

7.3.5 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026 – AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Responsible Manager:	Amanda Sapolu, Manager Corporate Governance & Legal
Responsible Director:	Simone Wickes, Director Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the attendance of the following Councillors at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly 2026 in Canberra from 23 June 2026 to 25 June 2026 inclusive.

1. **Mayor Cr Stuart James**
2. **Deputy Mayor Cr Elisha Lee**
3. **Dr Josh Fergeus**
4. **Cr Rebecca Paterson**
5. **Cr Nicky Luo**
6. **Cr Shane McCluskey**

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly will be held from Tuesday 23 June to Friday 25 June 2026 inclusive, at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. It should be noted that Councillors may travel on either side of the conference dates.

The purpose of the National General Assembly (NGA) is to build the profile of local government on the national stage and demonstrate to the Australian Government the strength and value of working with local government nationally.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Good Governance

Maintain the highest standards of good governance.

BACKGROUND

In the face of evolving challenges and opportunities, local governments around Australia stand at the forefront of driving resilience and productivity. Local governments know we are stronger together and the importance of unity across all levels of government. The theme for this year's NGA, Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United, underscores the pivotal role councils play in shaping the nation's future and delivering national priorities.

As the backbone of local communities, councils are uniquely positioned to implement place-based solutions that address both local needs and national priorities. This year's NGA encourages debate on how councils can enhance their resilience, contribute meaningfully to the nation's productivity agenda, and present a cohesive voice to the federal government on critical issues.

By fostering collaboration and innovation, local governments can lead the way in creating sustainable and thriving communities.

The 2026 NGA provides the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers, ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard at the national level.

In this context, this year's call for motion focusses on ten priority areas:

- Financial sustainability
- Emergency management
- Housing and planning
- Roads and infrastructure
- Closing the Gap
- Jobs and skills
- Environment
- Cyber security
- Climate change
- Intergovernmental relations

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost for the event, for attendance, is estimated at approximately \$3,000 per Councillor and includes registrations, travel, accommodation, and conference-related dinners.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications to this report.

CONSULTATION

Community consultation was not required.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications to this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications to this report

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A GIA was not completed because this policy/program/service does not have a 'direct' and 'significant' impact on the community.

CONCLUSION

This event is a significant event for Councillors in local government. The Councillors identified have expressed an interest in attending the Conference and approval is sought from the Council for these Councillors to attend.

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil