainability, viability and risk factors. (Being early adopters of technology can carry additional risks.	Support in principle
30	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to deliver better, more sustainable outcomes for the environment and local communities being affected by the delivery of new renewable energy infrastructure by developing a national policy for conducting and integrating community engagement findings when planning for and delivering renewable energy high-voltage transmission infrastructure projects.	While community sentiment is acknowledged as important, it is also critical that critical investments, particularly in renewables, are not thwarted by unreasonable 'NIMBY'ism.	Support in principle
30.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to deliver better, more sustainable outcomes for the transition to renewable energy by	Innovation in sustainable outcomes is supported.	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	introducing a policy that all future high-voltage transmission projects will be required to investigate the lowest social, environmental, and economic impact technologies and design options available.	While community sentiment is acknowledged as important, it is also critical that critical investments, particularly in renewables, are not thwarted by unreasonable 'NIMBY'ism.	
31	That this National General Assembly, building on the 2021 National General Assembly resolution and progress to date towards clear and transparent rules for renewable electricity, calls for formal engagement with the Federal Government and Department of Industry, Science Resources and Energy to accelerate reforms for nationally legislated market-based greenhouse accounting and rules for renewable electricity and carbon offsets to be established in Australia.	Progress towards transitioning to renewables is supported.	Support
32	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to host a national affordable housing summit to identify the regional, state, and national issues to be addressed to deliver housing solutions to communities through local, state, and federal government in a whole-of-government response to be tailored for respective community needs.	Housing is a critical issue across many areas and demographics.	Support
32.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invest in social and affordable housing, and</li> <li>2. Develop a comprehensive national housing and homelessness strategy that will assist more Australians to buy a home and assist Australians who rent to have access to more secure, affordable, quality long-term housing, and put a roof over the head of more homeless Australians.</li> </ol>	<p>The profile of home needs has changed over time. Speculative investment in the housing market has skewed prices, which have continued to grow largely unabated over several decades. This is unusual in a global context, where the Global Financial Crisis effectively 're-set' prices in many areas.</p> <p>Further stimulating large price increases in the housing market as a result of short term interventions could be counterproductive. There is a need to identify a range of measures that work together to reduce the barriers for first home buyers and low to medium income</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
		<p>earners accessing the housing market – both long term and short term rental and ownership, regional and city, and homelessness.</p> <p>With older women being the fastest growing group to experience homelessness in Australia, recognition also needs to be given to the fact that it is not just young people or low-income earners who may need housing assistance. People coming out of divorce/relationship breakdown or being widowed, regardless of their age and income, often do not have the resources to re-enter the housing market.</p>	
32.2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaboratively work in earnest with the other levels of government, key bodies, and interest groups to actively deliver additional social and affordable housing supply on the ground in as timely a manner as possible through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparing a long-term national housing strategy that is evidence-based and has a broad scope;</li> <li>2. Providing further significant and ongoing increased investment in funding for social and affordable housing to support the strategy;</li> <li>3. Donating "lazy", well located government land to be used for the provision of social and affordable housing; and</li> <li>4. Directly supporting councils to facilitate additional social and affordable housing through planning, the provision of land and financial support mechanism, including investing \$200 million, over four years, to assist the development and implementation of innovative local housing partnerships.</li> </ol>	<p>Due to ongoing shortages, using surplus or underutilised government land for social and affordable housing and low- income affordable housing has been seen as a way of funding upgrades of social housing more than significantly expanding the stock.</p> <p>Careful thought needs to be given to the development of social and affordable housing to ensure high-quality places are created, rather than concentrations of socio-economic disadvantage.</p>	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
32.3	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Urgently address the growing and evolving housing affordability challenges across Australian rural, regional, and metropolitan communities;</li> <li>2. Convene a national housing summit as a precursor to developing a national housing strategy;</li> <li>3. Prepare a National Housing Strategy, which provides the framework for a nationally consistent approach to investing and building more social and affordable housing;</li> <li>4. Ensure a national housing strategy facilitates a nationally consistent approach to state and territory planning legislation to facilitate inclusionary zoning for affordable housing, as a tool that can be utilised by governments and metropolitan and growth councils (and any councils where they so choose) to require social and affordable housing contributions as part of private development;</li> <li>5. Ensure that any new policy reforms and approaches to invest in improving social and affordable housing is done in partnership with local government, and that it does not come at the expense of federal or state investment to support local councils in providing essential local infrastructure, resources, and services;</li> <li>6. Recognise the need for ongoing investment in supports and services to assist people who have experienced homelessness (particularly those who have experienced long-term homelessness) to move away from homelessness and into social and affordable housing; and</li> </ol>	<p>This many-pronged approach that recognises the need to consider national Federal approach, impact on local government, homelessness reduction and rural and regional needs is supported.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>7. Recognise the role that social and affordable housing plays in responding to broader workforce challenges and shortages across regional and metropolitan communities, particularly across the agriculture and hospitality sectors viii. Partner with ALGA and the local government sector to help design and inform these housing reforms.</p>		
32.4	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address housing pressures, including social housing and homelessness support.</p>	<p>Australian government support is needed to ensure that states can adequately respond to increasing housing pressures and homelessness challenges, without cost-shifting to local government or the social services sector.</p>	Support
32.5	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acknowledge and express concern about the continuing impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the private housing market through reductions in housing affordability, and an increased demand on homelessness support services;</li> <li>2. Work with state and territory governments to provide additional and targeted funding to expand homelessness service provision in areas of high need, through the development of a new national homelessness and housing agreement in 2022/23;</li> <li>3. Develop a ten-year national homelessness strategy, in consultation with state, territory and local governments; and</li> <li>4. Increase payments under the Commonwealth Rent Assistance Program, a non-taxable income supplement payable to eligible people who rent in the private rental market or community housing.</li> </ol>	<p>Increased demand brought about by COVID-19 has seen another significant spike in prices and an commensurate drop in housing availability.</p> <p>Housing pressures have become acute in a large number of areas and urgent action is needed.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
32.6	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase its investment in the supply of social and affordable housing;</li> <li>2. Review its National Housing Strategy, and;</li> <li>3. Create a national settlement plan working in partnership with state, territory, and local governments to meet local demand and deliver post-pandemic economic stimulus.</li> </ol>	<p>Increased investment in social and affordable housing is supported, as is the development of a national housing strategy. Settlement plans can provide opportunities but must be carefully weighed against unintended consequences and lessons of the past must be learned to prevent the creation of low socio-economic clusters.</p>	Support in principle
32.7	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to take action on the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement in line with the endorsed national principles and priorities in partnership with the state governments.</p>	<p>Australian Government support for reducing homelessness is critical.</p>	Support
32.8	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide financial, policy and infrastructure support for affordable housing in local government areas.</p>	<p>While the key arguments backing up the motion incorrectly ascribe housing supply as being seen as the responsibility of local government, the motion is supported.</p> <p>The demand for housing as a speculative investment has significant effect on the price and availability of housing.</p> <p>Federal fiscal, monetary and social policies (tax settings, tax concessions, interest rates, rent relief, government expenditure etc) all have an impact on affordability, not just supply.</p>	Support
32.9	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to put a spotlight on the unaffordability of housing across Australia by declaring a housing crisis and recognise the need for each local government area</p>	<p>Agree it is widespread, but unevenly distributed across geographies and demographics.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>to have a fair share of social and affordable housing and homelessness assistance to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support for first home buyers;</li> <li>2. A National Housing Strategy;</li> <li>3. A better deal for renters;</li> <li>4. Immediate relief for Australians in chronic rental stress;</li> <li>5. A plan to end homelessness by 2030, and</li> <li>6. Potentially partner in the Everybody's Home Campaign to fix Australia's housing system that includes the following tasks to mitigate the worst impacts of this housing crisis.</li> </ol>		
32.10	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit to a substantial increase in Commonwealth funded and managed permanent rental housing. That the National General Assembly continues to advocate to the Federal Government to undertake a major program of construction and management of permanent rental social housing.</p>	<p>While investment in social housing is clearly necessary, the best mechanisms by which to do so are not clear. The very successful South Australian Housing Trust used to construct and manage a significant housing portfolio. The Trust amended its social housing model for good reasons, despite its historical success. Replicating this historic model at national level is unlikely to be feasible, particularly given existing economic conditions.</p> <p>Fiscal and economic policy settings need to be considered holistically and mechanisms that solve the problems of affordability without damaging or skewing the market further will require substantial courage by governments to develop, discuss and implement.</p>	Not supported
32.11	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with state and local governments to provide direct investment in the delivery of affordable rental housing through City Deal funding mechanisms.</p>	<p>Existing City Deals are very limited in number and the Australian Government will only enter into a few at a time. City Deals are not an ideal mechanism to address a wide-scale, and deep, multifaceted problem.</p>	Not supported



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
32.12	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding to the states and territories to put a roof over the head of women and children escaping family violence and to address the crisis in homelessness which is essential for their recovery.	Emergency housing for people fleeing family violence is critical. While predominantly an issue facing women, such support should not be gender-limited.	Support
33	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fund further national housing research, specific to understanding housing affordability, housing supply and demand, and housing accessibility across rural and regional Australia;</li> <li>2. Develop and implement a collaborative program, involving all levels of government, to address housing concerns in rural and regional Australia; and</li> <li>3. Commit to implementing a funding stream, specific to rural and regional local governments, allowing them to undertake LGA-specific housing research; and to prepare and implement LGA-specific housing plans (aligning to the relevant State Housing and Homelessness Strategies prepared under the NHHA).</li> </ol>	Agree to principle of applying programs that can be tailored to most pressing needs of each location. Do not agree to it being limited to rural and regional Australia, as many metropolitan areas also have housing affordability and availability issues.	Support in principle
33.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to hold a national summit, in partnership with state governments, local governments and financial institutions, to resolve the rural and regional housing shortage, which is inhibiting economic growth within country areas across Australia.	Agree that rural and regional housing shortages and unaffordability affect mobility for employment. Summit should cover broader housing-related issues.	Support in principle
33.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to work with rural and regional councils and community housing providers on the place-based supply, including financing, and	Addressing the failures of current market-based supply models designed to incentivise home ownership to the detriment of affordable housing for workers especially	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	construction of medium to long-term secure tenure rental housing designed for key workers otherwise excluded from home ownership due to their economic circumstances.	key workers is necessary. This is not just a regional and remote issue.	
33.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund the creation and support of affordable housing in regional and remote areas. We call on government to prepare detailed departmental plans, and for those plans to be funded and implemented.	The figures on underinvestment in social and affordable housing and the need for a long term solution are noted.	Support
33.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise that there are no one-size-fits-all housing solutions and to increase targeted funding streams and dedicated resources to increase social and affordable housing supply in regional communities in ways that meet the growing demands.	A holistic and well-thought out approach is required. Populist and simplistic solutions are likely to exacerbate underlying issues.	Support
33.5	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce a Regional Home Guarantee Scheme designed to address the unique characteristics of the housing market in rural and remote Australia which is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Targeted at designated rural and remote regions;</li> <li>2. Focused on new builds;</li> <li>3. Available to all buyers not just first home buyers;</li> <li>4. Available to Permanent Residents not just Australian Citizens, and</li> <li>5. Based on a higher income thresholds for single and couples.</li> </ol>	It is acknowledged that there are area-specific issues in relation to rural and remote areas.	Support in principle
34	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a Royal Commission into	There is a pre-existing body of research and evidence that can be drawn on, including findings from the	Not supported

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	housing affordability. That the terms of reference include consideration of the impacts of historical low housing affordability on productivity, intergenerational equity, public health including mental health, educational opportunities, and equity.	Productivity Commission. A Royal Commission diverts resources from a discussion about practical and urgent solutions.	
35	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with state and local government areas to develop a strategy to build regional allied health precincts. These precincts would provide currently unavailable specialist services and provide outreach services to smaller rural communities, whilst assisting in the development of a local workforce. This strategy should include an action plan with aligned funding.	Allied health professionals provide 'specialist services' which are in high demand and often difficult to source. It is also important to note that such services are major contributors to wellbeing and in aged care in particular, provide restorative wellness services which enable people to live independently for longer which, in turn reduces pressure on the already stressed acute care services in both metropolitan and regional areas. The additional value of such a proposal is the economic development opportunities for professionals to establish small business or consulting services.	Support
35.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with the local government sector to incentivise general practitioners to work in regional Australia.	It is acknowledged that rural and remote areas need adequate health services.	Support in principle
35.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding to the States for full-time career medical officer positions in rural and remote public hospitals MM4-7 where local GPs cannot adequately fill their VMO (Visiting Medical Officer) vacancies.	Insufficient knowledge about the practical implications of this proposal.	Neutral
35.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:	Insufficient knowledge about the practical implications of this proposal.	Neutral

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>1. Increase the Medicare Payment to rural and remote doctors by 50 percent as an enticement for doctors to work in Modified Monash Model 4 areas and above;</p> <p>2. Change the International Medical Graduate (IMG) system to allow IMGs to practice with limited or remote supervision rather than one on one supervision decreasing the efficiency of rural and remote surgeries.</p>		
35.4	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in building the capacity of local government to work with older people to create better communities for people to grow old in by:</p> <p>1. Investing in local governments to build and maintain age-friendly municipalities that people can and want to grow old in and that older people can and want to participate in;</p> <p>2. Recognising local government's role supporting older people to live independently in their homes for as long as they can;</p> <p>3. Ensuring the reformed Support At Home funding program is simple, streamlined, agency-friendly and client-oriented;</p> <p>4. Adopting a national positive ageing and wellbeing platform that local governments can support, adopt, and tailor to their community (ageism being the most acceptable form of discrimination in Australia);</p> <p>5. Expanding the support for provided informal carers and explore how local government can promote access to this;</p> <p>6. Investing in the older persons' care and support workforce across all roles, disciplines, agencies, and environments so that people from various backgrounds</p>	<p>The importance of enabling people to age in place using person-centred and healthy and active ageing principles is strongly supported.</p>	<p>Support</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>want to work in it, want to stay in it and can move around in it and are supported; and</p> <p>7. Funding digital access and equity for older people.</p>		
35.5	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with state and territory governments to drive improvements in health access and outcomes in rural, regional, and remote Australia, including exploring innovative models of care and more flexible allocation of funding.</p>	<p>Sentiment of the motion is supported, noting that innovative models of care and flexible allocation of funding are not limited to being needed in rural and remote Australia.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
36	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide for Australians to age within their communities (particularly small communities) by further funding existing aged care facilities and the Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) program and/or upgrading existing hospitals that fulfil the role of caring for aging Australians;</li> <li>2. Better define the responsibilities of the various agencies so there is no doubt who is responsible for the various services; and</li> <li>3. Work with state governments on a new approach that fundamentally addresses the widening gap between those living in regional Australia versus those living in metropolitan areas.</li> </ol>	<p>Ageing in place is strongly supported.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
36.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to review the health services in rural and regional areas.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that rural and remote areas need adequate health services.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
36.2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with industry providers to</p>	<p>Ageing in place is strongly supported, noting that subsidised models of care should be available on an as-needs, rather than geographical, basis.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	develop subsidised models of aged care for regional and remote areas.		
36.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the funding provided to local government to support seniors' groups and to maintain seniors' centres.	The key arguments notes that the seniors' groups referred to are independent incorporated entities with their own governance. As such, they should be user-funded.	Not supported
36.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently establish a working group with the Federal Government to develop a framework for the delivery of aged care services, fully funded by the Federal Government and delivered by local government.	As one of only a few councils in Australia who own a residential aged care home, the City of Holdfast Bay acknowledges that delivering aged care services is a complex and highly specialist activity. Simply being the tier of government closest to the community does not equip local government as a sector to take on aged care service provision. Transitioning aged care to local government at scale would require substantial investment that would be better spent on meeting direct care costs.	Not supported
37	The National General Assembly calls on the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to work with the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) to safeguard the ability of the RFDS to make use of Australia's road system as landing areas.	Insufficient knowledge about the practical implications of this proposal.	Neutral
37.1	That this National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to address doctor shortages and the lack of GPs in rural and regional areas through sponsoring increased internships in rural and remote hospitals for provisional registrar doctors.	Insufficient knowledge about the practical implications of this proposal.	Neutral
38	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently establish a working group with the Federal Government to deliver local, affordable childcare in local communities, fully funded by the	The Australian Government is the main source of overall funding for child care services, primarily through fee subsidies.	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	Federal Government and delivered on the ground by local government.		
39	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure federal funding and federal programs for mental health and related services are fit for purpose place-based models in small and medium-sized regional, rural, and remote areas of Australia.	Fit for purpose, place-based services are supported. The need for such approaches and investment in mental health and related services is not limited to rural and remote Australia.	Support in principle
39.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Substantially increase recurrent mental health expenditure, in average annual real per capita spending, from 1.3 percent to 2.5 percent; and</li> <li>2. Increase funding, accessibility, and services for the Commonwealth Better Access initiative to extend access to mental health professionals and care to more people.</li> </ol>	Support for mental health and related services is required across the board, and strongly supported.	Support
40	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a dedicated and ongoing Community Resilience and Fairness Response Package to ensure our most vulnerable community members are protected from the worst of the impacts of a prolonged pandemic, particularly the youth;</li> <li>2. Increase funding for mental health support services, local learning and job preparation programs, and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment; and</li> <li>3. Invest in and grow local manufacturing.</li> </ol>	Support for mental health and related services is required across the board, and strongly supported.	Support
41	This National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to acknowledge the lack of services and	The gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the majority of Australia is acknowledged. Closing the gap is strongly supported.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>infrastructure in Indigenous communities and the need to address the lack of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Health access to aged care, primary, specialist, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme</li> <li>2. Affordable Housing and Land availability</li> <li>3. Child Care access and affordability</li> <li>4. Skill shortage in regional areas</li> <li>5. Local skills and capability development</li> <li>6. Education system -School leavers not job-ready for local jobs as required and available locally; and</li> <li>7. Lack of coordinated governance across all tiers of government in regional areas.</li> </ol>		
42	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review current governance arrangements and commit appropriate levels of funding to provide improved operational and maintenance support to the owners of flood-warning infrastructure in order to minimise the impacts of natural disasters.</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support</p>
43	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with ALGA and state and territory governments to urgently develop an additional, apolitical funding stream which provides local governments with the resources needed to mitigate the current and longer-term impacts of extreme weather events on local physical and social infrastructure.</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support</p>
43.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>1. Commit to ensuring that building back resilient public infrastructure is a core element of disaster recovery funding arrangements at Commonwealth and jurisdiction level;</p> <p>2. Provide clear guidance on appropriate Standards for resilience for public infrastructure to support decisions regarding additional investment; and</p> <p>3. Commit to providing up-front funding to local governments that will enable counter disaster operations and reconstruction of essential public assets to proceed without financial impediments.</p>		
43.2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the NSW and Australian Governments to:</p> <p>1. Establish Disaster Recovery Funds that can be immediately accessed by councils in the event of a natural disaster. The funds would be available to councils to undertake immediate emergency works, essential public asset reconstruction works, and immediate clean-up where applicable; and</p> <p>2. Update their natural disaster funding agreements to include reimbursement of project management costs to local councils and funding for dedicated infrastructure recovery staff for the next year.</p>	The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.	Support in principle
43.3	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Express solidarity with the many communities across Australia affected by devastating floods, storms, heatwaves, and fires caused by anthropogenic global warming in recent months and years;</p>	The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>2. Provide urgent short and long-term disaster recovery funding and support to affected communities and councils;</p> <p>3. Fund and support local councils to develop comprehensive, in-place, recovery, rebuilding and resilience plans and strategies to improve the immediate response to increasingly catastrophic natural disasters; and</p> <p>4. Commit to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 43 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.</p>		
43.4	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider the provision of an annual budget allocation to local government to contribute to modelling and mitigation works to reduce the risk of flood or other natural disasters.</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support</p>
43.5	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with local government on a national program of urgent priority mitigation work to address anticipated major or catastrophic damage to existing essential community infrastructure linked to contemporary climate change modelling to 2050.</p>	<p>The extent of potential climate change impacts is acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support</p>
43.6	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a joint reform process to proactively plan for and seek to mitigate the impacts of flooding, including a review of relevant planning controls, flooding overlays, strategies, and the ability of existing infrastructure to respond to the impacts of climate change; and establish funding stream/s to facilitate this process and implement flood mitigation works.</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
44	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a permanent Disaster Levy as an income tax levy, to establish a funding base to empower local government to support our communities with resilience and disaster recovery.	The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged, however, a specific income tax levy is not supported. Funds need to be scaled up or down as needed, and should not be tied to an inflexible mechanism. Furthermore, depending on the disaster, local government may not be the best agency to deliver the services required.	Not supported
45	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce across all levels of government, departments and government agencies, a consistent hierarchy and classification of population places.	While investment should be prioritised based on need not theoretical classifications, the potential benefits of the proposal are acknowledged.	Support in principle
46	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to expand the scope, reduce the evidence required, implement fairer, and more consistent, processes between states for seeking funding under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.	The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged and the need to easily access funding in the wake of a disaster is self-evident.	Support
46.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to protect communities against critical power loss during natural disasters through the delivery of a targeted program to support the installation of stand-alone power systems (SAPS) in at-risk communities.	The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.	Support in principle
47	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government and Insurance Council of Australia to lobby for property insurance policies to retain a compulsory nominated amount to ensure the satisfactory demolition of the structure to better protect the public from ongoing derelict sites.	The implications of this proposal are not known. It could be expected that premiums would rise but the quantum of impact is unknown.	Not supported
48	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government:	The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>1. To request that all state and territory governments fully implement recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and provide further resources and assistance to local governments to increase their capacity and capability to effectively discharge the considerable emergency management responsibilities devolved to them.</p> <p>2. To provide leadership and coordination to state and territory governments in responding to recommendations 11.1 and 11.2 of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disasters.</p>		
48.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to accept and implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on National Natural Disasters pertaining to an enhanced role for the Commonwealth in coordinating the established levels of state, territory, and local council response. This will ensure a national response to emergencies that will facilitate our communities' resilience following disasters, in particular, more effective and faster responses from the Australian Defence Force.</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
49	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address the economic hardship people in rural and regional areas are experiencing due to the unique combined impacts of COVID-19, unprecedented bushfires, long-running drought and/or flooding by providing additional support for recovery. This relief would include:</p>	<p>The impacts of natural disasters on top of COVID-19 are acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>1. Initiatives targeting the tourism and creative industries;</p> <p>2. An evaluation of and response to the youth and gender impacts of COVID-19;</p> <p>3. Initiatives that will boost jobs and long-term community resilience to climate; and</p> <p>4. Restoration of funding for local government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1 percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.</p>		
50	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Work with state and territory governments to develop a sustainable, equitable and efficient national funding model for the implementation of coastal hazard management actions to mitigate coastal erosion and inundation; and</p> <p>2. Charge the Productivity Commission with undertaking an investigation into an appropriate funding framework that shares the cost of coastal hazard management appropriately among all levels of government and the community.</p>	Coastal planning is strongly supported.	Support
51	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to align with the NSW Government and resilient Sydney member councils' plans for reducing the impacts of climate change and provide an economic framework to drive achievable targets for carbon reduction by no later than 2050.</p>	The specificity of this motion to Sydney means it does not belong on the ALGA agenda.	Not supported
52	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to remove restrictions preventing the development of nuclear energy as a viable option in the production of base-load electricity following the</p>	Renewable energy, rather than nuclear, is preferred.	Not supported

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	decommissioning of coal-fired power stations throughout Australia.		
53	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formally recognise we are in a state of climate emergency;</li> <li>2. Appoint a minister for climate change/emergency to champion climate change efforts across the country;</li> <li>3. Establish a national climate change taskforce to enable a whole-of-government approach to climate action; and</li> <li>4. Commit to actively work with local government, industry, and communities to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) reduce waste production;</li> <li>b) set a zero emissions target;</li> <li>c) support the development of renewable energy industries;</li> <li>d) provide incentives to all sectors to change to more efficient technologies;</li> <li>e) significantly increase urban vegetation cover and rehabilitate degraded rural environments; and</li> <li>f) increase support for households to access energy efficient demands.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	A federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy has now been appointed.	Support
53.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note that over 100 local councils, including Newcastle, representing nine million Australians (as well as over 2000 jurisdictions worldwide) have</li> </ol>	Council has developed a robust Environment Strategy and has defined bold aspirations to meet its vision of being South Australia's most sustainable city.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>declared a climate and biodiversity emergency, acknowledging that urgent collaborative action at all levels of government is necessary to protect our environment and community for future generations; and</p> <p>2. Urgently develop a gas-decarbonisation roadmap setting business, industry, and households up to be resilient and sustainable in a decarbonising world, while safeguarding jobs in important manufacturing industries.</p>		
53.2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declare a climate emergency;</li> <li>2. Establish a national renewable energy target of 100 percent for 2030;</li> <li>3. Declare a price on carbon pollution, preferably the Australian Carbon Dividend Plan, as soon as possible; and</li> <li>4. Replicate the success of the 20 Million Trees program to re-establish green corridors, urban forests, and threatened ecological communities.</li> </ol>	<p>While supported it in principle, the proposed target is unrealistic.</p> <p>The proposed Dividend Plan was developed by the University of Sydney, and combines a universal carbon tax of \$20-50 per ton for all carbon emissions in Australia, with a commitment to rebating the proceeds directly to all adult Australian citizens. Modelled on similar proposals developed in the US by the Climate Leadership Council, the proposal aims simultaneously to provide strong market-based incentives to reduce our carbon emissions, and decrease rather than increase economic inequality. It is unknown how extensively it has been modelled or the implications of the proposal.</p>	<p>Support in principle, noting that item 2 is not likely to be achievable and that the proposed Dividend Plan is one possible price pathway.</p>
53.3	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the zero emissions targets of local government climate emergency acknowledgements and declarations by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legislating a federal government target of zero emissions by 2035;</li> <li>2. Supporting a renewable energy-led COVID economic recovery in preference to the nationally proposed gas-</li> </ol>	<p>Council has developed a robust Environment Strategy that includes energy targets, and has defined bold aspirations to meet its vision of being South Australia's most sustainable city.</p>	<p>Support</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>led recovery (by providing funding support on a national scale for increased renewable energy infrastructure); and</p> <p>3. Preparing the national grid to support electric vehicles and increased battery storage integration.</p>		
53.4	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Legislate to reach net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest, with five-yearly interim emissions targets; and</p> <p>2. Provide a policy framework and ongoing funding to assist communities reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Council has developed a robust Environment Strategy that includes energy targets, and has defined bold aspirations to meet its vision of being South Australia's most sustainable city.</p>	Support
53.5	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to set targets to achieve net zero emissions by 2030 and require and resource net zero action plans for all sectors and government departments.</p>	<p>Not considered achievable.</p>	Not support
53.6	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Recognise that we are in a state of Climate Emergency and take urgent action to rapidly cut carbon emissions and support local communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change;</p> <p>2. Put in place interim targets and steep emissions reductions during this decade as part of the net zero commitment, and in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 percent as agreed to at the United Nations Climate Conference, COP26 Glasgow;</p>	<p>Council has developed a robust Environment Strategy that includes energy targets, and has defined bold aspirations to meet its vision of being South Australia's most sustainable city.</p>	Support



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>3. Support job-creation, research, and investment to transition to a low-carbon economy and to position Australia as leaders in these new industries;</p> <p>4. Invest in infrastructure upgrades to the national electricity grid to facilitate the transition to 100 percent renewables;</p> <p>5. Fix the regulatory processes and policy frameworks to fast-track new renewable energy projects, battery storage and electric vehicles</p> <p>6. Commit to the phase-out of fossil fuels and support affected workers as we transition to a renewable economy;</p> <p>7. Improve the National Construction Code to ensure we don't build more poor performing buildings that will lock in carbon emissions for decades to come;</p> <p>8. Support a dedicated federal funding stream to local government for climate mitigation and adaptation;</p> <p>9. Commit to a substantial increase in funding to strengthen community resilience, reduce disaster response and recovery costs, and reduce the exposure of local governments and their communities to climate impacts;</p> <p>10. Adopt a partnership approach with local government to identify and invest in local climate change mitigation and adaption projects, including through the creation of a new \$200 million Local Government Climate Change Response Fund;</p> <p>11. Provide funding for a new Climate Disaster Fund, funded to a level equivalent to 10 percent of council operational budgets, to increase resilience of</p>		

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	Australian local governments and their communities to the impacts of climate change.		
53.7	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to formally recognise and declare that we are in a state of climate emergency and actively work with all levels of government and industry to achieve a target of zero emissions by 2050.	This is a more realistic timeframe.	Support
54	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acknowledge and endorse ALGA's call for a Local Government Climate Response Partnership fund of \$200 million per annum over four years to help councils address the impacts of climate change in their communities;</li> <li>2. Acknowledge that such a fund would create the multi-level governance called for in the Paris Agreement of 2015;</li> <li>3. Note that significant funds and support for local government will be needed to prevent the worst impacts of climate change on local communities and so call on the Federal Government to create a local government climate response partnership fund, of at least \$200 million per annum, and work with local governments on existing and emerging local and regional projects to rapidly drive down emissions before 2030.</li> <li>4. Put in place a climate action regulatory reform working group to remove regulatory, policy and other barriers to climate action for local governments and communities and ensure policy coherence and</li> </ol>	Action across all tiers of government, led strongly at the national level, is needed.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	synchronisation at all levels of government and with relevant industry stakeholders.		
54.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide financial support for climate-resilience projects that also include betterment of infrastructure in response to changing weather and rainfall patterns affecting local communities.	Adaptation and mitigation actions and projects are supported.	Support
54.2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commit to a Local Government Climate Response Partnership fund of \$200 million per annum over four years, to help councils address the impacts of climate change in their communities;</li> <li>2. Acknowledge that such a fund would create the multilevel governance called for in the Paris Agreement of 2015 and assist in driving down emissions by 2030; and</li> <li>3. Note that significant funds and support for local government will be needed to prevent the worst impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, such as those from multicultural backgrounds, older persons and those living with financial and housing insecurity.</li> </ol>	Action across all tiers of government, led strongly at the national level, is needed.	Support
54.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide a substantive increase in Commonwealth-funded programs to assist local communities in addressing climate change risk and adaptation. That the National General Assembly continues to advocate to the Federal Government for provision of funding for local government authorities to prepare climate change risk assessments and	<p>Action across all tiers of government, led strongly at the national level, is needed.</p> <p>Local adaptation and mitigation actions and projects are supported.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	adaptation plans to inform federal resilience funding priorities.		
54.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased financial support for local government climate-response projects, initiatives and infrastructure that reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.	Local adaptation and mitigation actions and projects are supported.	Support
54.5	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund and support local governments to protect biodiversity and to undertake local climate change mitigation, adaption and build local resilience to climate change and biodiversity loss.	Local adaptation and mitigation actions and projects are supported.	Support
54.6	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to act on the latest climate science by acknowledging the climate emergency and providing support to local government to transition to a beyond zero emissions economy.	Action across all tiers of government, led strongly at the national level, is needed.	Support
54.7	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to work more closely with local councils to support their efforts to reduce emissions through the reduction of costs related directly to climate-change management (such as landfill fees) where councils can demonstrate progress across an agreed framework of climate policy, emission reductions, climate mitigation management and adaptation responses.	Action across all tiers of government, led strongly at the national level, is needed.	Support
54.8	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding to support resource communities to lead, plan and transition their economies to support decarbonisation goals. Councils are seeking leadership from the Federal government to work in a bipartisan and collaborative manner across	Action across all tiers of government, led strongly at the national level, is needed.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	all levels of government and empower communities to be part of the conversation.		
54.9	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide targeted support to businesses, sporting and community organisations impacted by global climatic and health challenges such as COVID-19.	Support for local responses is welcome.	Support
55	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure collaboration of all levels of Government, including partnerships, policy and program development and implementation responsible for issues affecting Indigenous Australians In addition, the National General Assembly reaffirms its commitment as a national priority to call on the federal, state and territory governments to commit to and progress nationally consistent recognition of Indigenous local government councils – where First Nations people are a majority presence on council and among electors – as Aboriginal Community Controlled local governments across Australia at all levels of government. The motion continues a shared value and commitment of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) that aligns with the Closing the Gap Agreement, policy development, principles and practices of indigenous procurement and implementation affecting Indigenous Australians, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous Local Government Councils.	The City of Holdfast Bay seeks to work in genuine partnership with Kurna people, who are the traditional owners of the area and commends all local governments to do the same.	Support
56	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to continue to demonstrate strong leadership in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by supporting constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Constitutional recognition is a critical next step for Aboriginal people to have an adequate voice.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	peoples and endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart.		
56.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call for Indigenous constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament and hold a referendum in the new term of federal parliament to achieve it; and</li> <li>2. Request that the Australian Local Government Association work with the Uluru Statement from the Heart's campaign to develop a resource kit for councils seeking to host public forums to inform their communities about the proposed referendum.</li> </ol>	Constitutional recognition is a critical next step for Aboriginal people to have an adequate voice.	Support
57	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate additional/continued funding towards remote community housing in the Northern Territory to address housing inequity and overcrowding.	While this proposal is specific to the Northern Territory, it is acknowledged that housing inequality in Aboriginal Communities is a national issue that requires solidarity and collective support.	Support in principle
58	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue advancing all co-design efforts to establish a National Indigenous Voice on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities;</li> <li>2. Partner with the local government sector, through ALGA's national agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, to help facilitate outcomes across the agreed Closing the Gap priority reform targets, including around education, employment, health, and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Communities; and</li> </ol>	This motion is supported as long as the proposed mechanism is one that is supported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.	Support in principle, subject to confirmation that it is the preferred mechanism of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>3. Formally partner with ALGA and the local government sector, including through the establishment of an ongoing advisory or representative voice for local government comprising of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to guide the broad work relating to First Nations peoples, truth-telling sovereignty, and treaty-making.</p>		
59	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase investment to support Australia's transition to a circular economy in order to reduce waste, improve the recovery of precious resources, and create new jobs;</li> <li>2. Turn off the 'tap' of waste by requiring and creating incentives for higher use of recycled materials and by phasing out problematic and unnecessary waste;</li> <li>3. Expand the product stewardship schemes and introduce a new materials levy to drive industry change;</li> <li>4. Ban the import and production of hard-to-recycle materials (except for essential needs such as some medical uses);</li> <li>5. Co-invest in new major regional waste facilities to help attract and build new markets;</li> <li>6. Prioritise job creation and industry transition through the circular economy as part of COVID-19 recovery efforts ;</li> <li>7. Fund technology and research that leads to an advanced domestic circular economy sector and</li> </ol>	<p>A three-tiered government approach to foster research and development into symbiosis principles that can be applied in all manufacturing is recommended.</p> <p>Implementing legislation to lead manufacturers to display 'whole of life cycle' labelling indicating a net zero waste indicator is in step with consumer sentiment, as many consumers are purchasing products based on sustainability and social conscious choices.</p> <p>While investing in waste recovery centres is positive, it would be more effective to not wait until this stage and ensure the life cycle is better served.</p> <p>Relatively simple changes such as the implementation of universal electrical cords would reduce significant waste. For example, phone chargers for each model or brand are different, EV chargers that support a sustainable industry already have three different power supply cords, etc.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>positions Australia as a leading expert in this new economic sector; and</p> <p>8. Partner with local government to help guide and inform federal policy and investment decisions around supporting circular economy, recycling, product packaging, and waste reform opportunities.</p>		
59.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently step in to address the structural issues with waste and recycling as a result of the China Sword policy in order to promote and delivered a circular and sustainable waste practices.</p>	<p>Investment in waste should commence with elimination, but investment is required at every stage.</p>	<p>Support</p>
59.2	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the establishment of recycling and reprocessing markets in Australia to support a true local circular economy where products and materials are kept in use throughout their product lifecycle and reuse of our precious resources is prioritised by building a demand and market for locally reusable and recycled products.</p>	<p>Investment in waste should commence with elimination, but investment is required at every stage</p>	<p>Support</p>
59.3	<p>That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Federal Government to consider additional funding programs to support the construction and on-going running costs associated with the Australian Government's commitment to reduce food being landfilled through the National Waste Policy, and the associated national Waste Policy Action Plan (2019).</p>	<p>The City of Holdfast Bay is making significant progress towards reducing food and organics in landfill.</p>	<p>Support</p>
60	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to direct and support investment in the development of small-scale waste management technologies, systems, and solutions specific to the needs of regional and remote communities, as an adjunct to existing efforts that rely on private industry</p>	<p>Investment in waste should commence with elimination, but investment is required at every stage</p>	<p>Support</p>



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	participation leveraging the waste streams of large-scale population bases.		
60.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to streamline process and directly allocate funding for circular economy projects that will allow councils to manage localised remanufacturing proposals and implement discounted buyback schemes for recycled products.	Stimulus of new markets and innovation is welcomed.	Support
60.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide dedicated funding to support regional local governments to undertake targeted feasibility studies and business cases to explore existing and new opportunities to partner in and support the creation of a circular economy and create localised resource recovery practices.	The challenges of waste management in rural and remote areas is acknowledged.	Support
60.3	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate funds towards water and waste recycling initiatives in remote communities.	While Holdfast is not remote, the issue of stormwater from other LGA's leading into Holdfast Bay coastal points greatly impacts water quality and marine life	Support
60.4	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to advocate for the continued development of national recycling initiatives.	Greater support could be given to not-for-profit charity organisations to market the recycling industry as not just a charity store and to provide funding for creative hubs that focus on repurposing products.	Support
61	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a program to fund and support councils to transition their communities to a zero-waste circular economy, in which there is no place for incinerators (including waste to energy incinerators) or the incineration of medical waste; and</li> <li>2. Remove incinerators from the Australian Renewable Energy Target and remove native forest biomass as a</li> </ol>	<p>Most waste can be recycled, reused or composted. There is however a smaller proportion of streams (approximately 5-10%) that currently have no technology or market for recovery so waste to energy is the only alternative.</p> <p>Funding support for development of alternative solutions and technologies allowing the recovery of non-recyclable, compostable and reusable waste streams would be beneficial, as well as giving</p>	Not supported

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	renewable component of bioenergy/fuel and its eligibility for subsidy.	consideration to banning the import of packaging that cannot be recycled in Australia.	
61.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to say Yes to the Circular Economy and No to Incinerators.	<p>Most waste can be recycled, reused or composted. There is however a smaller proportion of streams (approximately 5-10%) that currently have no technology or market for recovery so waste to energy is the only alternative.</p> <p>Funding support for development of alternative solutions and technologies allowing the recovery of non-recyclable, compostable and reusable waste streams would be beneficial, as well as giving consideration to banning the import of packaging that cannot be recycled in Australia.</p>	Not Supported
62	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to change the Australian Packaging Covenant to a mandatory product stewardship scheme, constituted under the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.	Apply pressure or implement legislation to leading manufacturers to display 'whole of life cycle' labelling indicating a net zero waste indicator. Many consumers are purchasing product based on sustainability and social conscious choices.	Support
62.1	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian, state and territory governments to jointly undertake an investigation of the adequacy of the current policy on packaging and product recycling information and to consider establishing a consistent national approach that mandates the provision of information and advice by all manufacturers or wholesalers/retailers regarding the relevant recycling stream for all packaging as well as products produced or sold in Australia.	Apply pressure or implement legislation to leading manufacturers to display 'whole of life cycle' labelling indicating a net zero waste indicator. Many consumers are purchasing product based on sustainability and social conscious choices.	Support
62.2	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide national leadership to grow the	Introduce planning legislation for high-rise apartment complexes to install and operate a Gaia Recycling Unit	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>circular economy and reduce levels of household and commercial waste by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementing a national ban on food waste going into landfill;</li> <li>2. Implementing stricter national sustainable packaging standards and a product stewardship scheme; and</li> <li>3. Providing increased funding to industry and local government to support local processing solutions, sector innovation and market development.</li> </ol>	<p>(or similar) to manage organic waste on site rather than going to landfill. The off shoot of this system is the production of slow-release plant fertiliser.</p>	
62.3	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a fund of \$100 million per annum, over four years, to support local government circular waste innovation projects. A significant portion of the fund should be dedicated to supporting projects in regional areas. Due to resourcing constraints in regional areas, any grants provided through the program should not require matched funding.</p>	<p>Rather than focus on proportions, more emphasis on collaboration and funds more readily available for cross-collaborative projects where two or more LGA's are identified.</p>	Support
63	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) to reduce barriers to local government jointly tendering for recyclables processing and innovative resource recovery services by exploring options to amend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sections 2BA or 2C to reduce the application of part IV for example, by removing recyclables processing or innovative resource recovery services, for which tenders are sought, from the definition of 'business'; or</li> <li>2. Section 51 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) to introduce exceptions to part IV in circumstances where local governments:</li> </ol>	<p>It is not clear from the information supplied with the motion why a joint tendering exercise should breach competition legislation, however, it is accepted as so for the purposes of this motion. Barriers to improved environmental outcomes should be removed where feasible.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>-a. undertake joint tendering exercises for recyclables processing and/or innovative resource recovery services</p> <p>-b. hold collaborative forums to discuss waste diversion, resource recovery and recyclables processing procurement strategy and initiatives.</p>		
64	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to implement a rebate system of 40 cents per litre for the use of S45R crumbed rubber bitumen in asphalt, construction seals and reseals.</p>	<p>While in principle this motion appears appealing, the implications of establishing such a market and implementing such a significant rebate system is unknown. Further information would be required before support can be offered.</p>	Not supported
65	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to remove the GST paid on sustainable and reusable alternatives to disposable and single-use products.</p>	<p>Agreed, if a product has a 100% sustainable life cycle.</p> <p>Increase GST on single-use products.</p> <p>Provide government incentives to businesses that invest in sustainable manufacturing and produce fully sustainable products</p>	Support
66	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to double the \$3.5 billion National Water Grid Fund towards the construction of new and augmented water infrastructure projects across regional Australia and provides annual competitive funding rounds for the acceptance of funding applications.</p>	<p>Water is a scarce resource across much of Australia. While it is acknowledged that water is key to regional development, it is also critical to environmental sustainability. Currently under-developed areas are often part of a small and dwindling stock of natural areas. Paying for environmental services in such areas should be explored ahead of traditional development approaches.</p>	Not supported
66.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to deliver a long-term, bulk water source for regional communities to enable economic development opportunities, including hydrogen and agriculture.</p>	<p>The supporting commentary on this motion focuses on the Surat Basin, but the motion itself is broad. Bulk water sources cannot be viably sourced across all regional communities, therefore the motion is not supported.</p>	Not supported

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
67	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commence a mature and informed discussion, inclusive of all relevant Commonwealth guidelines, on the use of wastewater for specific purposes other than parks and gardens and including road maintenance undertaken by local government.	Wastewater is an expensive resource, nevertheless a very valuable one where water is scarce.	Support
68	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide additional funding for tree planting to:  1. Increase tree canopy cover;  2. Reduce the impacts of a changing climate; and  3. Improve biodiversity and create habitat for native fauna.	Trees make significant contributions to environmental outcomes, wellbeing and economic outcomes.	Support
69	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address, protect and increase tree canopy, particularly urban tree canopy and forest, to minimise the impacts of climate change and to protect biodiversity and habitat.	Trees make significant contributions to environmental outcomes, wellbeing and economic outcomes.	Support
70	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased funding to support on-the-ground council activities aimed at protecting our local koala population, including:  1. The development of the Koala Watch app to a commercially viable standard enabling delivery of eco-tourism, citizen science and conservation benefits; and  2. Supporting efforts (financially and via policy and legislative alignment) to combat disease and increase the understanding of koala population dynamics.	While there is not a substantial koala population within the City of Holdfast Bay, the motion is supported in principle.	Support in principle
71	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise the harmful impacts of	Supports biodiversity.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	second-generation rodenticides, prohibit their use in Australia and promote alternative methods of rodent management.		
72	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop wildlife-friendly lighting standards.	Supports biodiversity.	Support
73	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with local governments to fund the establishment of regional biosecurity report cards designed to measure the extent and success of management programs that target new, emerging and established invasive species.	Supports biodiversity.	Support
74	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to take a broader view in respect of economic recovery and growth to reduce the reliance on infrastructure and construction to drive job creation and economic recovery post-COVID. This should include increased investment in skills and training, health, arts and agriculture, environmental restoration, supply chain improvements, and initiatives that further diversify the economy and improve Australia's self-sufficiency.	A broad-based approach to economic development is welcomed.	Support
75	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a national cultural plan to support the short, medium, and long-term needs of the creative and cultural sectors;</li> <li>2. Partner with local government to develop a creative sector federal investment strategy that directly invests in local creative and cultural industries as part of immediate COVID-19 recovery efforts;</li> </ol>	<p>Arts and Culture is an important connector and helps to create and maintain a healthy, prosperous, engaging and thriving community.</p> <p>The continual planning and investment for arts and culture and the opportunity to tap into 'recovery' funding by artists and arts organisations will enable the arts sector to rebuild, grow and flourish.</p> <p>Local Government played a big part in providing assistance and support to their local arts community</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>3. Expand eligibility and scale of existing federal government creative COVID-19 support programs, including the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund, to continue providing increased support for more local artists, festivals, concerts, tours, exhibitions, visual, digital, creative, and cultural organisations;</p> <p>4. Expand representation of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Creative Economy Taskforce, by providing a seat at the table and representation for the local government sector;</p> <p>5. Prioritise new COVID-19 creative sector support investment towards sustaining and helping our most vulnerable artistic and cultural community cohorts, including Aboriginal, multicultural, the newly arrived, women and young creatives; and</p> <p>6. Ensure local government is directly provided with a fair and equitable share of new funding and resources to supporting local and regional creative activities, festivals, events, and organisations.</p>	<p>during COVID yet councils have been largely overlooked for funding.</p>	
76	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase needs based funding for the construction of and upgrades to community, arts and culture and sports infrastructure.</p>	<p>There is an opportunity for Government to build or upgrade community spaces that can be multi-functional 'community' hubs that are accessible and inviting spaces that meet the needs of multiple arts and culture groups and sporting clubs and organisations.</p>	Support
77	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased funding for cultural and sporting infrastructure in line with projected growth and greatest need.</p>	<p>Such projects often require significant infrastructure, which benefits from capital grants.</p>	Support
78	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create a dedicated funding stream to</p>	<p>During COVID it became apparent that people were looking for small scale community events and activation</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	support councils to facilitate events at a community level to stimulate post-COVID economic recovery for businesses and individuals working in the tourism, hospitality, arts, and entertainment industries.	in their local area. These events also help contribute to the economic viability of local businesses.	
79	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognise the unprecedented impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had in compounding Australia's workforce shortages, particularly in the hospitality and agriculture sectors;</li> <li>2. Acknowledge the role that prolonged international and interstate border closures have had in compounding workforce shortages across the agriculture and hospitality industries which are generally highly dependent on backpackers, overseas students, and migrant workers;</li> <li>3. Respond to the changing nature of work across Australia as a result of the COVID19 pandemic, and the opportunities associated with working from home and the changing nature of workforce expectations amongst Australian workers;</li> <li>4. Invest in skills, training, and pathway opportunities to support more vulnerable community cohorts, including as a priority, socio-economic disadvantaged cohorts, longer term unemployed and asylum-seekers, refugees to be connected to employment pathways across sectors experiencing genuine skills shortages;</li> <li>5. In reopening Australia's borders, prioritise opportunities to strategically increase Australia's humanitarian intake, particularly in the context of growing global tensions and displacement, to support</li> </ol>	A multi-faceted approach to training and economic development is needed.	Support



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>more asylum seekers and refugees find a safe place to live, raise a family, and work; and</p> <p>6. Establish a national COVID-19 migration workforce and skills recovery taskforce, which is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all of these opportunities, and which provides ALGA and the local government sector with a seat at the table.</p>		
80	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address the need for recovery and skills shortages across the country by creating a national vocational training strategy and associated funding to increase the number of individuals participating in training across the country.</p>	<p>A multi-faceted approach to training is needed.</p>	
81	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and state governments to work with local councils to assist with the identification of existing skills and the types of on the job training in local government that might meet micro-credentialing requirements and assist local councils to take up these options at the leading edge.</p>	<p>Most qualification requirements are set by organisational policy. Therefore, the costs of training and availability of suitable staff is largely within the control of the organisation and not a systemic problem with the vocational education sector. Nevertheless, the principle of enabling and encouraging micro-credentialing and other innovations such as 'just in time learning' are supported.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
82	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create incentives to attract and train qualified childcare staff.</p>	<p>The Australian Government is the main source of overall funding for child care services, primarily through fee subsidies.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>
83	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian and relevant state governments to immediately relax the cross-border accreditation requirements for building surveyors to operate nationally under the Australian Building Code. Further to this, that the Federal Government introduces a rural/regional</p>	<p>The implications of this proposal cannot be sufficiently assessed based on the material provided. On this basis, it is recommended that the proposal not be supported, pending further evaluation.</p>	<p>Not supported</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	specific accreditation to ease the burden on regional councils.		
84	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note that in some jurisdictions, councillors, mayors and lord mayors are not automatically entitled to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution, despite Councillors being paid the appropriate superannuation entitlements in other jurisdictions;</li> <li>2. Note that in some jurisdictions, councillors, mayors and lord mayors have the option of 'opting-in' to receive the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution only following the successful passing of a motion requiring same, allowing the issue to be politicised in council meetings;</li> <li>3. Note that this sets a poor community standard and sends the wrong message to the community given that superannuation should be a universal mandatory system to support all workers in Australia; and</li> <li>4. Rationalise the superannuation system for elected representatives from the local government level and mandate that all councillors across Australia automatically receive the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution.</li> </ol>	<p>Elected Members are not paid superannuation contributions because their payments constitute an allowance to help defray the costs of undertaking council duties. These payments do not constitute a salary and therefore do not attract the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution.</p>	Not supported
85	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a dedicated and ongoing community resilience and fairness response package to ensure our most vulnerable community members are protected from the worst of the impacts of a prolonged pandemic, particularly the youth;</li> </ol>	<p>The need for intensive support for young people post pandemic is acknowledged. The response package should be flexible enough to be tailored to the specific needs in particular areas, e.g. targeted programs that provide supportive social environments; practical skills building as well as opportunities to enhance resilience and wellbeing.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>2. Increase funding for local learning and job preparation programs and initiatives designed to reduce unemployment; and</p> <p>3. Reinvigorate, invest in, and grow local manufacturing.</p>		
86	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support rural and regional communities with increased funding and facilities to meet the growing needs of youth with mental health issues, including early intervention programs and ensuring equity of access to services.</p>	<p>The additional contributing factors in regional and rural areas is acknowledged.</p>	<p>Support</p>
87	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Create a local youth jobs program at the local government level;</p> <p>2. Establish a youth employment facilitator in each local government area;</p> <p>3. Provide a local youth employment recovery fund for each local government area; and</p> <p>4. Provide incentives for local employers to deliver well paid, meaningful, secure work for local youth.</p>	<p>Items 1 and 2 are not a local government role.</p> <p>Items 3 and 4 can be supported by local government.</p>	<p>Support in principle (items 3 and 4)</p>
88	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Acknowledge the harm that gambling does across the country, the role that local government has in managing the impact of gambling harm on local communities and take practical action to minimise gambling harm;</p>	<p>The harms of problem gambling are acknowledged and support to minimise their impacts is welcomed.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>2. Ban all forms of gambling advertisements on broadcast and online platforms during live sports events;</p> <p>3. Establish and implement a national fund to invest in local community-based responses to gambling harm such as the successful Libraries After Dark program in Victoria; and</p> <p>4. Establish a national community divestment fund to assist local sporting clubs and community groups to transition away from electronic gambling machines as an income stream.</p>		
89	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Permanently increase JobSeeker Payments to at least \$69 a day;</p> <p>2. Support increases to the minimum wage in line with the cost of living;</p> <p>3. Ensure that increases to JobSeeker and the minimum wage do not come at the expense of other vital supports provided to people experiencing disadvantage and hardship; and</p> <p>4. Partner with local governments to facilitate these measures, and to identify and invest in targeted measures that address and respond to socio-economic disadvantage and inequality across Australian communities.</p>	<p>Support for those who are experiencing unemployment needs to be just and reasonable. Structural unemployment exists and attempting to disincentivize unemployment by providing poverty-level support is flawed.</p>	Support
89.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>1. Note that the severe economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been cushioned by</p>	<p>Given the high number of people who are underemployed or unemployed, particularly as a result of the pandemic, this is supported.</p>	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>Commonwealth, state, and local policy interventions, including the JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments;</p> <p>2. Note that prior to the \$550 per fortnight increase in the JobSeeker payment in April 2020, the JobSeeker/NewStart rate had not been increased in real terms in 26 years.</p> <p>3. Note that in February 2021, the Commonwealth increased the JobSeeker rate by just \$50 a fortnight, to \$307 per week for a single adult, still well below the poverty line in Australia, and also coinciding with the end of the \$75 per week coronavirus supplement, which will leave recipients \$50 a week worse off than they currently are; and</p> <p>4. Call on the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Commonwealth Parliament to permanently raise the rate of JobSeeker by between \$185 per week and \$275 per week.</p>		
90	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to advocate that both major political parties expand the scope of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to enable local governments to receive Commonwealth contributory funding. This funding would contribute to community facilities and assets in support of NDIS eligible recipients, and other community members who may benefit from them. For example, improved accessibility of recreational facilities and other infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>Given that all LG's in SA are required to develop Disability Access &amp; Inclusion Plans (DAIP's) aligned to the State Disability Inclusion Act, funding to support infrastructure changes within LG jurisdictions would contribute significantly to making LG's more inclusive sooner.</p>	Support
90.1	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for a continuation of funding for rural communities in addition to the identified funded</p>	<p>The challenges of providing support services to people with disabilities in rural and remote areas is acknowledged.</p>	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	programs under the National Disability Insurance Schemes.		
91	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reaffirm its commitment to the National Strategy for Volunteering, and the ongoing monitoring of volunteer work through the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and</li> <li>2. Provide adequate funding to volunteer agencies, including local government, to support actions that increase volunteer participation and adapt volunteering programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ol>	<p>The contribution of volunteers across LG's amounts to millions of dollars each year. Additionally, volunteering has been a proven pathway to employment for many.</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a decrease in volunteering overall, so funding to support initiatives that increase volunteer participation is invaluable.</p> <p>New initiatives that support a more flexible volunteering model will be attractive for people who are keen to move in and out of short term bursts of volunteering that fit around other commitments such as travel, study etc. Ongoing volunteering does not suit everyone.</p>	Support
92	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to delay any cut or suspension of the current fuel excise tax arrangements until such time as a genuine reform package can be legislated to replace the tax with a mechanism which distributes this vital road maintenance funding across all road users regardless of fuel type.	Well thought-out responses to complex legislative challenges are welcomed.	Support
93	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to remove/exempt Fringe Benefits Tax on electric or zero emission vehicles where use is restricted to travel between home and work.	While the implications of this proposal are not fully understood, the cost-benefit appears to suggest a net gain. Initiatives and market signals that positively support improved environmental outcomes are welcomed.	Support in principle
94	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create a regional tax incentive to equalise the current remote area Fringe Benefit Tax concessions from 50 percent to 100 percent to enable all employees residing in regional and remote	This implications of this proposal are not understood based on the information supplied.	Neutral

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>communities across Australia access to the same allowances as their employers. The tax incentive will assist to drive regional relocation, to smooth out the volatility of housing prices with the aim to address the regional housing affordability crisis across Australia (especially in regional areas affected by the boom-bust cycle of mining industries).</p>		
95	<p>That this National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to change the taxation code to eliminate incentives that reward activities and purchases that are worse for public health, are more expensive for households, result in worse domestic energy security, and worsen climate change. The Assembly calls on the Federal Government to change the taxation code to address this, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support residential and commercial landlords to improve the health, comfort, and energy security of their tenants by changing the status of energy-efficient, water-efficient, and renewable appliances and structures so that they qualify for accelerated depreciation or extension of the Temporary Full Expensing Measures for Landlords for a period through to 2030;</li> <li>2. Amend the taxation system such that when a landlord replaces an appliance that has poor air quality outcomes with a cleaner system (e.g., gas cooktop with induction cooktop, or a gas heater versus reverse cycle air conditioner), this is also captured through the Temporary Full Expensing Measures for Landlords rather than a capital expense that is to be depreciated over its effective useful life;</li> </ol>	<p>Policy and market signals that encourage positive environmental and wellbeing outcomes are supported.</p>	<p>Support</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>3. Increase the effective useful lives for those appliances that actively contribute to poor indoor air quality and worsened health outcomes such that the depreciation claim will be smaller in each year;</p> <p>4. Factoring in the weight and energy source of a vehicle when deciding the allowable depreciation, in recognition that the damage done to roads is proportional to the fourth power of the weight, and thus increases rapidly for heavier vehicles (using a different scale for electric vehicles);</p> <p>5. In order to improve public health due to air pollution and lack of physical activity, phase in changes to the way that motor vehicle expenses can be deducted to encourage the uptake of bicycles, e-bikes, and electric cargo bikes for commuting and business purposes, and in those cases where cars or other motor vehicles are required, make changes to ensure that electric vehicles are favoured over petrol and diesel vehicles; and</p> <p>6. Call on the Federal Government to make these amendments to the relevant tax legislation to give effect to these measures as soon as possible.</p>		
96	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian, state, and local government associations to investigate and, where feasible, work with willing councils to trial innovative public governance models (including liquid democracy) to strengthen the connectivity and relevance of the local government sector into the future.</p>	<p>As the closest tier of government to the community, it behoves local government to be leaders in public governance.</p> <p>While representative democracy as it is currently practiced has served us well, technology has opened new options for increasing participation and strengthening democracy.</p> <p>Local government should explore these possibilities and embrace available improvements to better serve</p>	Supported



#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
		communities and to provide a role model for other tiers of government.	
97	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to write to each state Premier, requesting that future COVID mandates that are likely to have negative impacts on local businesses and unvaccinated members of our communities be discussed with the ALGA Executive prior to introduction.	Pandemic and other emergency responses commonly require decisions to be made quickly, as well as in the local context. Typically, such decisions are appropriately made by a limited group of people with relevant authority and expertise. Emergency events cannot be subject to decision-making by consensus. The ALGA Executive does not have the necessary mechanisms in place to quickly coordinate views and arrive at common positions. In any case, decisions which are state-based should be tackled by state-based mechanisms.	Not supported
98	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to adopt a unified approach to transitioning refugees on Temporary Protection Visas or Safe Haven Enterprise Visas to Permanent Protection Visas as quickly as possible.		Supported
99	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note that the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons is the first treaty to comprehensively outlaw nuclear weapons and provide a pathway for their elimination. This Treaty entered into force on 22 January 2021 and all national governments have been invited to sign and ratify the treaty;</li> <li>2. Note that the Treaty entering into force is an important milestone on the path to a nuclear weapon-free world. It makes concrete the standard that nuclear weapons are illegal and illegitimate for all states, and a permanent part of international law; and</li> </ol>	The potential for conflict to escalate to nuclear threat is an ongoing existential crisis for humanity. Collective elimination of nuclear weapons would negate this threat and enable energies and resources to be invested in more beneficial ways.	Support

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	3. Welcome the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons on 22 January 2021, and sign and ratify the treaty.		
100	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with local government to remove impediments within the National Construction Code Series (BCA) and associated Australian Standards, that dissuade industry from adopting 3D printing, and the Government provide instruments to incentivise private industry to develop 3D printing.	Innovations, including increased efficiency in construction, are supported.	Support in principle
101	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for funding support to help develop international municipal relationships such as sister cities.	While local governments can be effective conduits for city to city relationships, resourcing them to effectively harness the benefits is a challenge for many.	Support in principle
102	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government for a change in date for Australia Day.	<p>On the basis that 26 January marks the date of the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and the raising of the Union Flag by Arthur Phillip, it does not have a broader meaning for the rest of Australia.</p> <p>For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people, the date also marks the commencement of widespread death, dispossession, repression and a destruction of culture.</p> <p>As a mature society, it is time to have a collective discussion about a date that better reflects the nation that Australia has become, despite somewhat ignominious beginnings.</p>	Support in principle
103	Greater Dandenong City Council, as joint mover with Brimbank City Council, Darebin City Council, Monash City Council, Moreland City Council and Yarra City Council, moves that this National General Assembly:	Communities stepping up to offer humanitarian assistance is just and justified. As a wealthy nation, Australia can afford to assist those caught in war zones to live in safety.	Support in principle

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>1. acknowledges the Federal Government's swift and appropriate response to the Ukrainian crisis in taking refugees over the annual humanitarian visa program quota, to be settled in local government areas;</p> <p>2. acknowledges the contrasting Federal Government response to the recent crisis in Afghanistan, where Afghan refugees will be allocated spots within the existing annual humanitarian visa program, over a four-year period;</p> <p>In addition, Greater Dandenong City Council as secretariat of the local government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum on behalf of the following Councils that are members:</p> <p>a. Executive Members' Brimbank City Council, Casey City Council, Darebin City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Hume City Council, Kingston City Council, Monash City Council, Moreland City Council, Yarra City Council;</p> <p>b. General Members' Ballarat City Council, Banyule City Council, Bendigo City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Canterbury Bankstown City Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Inner West City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Melbourne City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Nillumbik Shire Council, Port Phillip City Council, Randwick City Council, Wagga City Council, Whittlesea City Council, Wyndham City Council; and</p> <p>c. Supporter Councils' Bass Coast Shire Council, Greater Geelong City Council, Hobart City Council, Launceston City Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Maroondah City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire</p>		

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
	<p>Council, Borough of Queenscliffe, Wellington Shire Council, and Whitehorse City Council;</p> <p>Calls for a consistent approach from the Federal Government to taking humanitarian refugees from active conflict zones.</p>		
104	<p>This National General Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acknowledges and informs the Federal Government that the limited amount of support provided by the Federal Government to people seeking asylum who are awaiting their status determination is resulting in increased costs for local governments across Australia; and</li> <li>2. Calls on the Federal Government to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. appropriately fund the Department of Immigration so that asylum applications and appeals can be urgently addressed through a single Refugee Status Determination process and an independent and fair merits review;</li> <li>b. allow all such people to access without delay or condition, Australia's Centrelink services and Medicare benefits; and</li> <li>c. provide TPV holders with a pathway to permanency.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>(Ref: Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum (2022),  <a href="https://bit.ly/3vyLu8x">https://bit.ly/3vyLu8x</a> )</p>	<p>Communities who have welcomed asylum seekers are to be applauded and should be supported by the Australian Government to cover the costs of such placements.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>

#	Motion	Comments	Recommended Voting Position
106	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <p>Provide strong structured VET support programs for training next generation workforce that will support the renaissance of manufacturing in Australia such as; automation, programable logic, self-guidance, robotics, and drone technology.</p>	<p>A multi-faceted approach to training and development is supported.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>

Item No: 16.8

Subject: **CARETAKER POLICY – AMENDMENT**

Date: 14 June 2022

Written By: Manager, Strategy and Governance

Chief Executive Officer: Mr R Bria

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## **SUMMARY**

Section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (the Elections Act) requires councils to prepare and adopt a caretaker policy to govern the conduct of the Council and its staff during the election period for a general election.

A Caretaker Period Policy was developed in accordance with the Local Government Association's (LGA) model policy. The Caretaker Period Policy was considered and approved by Council on 25 January 2022 (Report No: 07/22).

Since the adoption of the Policy, more detailed work planning has been undertaken, which has revealed a practical need for an additional Council meeting. Furthermore, additional consideration has also been given to Alwyndor's operational requirements, based on legal advice received.

This Report is submitted pursuant to Regulation 21 of the Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures and recommends amendments to the Caretaker Period Policy, as marked in Attachment 1.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council approves the revised Caretaker Policy as provided in Attachment 2.**

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## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Statutory requirement

## **COUNCIL POLICY**

Caretaker Period Policy  
Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures

## STATUTORY PROVISIONS

*Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*  
*Local Government Act 1999*

## BACKGROUND

Section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (the Elections Act) requires councils to prepare and adopt a caretaker policy to govern the conduct of the Council and its staff during the election period for a general election.

In December 2021, the Local Government Association (LGA) released Caretaker Guidelines and a model policy, which was used as a guide to develop the Caretaker Period Policy that was considered and approved by Council on 25 January 2022 (Report No: 07/22).

This Report is submitted pursuant to Regulation 21 of the Code of Practice – Meeting Procedures and recommends amendments to the Caretaker Period Policy.

## REPORT

During an election period councils are prohibited from making designated decisions. The use of Council resources for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates is also prohibited. However there are some discretionary aspects of the application of caretaker conventions.

Firstly, the date at which caretaker commences has some leeway.

Pursuant to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*, an election period:

- (a) commences on either:
  - (i) the day on which nominations for a general election close; or
  - (ii) if a council's caretaker policy specifies an earlier date, that date; and
- (b) expires at the conclusion of the general election.

Through the policy Council approved on 25 January 2022, the caretaker period in the City of Holdfast Bay is scheduled to commence on 23 August 2022. This is the date that nominations open. Using this date ensured that caretaker conventions commenced at the outset of the election process.

Since Council approved the policy, more detailed forward work planning has been undertaken. An extra Council meeting in August is recommended to allow for significant matters to be decided. It is therefore proposed that the policy be amended to commence on 24 August 2022.

The new proposed date is not a significant departure from Council's original policy position, while responding to a pragmatic need.

Secondly, while designated decisions are prohibited, there is some scope for interpretation of matters that are 'significant' or 'major policy decisions'. The policy considered by Council on 25 January 2022 was closely modelled on the model policy provided by the Local Government Association (LGA). While the model policy provided by the LGA was sound for Council's purposes, further consideration has been given to Alwyndor's operations.

While the policy is not intended to preclude business as usual, for clarity, it is reasonable to exclude the Alwyndor Management Committee (AMC) from some provisions relating to 'major policy decision'.

Specifically, there may be operational requirements for AMC to expend unbudgeted funds, endorse a new policy or conduct unplanned public consultation. It is important that such operational matters relating to Alwyndor proceed expeditiously, without needing to be returned to Council for dispensation.

Legal advice was sought as to the most appropriate way of expressing these exceptions and the proposed changes were provided by Kelledy Jones, as well as confirmed verbally by Norman Waterhouse (as the authors of the original LGA model policy).

A marked up version of the policy, showing proposed revisions is provided as Attachment 1.

*Refer Attachment 1*

A final version of the revised policy is provided for Council's review and approval.

*Refer Attachment 2*

#### **BUDGET**

Not applicable

#### **LIFE CYCLE COSTS**

Not applicable



# Attachment 1



ECM DSID:	<b>4297376</b>
First Issued / Approved:	<b>22/06/2010</b>
Last Reviewed:	<del>25 January</del> <b>14 June 2022</b>
	<del>C250122/2523</del>
Next Review:	<b>30/06/2026</b>
Responsible Officer:	<b>Manager Strategy and Governance</b>

## 1. PREAMBLE

### 1.1 Purpose

This policy implements the statutory caretaker period requirements under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*, ensuring transparent and accountable government during election periods.

### 1.2 Scope

This policy applies throughout the election period for a general election.

This policy does not apply to Supplementary elections.

This policy applies to the council, including council committees, and all council staff, except where otherwise stated.

This policy is to be taken to form part of the Code of Conduct for Council Employees gazetted for the purpose of section 110 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the Code of Conduct for Council Members gazetted for the purpose of section 63 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

### 1.3 Definitions

*Chief Executive Officer* means the appointed Chief Executive Officer or Acting Chief Executive Officer or nominee.

*Council staff* means any person that is employed full-time, part-time or casually by the Council who receives remuneration for their work.

*Council member* means an elected member of the City of Holdfast Bay.

*Election Period* is the period from the date nominations open to the date the Certificate of the Election is completed and returned to the council. For the purposes of the Local Government Elections of November 2022, the policy commences on ~~23-24~~ August 2022 and ends at the conclusion of the election, when the results have been declared.

*Designated decision* means a decision prohibited by the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*, including being a decision:

## CARETAKER POLICY

- a. relating to the employment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer, other than a decision to appoint an acting Chief Executive Officer or to suspend the Chief Executive Officer for serious and wilful misconduct;
- b. to terminate the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer;
- c. to enter into a contract, arrangement or understanding (other than a contract for road works, road maintenance or drainage works) the total value of which exceeds \$390,400 (being 1% of Council's revenue from rates in the 2021-22 financial year) except if the decision:
  - i. relates to the carrying out of works in response to an emergency or disaster within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2004* ~~(SA)~~, or under section 298 of the *Local Government Act 1999* ~~(SA)~~;
  - ii. is an expenditure or other decision required to be taken under an agreement by which funding is provided to the Council by the Commonwealth or State Government or otherwise for the Council to be eligible for funding from the Commonwealth or State Government;
  - iii. relates to the employment of a particular Council employee (other than the Chief Executive Officer);
  - iv. is made in the conduct of negotiations relating to the employment of Council employees generally, or a class of Council employees, if provision has been made for funds relating to such negotiations in the budget of the Council for the relevant financial year and the negotiations commenced prior to the election period; or
  - v. relates to a Community Wastewater Management Systems scheme that has, prior to the election period, been approved by the Council;
- d. that would allow the use of Council resources for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates (other than a decision that allows the equal use of Council resources by all candidates).

*General election* means a general election of council members held:

- a. under section 5 of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*; or
- b. pursuant to a proclamation or notice under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

*Major policy decision* includes any decision (not being a designated decision):

- a. to spend unbudgeted ~~monies~~ funds;
- b. to conduct unplanned public consultation;
- c. to endorse a new policy;
- d. to dispose of Council land;
- e. to approve community grants;
- f. to progress any matter which has been identified as an election issue; and
- g. any other issue that is considered a major policy decision by the Chief Executive Officer.

subject to items a, b and c above within the definition of Major policy decision not having any application to decisions pertaining to Alwyndor.

*Minister* means the Minister for Local Government or other minister of the South Australian government vested with responsibility for the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*.

*Significant decision* is any major policy or other decision which will significantly affect the Council area or community or will bind the incoming Council.

## 1.4 Strategic Reference

Statutory compliance.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Council, a committee of council, a delegate of the council (including the Chief Executive Officer and sub-delegates of the Chief Executive Officer) are prohibited from making a designated decision during an election period.
- 2.2 A designated decision made by council during an election period is invalid, except where an exemption has been granted by the Minister.
- 2.2.1 If the council considers that it is faced with extraordinary circumstances which require the making of a designated decision during an election period, the council may apply in writing to the Minister for an exemption to enable the making of a designated decision that would otherwise be invalid under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act* and this policy.
- 2.2.2 If the Minister grants an exemption to enable the making of a designated decision that would otherwise be invalid under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act* and this policy, then the council and council staff will comply with any conditions or limitations that the Minister imposes on the exemption.
- 2.3 Any person who suffers loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a designated decision made by the Council in contravention of this policy is entitled to compensation from the Council for that loss or damage.
- 2.4 So far as is reasonably practicable, the Chief Executive Officer should avoid scheduling significant decisions (including major policy decisions) for consideration during an election period and ensure that such decisions are:
- (a) considered by Council prior to the election period; or
  - (b) scheduled for determination by the incoming Council.
- 2.4.1. The determination as to whether a decision is significant will be made by the Chief Executive Officer after consultation with the Mayor. A record of all such determinations must be made and must be made available to candidates on request.
- 2.4.2 Where a decision is deemed to be significant but circumstances require that the decision be made during an election period, a Report will be prepared for council. The Report will either be for information where the decision has been made by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated

power on the basis of genuine emergency or hardship and otherwise will have the objective of assisting the Council to assess whether the decision can be deferred for consideration following the Election Period~~assist council to assess whether the decision can be deferred for consideration by the incoming council.~~

- 2.4.3 The Report must explain why the matter is significant and, if already made under delegated power why it was a situation of genuine emergency or hardship and, otherwise, why it is urgent, what the consequences of deferral are, whether a decision will limit options for the ~~incoming~~ council following the Election Period, relevant statutory and operational considerations and an assessment of whether dealing with the matter in the election period is in the best interests of the council area and community.
- 2.5 Council resources must not be used for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates, including candidates who are currently council members.
- 2.5.1 The following council resources must not be used for the advantage of particular candidates and may only be used by council members, where necessary, in the performance of their ordinary duties as a council member:
- Mobile phones
  - Council vehicles
  - Council provided information and technology and office equipment beyond that provided to all members of the public
  - Council-provided business cards
  - Requests to council employees to perform tasks which would confer an advantage on a candidate or group of candidates
  - Invitations to council events
  - Council travel arrangements, including corporate rates
  - Access to areas that members of the public cannot access, including areas within third party properties (for example, a council 'corporate box' or 'Mayor's Parlour' at a sporting venue)
  - Council-produced promotional brochures and documents.
- 2.5.2 Council staff must not undertake any activity that may influence the outcome of an election, except where the activity is required for the purposes of a fair election process and is authorised by the Chief Executive Officer. Council staff must not assist a council member with election campaign activities during hours of work.
- 2.6 Nothing in this policy prevents the ordinary business of the council continuing during the ~~caretaker~~ election period.
- 2.7 The Mayor will continue to be council's spokesperson in the media in relation to council business or at other official functions.

### 3. REFERENCES

#### 3.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*

#### 3.2 Other References

- *LGA Caretaker Guidelines December 2021*

# Attachment 2



ECM DSID:	
First Issued / Approved:	<b>22/06/2010</b>
Last Reviewed:	<b>14 June 2022</b>
Next Review:	<b>30/06/2026</b>
Responsible Officer:	<b>Manager Strategy and Governance</b>

**1. PREAMBLE**

**1.1 Purpose**

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This policy does not apply to Supplementary elections.

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This policy is to be taken to form part of the Code of Conduct for Council Employees gazetted for the purpose of section 110 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the Code of Conduct for Council Members gazetted for the purpose of section 63 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

**1.3 Definitions**

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*Election Period* is the period from the date nominations open to the date the Certificate of the Election is completed and returned to the council. For the purposes of the Local Government Elections of November 2022, the policy commences on 24 August 2022 and ends at the conclusion of the election, when the results have been declared.



## CARETAKER POLICY

*Designated decision* means a decision prohibited by the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*, being a decision:

- a. relating to the employment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer, other than a decision to appoint an acting Chief Executive Officer or to suspend the Chief Executive Officer for serious and wilful misconduct;
- b. to terminate the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer;
- c. to enter into a contract, arrangement or understanding (other than a contract for road works, road maintenance or drainage works) the total value of which exceeds \$390,400 (being 1% of Council's revenue from rates in the 2021-22 financial year) except if the decision:
  - i. relates to the carrying out of works in response to an emergency or disaster within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2004*, or under section 298 of the *Local Government Act 1999*;
  - ii. is an expenditure or other decision required to be taken under an agreement by which funding is provided to the Council by the Commonwealth or State Government or otherwise for the Council to be eligible for funding from the Commonwealth or State Government;
  - iii. relates to the employment of a particular Council employee (other than the Chief Executive Officer);
  - iv. is made in the conduct of negotiations relating to the employment of Council employees generally, or a class of Council employees, if provision has been made for funds relating to such negotiations in the budget of the Council for the relevant financial year and the negotiations commenced prior to the election period; or
  - v. relates to a Community Wastewater Management Systems scheme that has, prior to the election period, been approved by the Council;or
- d. that would allow the use of Council resources for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates (other than a decision that allows the equal use of Council resources by all candidates).

*General election* means a general election of council members held:

- a. under section 5 of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*; or
- b. pursuant to a proclamation or notice under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

*Major policy decision* includes any decision (not being a designated decision):

- a. to spend unbudgeted funds;
- b. to conduct unplanned public consultation;
- c. to endorse a new policy;
- d. to dispose of Council land;
- e. to approve community grants;
- f. to progress any matter which has been identified as an election issue; and
- g. any other issue that is considered a major policy decision by the Chief Executive Officer.

subject to items a, b and c above within the definition of *Major policy decision* not having any application to decisions pertaining to Alwyndor..

*Minister* means the Minister for Local Government or other minister of the South Australian government vested with responsibility for the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*.

*Significant decision* is any major policy or other decision which will significantly affect the Council area or community or will bind the incoming Council.

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Statutory compliance.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Council, a committee of council, a delegate of the council (including the Chief Executive Officer and sub-delegates of the Chief Executive Officer) are prohibited from making a designated decision during an election period.
- 2.2 A designated decision made by council during an election period is invalid, except where an exemption has been granted by the Minister.
- 2.2.1 If the council considers that it is faced with extraordinary circumstances which require the making of a designated decision during an election period, the council may apply in writing to the Minister for an exemption to enable the making of a designated decision that would otherwise be invalid under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act* and this policy.
- 2.2.2 If the Minister grants an exemption to enable the making of a designated decision that would otherwise be invalid under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act* and this policy, then the council and council staff will comply with any conditions or limitations that the Minister imposes on the exemption.
- 2.3 Any person who suffers loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a designated decision made by the Council in contravention of this policy is entitled to compensation from the Council for that loss or damage.
- 2.4 So far as is reasonably practicable, the Chief Executive Officer should avoid scheduling significant decisions (including major policy decisions) for consideration during an election period and ensure that such decisions are:
- (a) considered by Council prior to the election period; or
  - (b) scheduled for determination by the incoming Council.
- 2.4.1. The determination as to whether a decision is significant will be made by the Chief Executive Officer after consultation with the Mayor. A record of all such determinations must be made and must be made available to candidates on request.
- 2.4.2 Where a decision is deemed to be significant but circumstances require that the decision be made during an election period, a Report will be prepared for council. The Report will either be for information where the decision has been made by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated

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power on the basis of genuine emergency or hardship and otherwise will have the objective of assisting the Council to assess whether the decision can be deferred for consideration following the Election Period.

2.4.3 The Report must explain why the matter is significant, and, if already made under delegated power why it was a situation of genuine emergency or hardship and, otherwise, why it is urgent, what the consequences of deferral are, whether a decision will limit options for the council following the Election Period, relevant statutory and operational considerations and an assessment of whether dealing with the matter in the election period is in the best interests of the council area and community.

2.5 Council resources must not be used for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates, including candidates who are currently council members.

2.5.1 The following council resources must not be used for the advantage of particular candidates and may only be used by council members, where necessary, in the performance of their ordinary duties as a council member:

- Mobile phones
- Council vehicles
- Council provided information and technology and office equipment beyond that provided to all members of the public
- Council-provided business cards
- Requests to council employees to perform tasks which would confer an advantage on a candidate or group of candidates
- Invitations to council events
- Council travel arrangements, including corporate rates
- Access to areas that members of the public cannot access, including areas within third party properties (for example, a council 'corporate box' or 'Mayor's Parlour' at a sporting venue)
- Council-produced promotional brochures and documents.

2.5.2 Council staff must not undertake any activity that may influence the outcome of an election, except where the activity is required for the purposes of a fair election process and is authorised by the Chief Executive Officer. Council staff must not assist a council member with election campaign activities during hours of work.

2.6 Nothing in this policy prevents the ordinary business of the council continuing during the election period.

2.7 The Mayor will continue to be council's spokesperson in the media in relation to council business or at other official functions.

### 3. REFERENCES

#### 3.1 Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*

#### 3.2 Other References

- *LGA Caretaker Guidelines December 2021*