

8.1 2009 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE (CNCL6)

Responsible Councillor: Cr Paul Klisaris

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Approves the attendance of Councillors Banerji, Dimopoulos, Drieberg, Lake, Klisaris and Perri, at the Australian Local Government Association's 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government, in Canberra, from 21 to 24 June 2009.*
- 2. Approves the attendance of the Mayor at the meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government, on 25 June 2009.*
- 2. Reschedules the 23 June 2009 Ordinary Meeting of the Council to 30 June 2009.*

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Local Government Association's 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government will be held in Canberra from 21-24 June 2009.

Six Councillors have expressed an interest in attending the Assembly.

DISCUSSION

The theme of the 2009 Assembly is "Rising To the Challenge – Infrastructure, Financing, Climate Change".

The National General Assembly provides Councils with an opportunity to contribute to the development of the national local government policy.

Three core themes will be discussed at the Assembly:

1. Efficient and sustainable local government including Revenue and Local, Government Financing
2. Transport and Infrastructure
3. Climate Change

Over recent years, Local Government has significantly increased its level of engagement with the Australian Government. With this has come an increased ability for Local Government to constructively influence Government policies and programs in the interests of our local communities.

The ALGA membership of the Council of Australian Governments and its involvement in another 13 Commonwealth-State Ministerial Councils underlies how Local Government is now seen as an equal partner in Australia's federal system of government.

The ALGA's ability to effectively represent Local Government's interests in these forums is dependent upon strong grassroots participation by all councils at the National General Assembly.

This council's involvement in the 2009 National General Assembly is vital in order to assist ALGA to maintain its recent momentum and to drive improved outcomes at the national level for local government and the communities we serve.

The attendance of the six Councillors at the Assembly will also mean that a quorum for the scheduled Council meeting for 23 June 2009 will not be able to be achieved. It is therefore recommended that the meeting be rescheduled to 30 June 2009.

I will also be attending the second meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government, immediately after the conclusion of the Assembly, on 25 June 2009. This meeting is between representatives of the Federal Government and will be hosted by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, and Mayors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Registration, accommodation and return airfares will total an estimated \$15,000. These costs can be met from the 2008/2009 Budget.