

# COUNCIL REPORT

## 1st Ordinary Council Meeting

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	13.1.1
<b>Report Title:</b>	Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly and Australian Council of Local Government 2025
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday 4 February 2025
<b>Author:</b>	Executive Support Officer, Jodi Holden
<b>Approver:</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Nadine Nilon

## Community plan

Governance: Council is trusted by the community and invests in things that the public value.

## Purpose

This Report seeks Council's endorsement for City of Palmerston representation at the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) on 24 to 27 June 2025 and seeks endorsement of the Mayor or her representative's attendance.

## Key messages

- Australian Local Government Association considers the National General Assembly to be Australia's largest and most influential gathering of Local Government Elected Members, Chairs and Officials.
- The theme of the 2025 NGA will be "National Priorities Need Local Solutions"
- A copy of the business papers will be made available to Elected Members once circulated by the Australian Local Government Association.
- Council has previously attended the National General Assembly as it is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to further build on the relationship between local and Australian Government.
- City of Palmerston will be unable to submit motions or vote at the National General Assembly.

- Elected Members are encouraged to attend the assembly given the unique opportunity of the largest local government gathering for networking, advocacy and exchanging of ideas with the Federal Government and key Ministers.
- The 2025 event will include the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum on Tuesday 24 June and the National General Assembly from Wednesday 25 to Friday 27 June.

## Recommendation

1. THAT Report entitled Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly and Australian Council of Local Government 2025 be received and noted.
2. THAT Council endorse Mayor Pascoe-Bell or her representative, and Councillor/s \_\_\_\_\_ attendance to the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in Canberra being held 24 to 27 June 2025.
3. THAT Council endorse Mayor Pascoe-Bell or her representative attendance to the Australian Council of Local Government being held in Canberra on 24 to 27 June 2024.

## Background

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) was established 1947. In structure, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the National General Assembly (NGA) has built the profile of local government on the national stage, showcased the value of councils, and most importantly demonstrated - particularly to the Australian Government - the strength and value of working with local government to help deliver on national priorities.


ALGA's NGA is regarded as the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and most importantly unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

The event is held in Canberra annually and in previous years, the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer have attended the event to represent the City of Palmerston. Representation has provided Council with an opportunity to network with Federal Government and keep abreast of current and contemporary local government issues.

## Discussion

### Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly

The 2025 NGA will be held from 24 to 27 June 2025. The theme of the 2025 NGA is "National Priorities Need Local Solutions". The ALGA NGA websites states:



“The theme for the 2025 NGA – **National Priorities Need Local Solutions** – highlights the unique role Australia’s 537 councils can play delivering local, place-based solutions that meet the needs of their communities, while addressing broader national priorities. The 2025 NGA provides you – the elected representatives of Australia’s local councils and communities – with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

Further, it is your opportunity to advocate for new or expanded programs and key policy initiatives that could strengthen local governments and its capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to local communities across the nation.”

This year’s call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:

- Intergovernmental relations;
- Financial sustainability;
- Roads and infrastructure;
- Emergency management;
- Housing and homelessness;
- Jobs and skills;
- Community services;
- Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
- Data, digital technology and cyber security;
- Climate change and renewable energy;
- Environment;
- Circular economy.

ALGA have previously advised that City of Palmerston are able to attend the NGA whilst not being a member of Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT), however, would be unable to vote or to put up motions.

The benefits of attending would be the networking opportunities including the opportunity to engage with the newly elected Federal Government and key Ministers, and to see current issues faced by local government, proposed policy and directions.

Elected Members are encouraged to attend given the large representation of Local Government’s State and Australian Government representatives, providing a unique opportunity to hear and share contemporary ideas and practices for networking, advocacy and exchanging of ideas. Council is not limited to the number of Elected Members that can attend.

Once motions have been received and collated by ALGA, Business Papers will be formulated and distributed approximately two weeks prior to the event. A copy of the business papers will be made available to Elected Members.

## Consultation and marketing

There was no consultation or marketing required during the preparation of this Report.

## Policy implications

The Council Policy Elected Members Allowances and Expenses, identifies entitlements for Elected Member Travel.

## Budget and resource implications

The Mayor and any other Elected Member wishing to attend the NGA 2025 will be accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer and/or Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

To attend the conference in person the cost is estimated to be approximately \$5500 per person, which includes flights, accommodation, registration and incidentals.

As the time of writing this report, registration for ALGA 2025 is not yet open. Information indicates that registration details and the official opening of registration will be released in the coming weeks or months.

## Risk, legal and legislative implications

As good practise and to ensure valuable professional development and networking opportunities are available to Elected Members, attendance to the annual ALGA NGA will be placed to Council for endorsement and available to all Elected Members who wish to attend.

This Report addresses the following City of Palmerston Strategic Risks:

6. **Governance**  
Failure to effectively govern.

## Strategies, framework and plans implications

This Report relates to the following City of Palmerston Strategies, Framework and Plans:

- Inclusive, Diverse and Accessible Policy Framework

## Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the author and approving officer declare that we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## Attachments

Nil