

# Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

to be held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 14 March 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

## Attachments

**Carl Cowie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Thursday 9 March 2023

Distribution: Public

Civic Drive, Greensborough  
PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088  
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Nillumbik Shire Council

Attachments

<b>COM.001/23</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023</b>	
Attachment 1	Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023 .....	1
<b>PCC.002/23</b>	<b>ALGA National General Assembly 2023 - Nillumbik Motions</b>	
Attachment 1	National General Assembly 2023 - Discussion Paper .....	9
Attachment 2	Nillumbik Shire Council Motions - Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2023 .....	29
<b>PCC.003/23</b>	<b>Endorsement of Motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting - 19 May 2023</b>	
Attachment 1	Nillumbik Shire Council Motions to be submitted to the 19 May 2023 MAV State Council Meeting.....	35

- COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023
- Attachment 1. Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023

# Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting

held at the Civic Centre, Civic Drive, Greensborough  
on Tuesday 14 February 2023 commencing at 7:00pm.

## Minutes

**Carl Cowie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Friday 17 February 2023

Distribution: Public

Civic Drive, Greensborough  
PO Box 476, Greensborough 3088  
Telephone 9433 3111  
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**COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Attachment 1. Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**14 February 2023**

**Nillumbik Shire Council**

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**Contents**

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<b>1. Welcome by the Chair</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Acknowledgement of Country</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Apologies</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Disclosure of conflicts of interest</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>5. Confirmation of Minutes</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>	
COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 November 2022	2
<b>6. Officers' reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Consultation Matters</b>	
PCC.001/23 Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy Outcomes of Phase 2 Engagement	3
<b>7. Supplementary and urgent business</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. Confidential reports</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9. Close of Meeting</b>	<b>5</b>

**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023. The meeting commenced at 7:00pm.**

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**Councillors present:**

Cr Ben Ramcharan	Sugarloaf Ward ( <b>Mayor</b> )
Cr Richard Stockman	Blue Lake Ward
Cr Natalie Duffy	Edendale Ward
Cr Peter Perkins	Ellis Ward ( <b>Chairperson Planning Matters</b> )
Cr Frances Eyre	Swipers Gully Ward ( <b>Chairperson Consultation Matters</b> )
Cr Geoff Paine	Wingrove Ward ( <b>Deputy Mayor</b> )

**Officers in attendance:**

Carl Cowie	Chief Executive Officer
Blaža Naumoski	Director Governance and Communications
Rosa Zouzoulas	Director Planning and Community Safety
Vince Lombardi	Chief Financial Officer
Leigh Northwood	Manager Strategic Planning
Katia Croce	Governance Lead

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**1. Welcome by the Chair**

**2. Acknowledgement of Country**

Acknowledgement of Country was read by the Chairperson Consultation Matters  
Cr Frances Eyre.

**3 Apologies**

An apology for this meeting was received from Cr Karen Egan.

**Committee Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**SECONDED: Cr Ben Ramcharan**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) notes the apology of  
Cr Karen Egan.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4 Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Nil

**COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Attachment 1. Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Planning and Consultation Committee Minutes**

**14 February 2023**

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

**COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 8 November 2022**

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**Summary**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2022.

**Committee Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Ben Ramcharan**

**SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council) confirms the minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2022 (**Attachment 1**).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. Officers' reports

PCC.001/23 Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy Outcomes of Phase 2 Engagement

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**Item:** Consultation Matter

**Distribution:** Public

**Manager:** Rosa Zouzoulas, Director Planning and Community Safety

**Author:** Leigh Northwood, Manager Strategic Planning

**Summary**

The development of both a new Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS) and Housing Strategy (HS) are priority actions in the current Council Plan 2021-2025.

The project to develop a NCS is fully funded over 2 financial years (see budget implications below) and is significantly advanced with a consultant team comprising Ethos Urban and Chatterbox Projects engaged to assist with much of the technical and consultation to develop the new NCS along with Council officers.

The areas covered by the Strategy include all residential land within the Shire (this does not include Green Wedge).

This most recent round of engagement (Phase 2 – Draft NCS) was specifically about seeking feedback on the draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy itself.

Engagement was conducted over a 6 week period between 29 August 2022 and 10 October 2022.

The engagement activities were effective in reaching over 1,500 people, with 107 providing direct feedback via a survey or submission, 175 people visiting the place-based pop-up events and over 1,200 people visiting the Participate Nillumbik project page (refer below for further detail with regard to outcomes of consultation).

With regard to relevant feedback to Phase 2 engagement, three key and interrelated topics were prominent:

- a) The strength of the document;
- b) Development and density; and
- c) Trees and vegetation.

Particularly written submissions to the draft NCS are lengthy and have a lot of technical matters that need to be unpacked and effectively responded to.

Subject to this PCC, officers will bring recommendations to a future Council briefing which will include a detailed analysis of submission responses including commentary from officers including the Project Working Group. This briefing will identify recommended direction to consultants with regard to changes to the draft NCS and its next iteration.

Subject to changes to the draft NCS with consideration of feedback provided through Phase 2 engagement, officers will subsequently seek approval from Council to put the draft NCS out for a third round of engagement (close the loop) at a Council meeting in mid-2023.

After conducting this third round of engagement, the next step in the project is for Council to consider:

- a) Adopting a final draft (potentially with further changes) of the NCS.

6. Consultation Matters

PCC.001/23 Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy Outcomes of Phase 2 Engagement

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- b) Initiating a planning scheme amendment to give weight to the NCS in the Nillumbik Planning Scheme noting this process involves another formal round of consultation whereby the final adopted version of the NCS will be exhibited to the community and stakeholders pursuant to the notification requirements of the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*, who will have another opportunity to provide comment.

*The following people addressed the Committee with respect to this item:*

- 1 Jim Connor
- 2 Tim Phillips on behalf of Graham Fildes
- 3 Tim Phillips
- 4 Carlota Quinlan on behalf of Eltham Community Action Group
- 5 Carlota Quinlan
- 6 Teresa Dominik on behalf of Brougham Street Cohousing Group
- 7 Kathy Armour
- 8 Sue Dyet
- 9 Janice Davies on behalf of Warrandyte Community Association
- 10 Michael Dove

**Committee Resolution**

**MOVED: Cr Geoff Paine**

**SECONDED: Cr Natalie Duffy**

**That** the Committee (acting under delegation from Council):

1. Notes the public responses, as outlined in this report, to the Phase 2 engagement for the Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy (NCS).
2. Resolves that the confidential un-redacted copies of written submissions and survey responses to the Phase 2 public engagement of the Draft NCS (at **Attachments 2 and 3**) remain confidential on the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in Section 3(1)(f) of *the Local Government Act 2020*.
3. Writes to all respondents to the public engagement to express Council's gratitude for their contribution and to advise them of the Committee's resolution and the next steps in the project on the updated Participate Nillumbik page.
4. Notes officers will bring an updated draft of the NCS to a Council meeting in mid-2023, to seek Council's approval to undertake a third round of public engagement on the draft NCS, as updated as an outcome of Phase 2 engagement.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Katia Croce, Governance Lead temporarily left the meeting at 7.42pm and returned at 7.44pm, during submissions.*

**COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Attachment 1. Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

**Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**14 February 2023**

**7. Supplementary and urgent business**

Nil

**8. Confidential reports**

Nil

**9. Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8:02pm.

Confirmed:

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Cr Frances Eyre, Chairperson Consultation Matters

**COM.001/23 Confirmation of Minutes Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**  
**Attachment 1. Minutes of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2023**

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AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION

# 2023 NGA

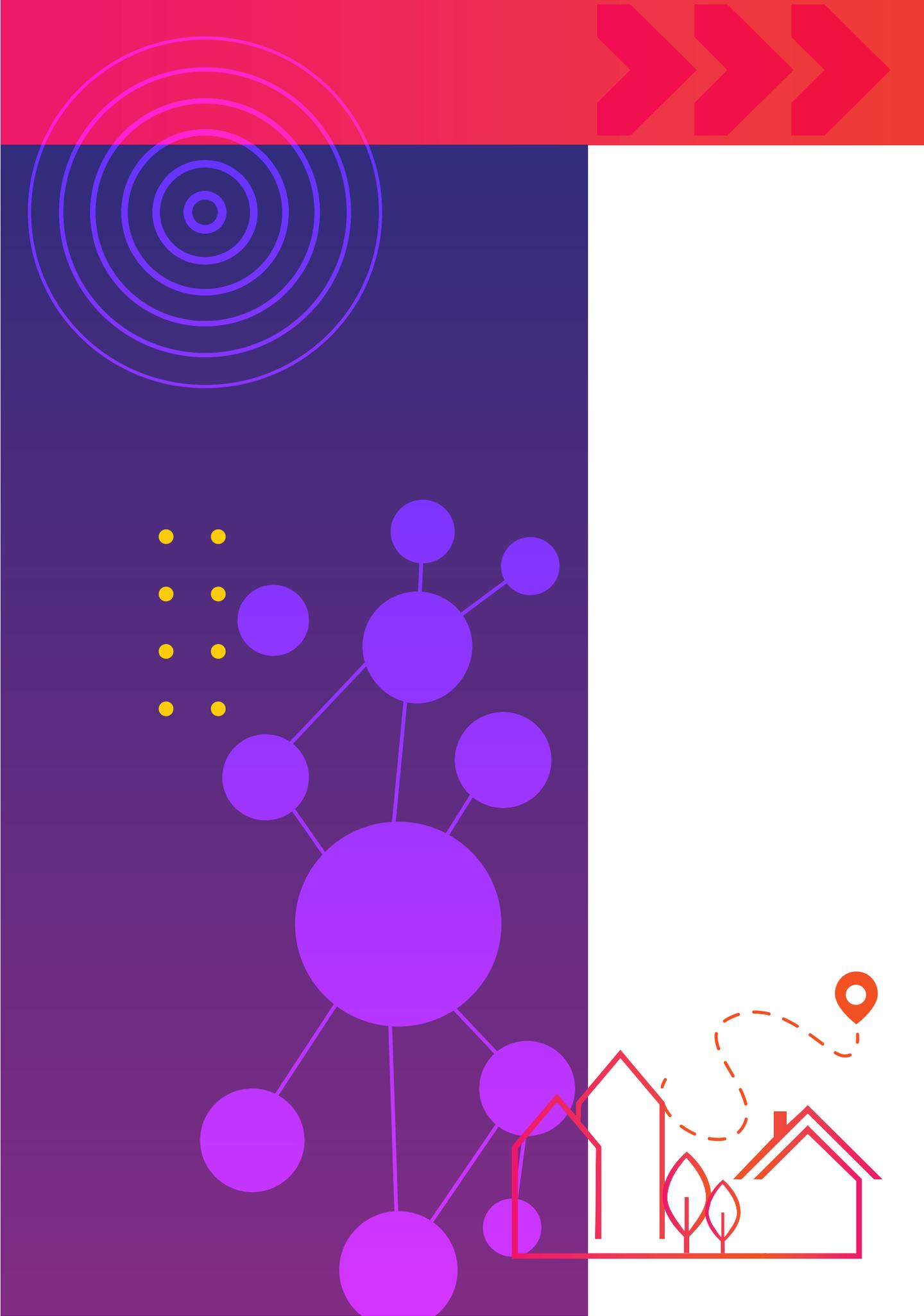
**OUR COMMUNITIES  
OUR FUTURE** ▶▶▶

**DISCUSSION PAPER**  
Call for Motions

**JUNE 2023**

NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE  
CANBERRA





The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 29<sup>th</sup> National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra mid June 2023.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2023 NGA.

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend this event familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper.

## Key Dates

<b>December 2022</b>	<b>24 March 2023</b>	<b>June 2023 *</b>	<b>June 2023 *</b>
Opening of Call for Motions	Acceptance of Motions	Regional Cooperation & Development Forum	National General Assembly

\* Dates are subject to change depending on timing of Australian Council of Local Government

**To submit your motion,  
visit: [alga.com.au](https://alga.com.au)**

# Background to ALGA and the NGA

ALGA was established in 1947, and its structure is a federation of member state and territory local government associations.

Its mission is to champion and strengthen Australian councils by representing the agreed position of ALGA members, the seven local government associations from around Australia, who represent 537 Australian councils.

In 1994, the ALGA Board, in consultation with its member associations, established the NGA as a unique forum to engage with councils directly at the national level.

The purpose of the NGA was 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.

As part of the NGA, debate on motions was introduced as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas, and solutions to the challenges facing Australia's councils and communities.

Outcomes of debate on motions (NGA Resolutions) could then be used by participating councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their own advocacy to the Federal Government and Federal MPs.

At the same time, they assist ALGA, and its member state and territory associations to gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and gauge the level of need and support for emerging policy and program initiatives and advocacy.

# Changes for 2023

The ALGA Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of the motions process.

As a result, ALGA has allocated additional time for debate on motions at the 2023 NGA and amended the criteria with a view to improving the quality and relevance of motions included in the Business Papers.

The updated criteria for motions is listed on page 6.

ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be informed by motions and determined by the ALGA Board and based on the positions of its member associations.

ALGA's Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA, and those that will take the time to submit motions for debate at this event.





# Submitting Motions

## The theme of the 2023 NGA: Our Communities, Our Future.

This theme conveys the critical importance of our communities, how they are the focus of our attention, and how they are at the centre of all our work.

Our communities are the reason that local governments exist, and it is the health and wellbeing of our communities that will shape Australia's future.

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2023 NGA, to be held in Canberra mid June 2023.

A notice of motion to this year's NGA should either:

- Focus on practical and deliverable programs and policies that the Australian Government can support and work directly with the local government sector to build our communities; or
- New program ideas that would help the local government sector to deliver national objectives.

Motions should be concise, practical and able to be implemented.

They must also meet the guidelines for motions outlined in this paper.

You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s should address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions must be lodged electronically using the online form available at [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au) and be received no later than 11:59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.

All notices of motions will be reviewed by the NGA Subcommittee to ensure that they meet the criteria included in this paper.

The Subcommittee reserves the right to select, edit or amend notices of motions to facilitate the efficient and effective management of debate on motions at the NGA.

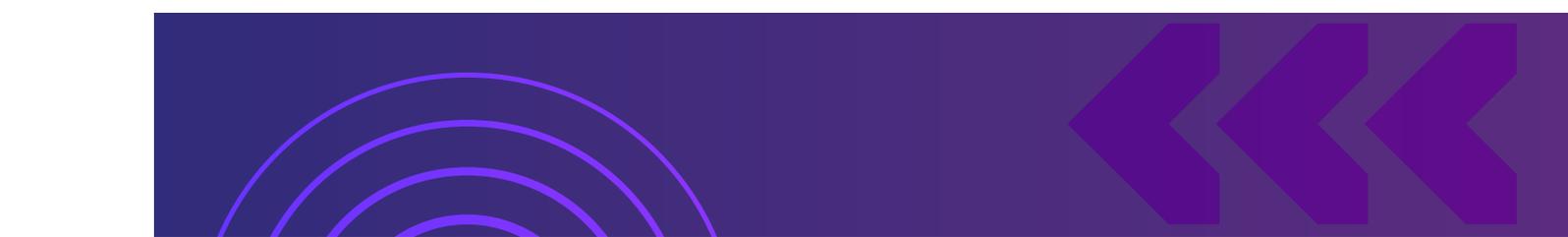
All NGA resolutions will be published on [www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au](http://www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au).

As the convener of the NGA, the ALGA Board will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on this website.

If your council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.



We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2023 NGA.



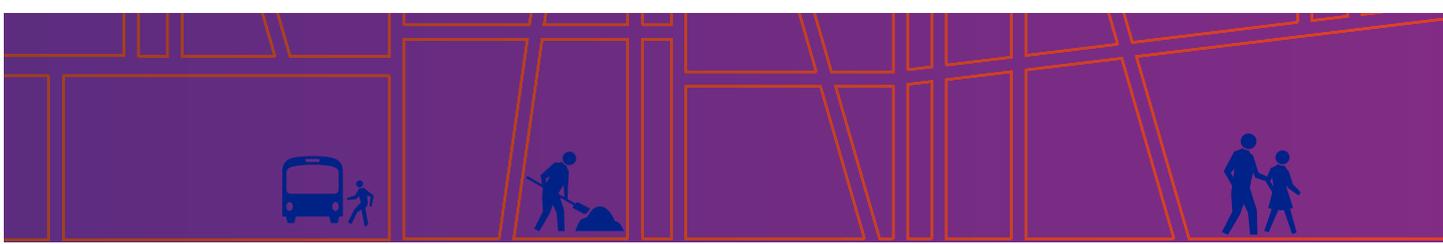
## Criteria for motions

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording:

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ...*



## Other things to consider

Please note that it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the proposal.

The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion.

Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed, relatively simple and capable of being implemented to ensure that relevant Australian Government Ministers provide considered, thoughtful and timely responses.

Multi-point motions that require cross portfolio coordination have not historically received meaningful responses from the Government.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the NGA Subcommittee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

When reviewing motions, the Subcommittee will consider the motions criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the Subcommittee will group motions together under an overarching strategic motion.

The strategic motions will have either been drafted by ALGA or will be based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

Debate will occur in accordance with the rules for debate on motions published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions.

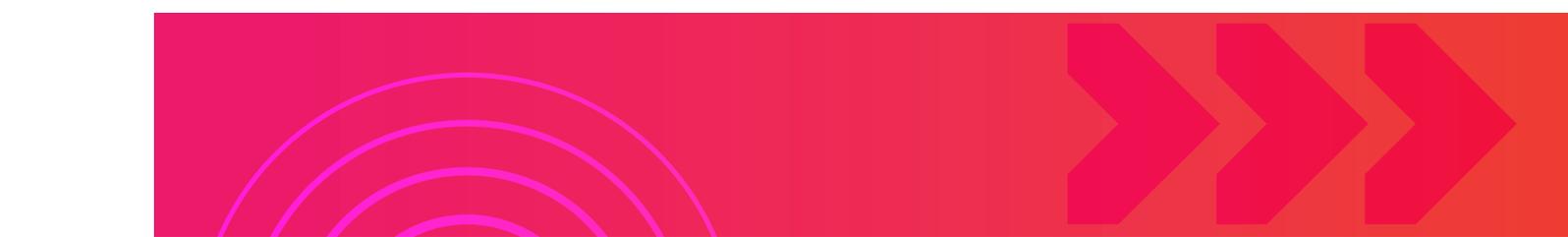
Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au).

All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.

- > **Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.**



## Setting the scene

*‘Through a devastating pandemic, through a succession of dangerous and damaging natural disasters, through global uncertainty and painful price rises – The Australian people have demonstrated the best of our national character. Resolute and resilient in hard times. Practical and pragmatic about the challenges we confront. Optimistic and confident in a better future. And ready to work together to build it.’*

*The Hon Jim Chalmer MP, Federal Treasurer Budget Speech 2022-23*

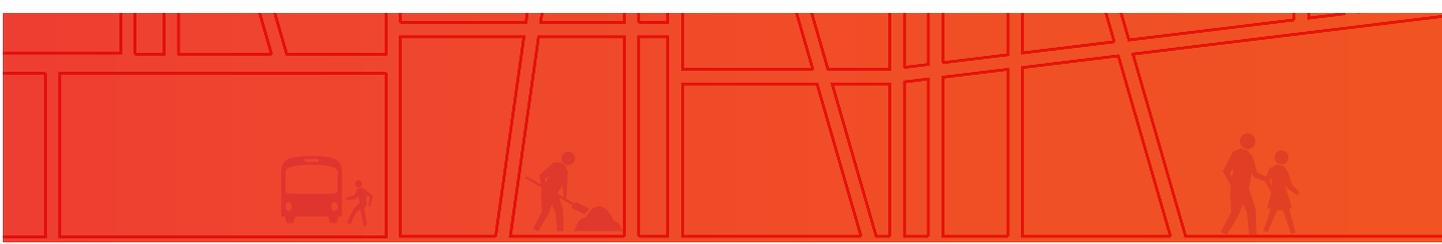
The opening statement of the Federal Treasurer’s first Budget Speech describes the backdrop against which the 2023 NGA will be held.

The 2022 NGA was held just weeks after the change in the Federal Government on 21 May 2022. On 25 October 2022, the new Government handed down its first Budget which updated the economic outlook, realigned priorities and outlined how the Government was to meet its election promises.

The Budget update foreshadows deteriorating economic conditions, citing global challenges, slowing growth, high inflation and higher interest rates, and acknowledges the mounting cost of living pressures on individuals, families and communities.

Key updates include:

- The economy is expected to grow solidly this financial year, by 3 ¼ percent – before slowing to 1 ½ percent growth for 2023/24, a full percentage point lower than what was forecast in March;
- That slowing growth will have an effect on employment, but jobs will continue to be created, and unemployment is expected to stay low by historical standards – at 4 ½ percent in 2023/24 and 2024/25;
- Inflation is expected to peak at 7 ¾ percent late in 2022, before moderating over time to 3 ½ percent through 2023/24, and returning to the Reserve Bank’s target range in 2024/25; and that
- When that inflation moderates, real wages are expected to start growing again in 2024.



The Government is also committed to repairing the Budget in a ‘measured and responsible’ manner consistent with the objective of maintaining full employment and the delivery of essential services. It foreshadows that this will be achieved through spending restraint, with new spending focused on high-quality and targeted investments and building on the capability of the Australian people, expanding the productive capacity of the economy, and supporting action on climate change.

The Budget also included a focus on measuring and improving community wellbeing.

By the time of the 2023 NGA, the Government will have delivered its second Budget, which will provide further updates to the economic outlook and also refine its economic strategy going forward.

The 2023 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 extended programs and policy initiatives that could strengthen local governments’ capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to communities across the nation.

This year’s call for motions focusses on eight priority areas:

- Productivity;
- Local Government Infrastructure;
- Community Wellbeing;
- Local Government Workforce;
- Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security;
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy;
- Natural Disasters; and
- Housing.



# 1. Productivity

In February 2022, the then Federal Treasurer asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into Australia’s productivity performance and provide recommendations on productivity enhancing reform.

This inquiry was the second of a regular series, undertaken at five-yearly intervals, and recognises that productivity growth is vital for Australia’s future. Drawing on the Intergenerational Report the Treasurer notes that ‘... future growth in income and living standards will be driven from productivity growth as the participation effects of young migration are offset by an ageing population.’

ALGA engaged SGS Economics and Planning to undertake research to support its submissions to this inquiry.

SGS Principal and Partner Dr Marcus Spiller presented on some of the findings of this research at the 2022 NGA. In his presentation he identified that local governments generate local economic activity through employment, payment of wages and expenditure on goods and services in the local economy. In addition, SGS identified nine ways local government supports the productive capacity of the broader economy.

**Figure 1 – Nine ways local governments contribute to the productive capacity of the broader economy:**



Sources: Adapted from SGS Research for ALGA’s Submission to Productivity Commission (2022)

*Are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement to improve local government’s capacity to support productivity growth?*

*Are there programs that could support one, or all of the identified ways local government contributes to productivity in the broader economy?*



## 2. Local Government Infrastructure

The 2021 National State of the Assets Report (NSoA) shone a spotlight on local government infrastructure assets. While the technical report shows that local government assets such as roads, bridges, buildings, parks and recreation, stormwater, water and wastewater and airports and aerodromes are generally in good to very good condition, around 10 percent are not fit for purpose, and around 20 - 25 percent are only fair and over time will need attention.

Over the past 12 months this situation has further deteriorated as a result of natural disasters, and particularly flooding across the eastern seaboard.

The technical report shows that in 2019/20 non-financial infrastructure assets were valued at \$342 billion and were depreciating at \$7.7 billion per year. Replacement costs of these infrastructure assets were in the order of \$533 billion.

While 86 percent of councils have adopted long term financial plans, one third of councils do not have asset management plans for their major assets, or if they do, they are out-of-date. Of the councils that do have asset management plans only 66 percent included financial projections in their financial plan.

Asset management and long-term financial planning are essential tools for councils to manage community assets now and into the future.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of council's infrastructure?*

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?*



### 3. Community Wellbeing

While the NSoA focuses attention on physical assets, local governments also provide a wide range of important community services that improve local wellbeing. These services are provided at the discretion of councils based on local characteristics, needs, priorities and resources of the local community.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows that local government annual expenditure in 2020/21 was \$43 billion. It is important to note that nationally local government is 83 percent self-sufficient. That is, the vast majority of local government services and infrastructure are funded at the local level either through rates, fees and charges, sale of goods and services, and interest, and only 17 percent comes from grants and subsidies from other levels of government. Unfortunately, many of these grants and subsidies are tied, and often require matching funding which restricts the ability to address local priorities in the way the council and community might like.

Local government community services are broadly defined and may include but not limited to:

- environmental health including food safety;
- childcare, early childhood education;
- aged care, senior citizens;
- services to the disabled;
- programs to address disadvantage, to reduce poverty and homelessness;
- sporting and recreational programs;
- arts and cultural activities, program and festivals;
- tourism and economic development activities; and
- library services.

Councils also play a key role making places that are attractive and liveable for current and future workers, and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

ALGA's research shows that almost one in four councils are heavily reliant on federal Financial Assistance Grants, which make up at least 20 percent of their annual operating revenue. Financial sustainability of local governments remains an ongoing issue which threatens local service provision and community wellbeing.

*Noting the funding arrangements for the provision of local government community services in your area and across the country, are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement to improve the delivery of these services?*

*Are there changes to existing programs, including to administrative arrangements, that would significantly improve local government human service planning and provision of services and infrastructure across Australia?*

*Are there new programs the Australian Government could develop that would support councils to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians?*

*What are the actions the Australian Government could take to support councils to improve their ongoing financial sustainability, and their capacity to deliver the services their communities need?*



## 4. Local Government Workforce

Local government is a major employer in Australia providing employment, career advancement and training opportunities for more than 190,800 Australians, across an estimated 400 occupations. In many communities, the council is one of the largest employers.

There are 537 local councils in Australia. Importantly, they are geographically dispersed and provide essential public administration to every corner of the nation.

According to the 2022 National Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey, more than 90 percent of local governments are experiencing skills shortages, resulting in around two thirds of councils having their projects impacted or delayed.

Skills shortages occur for a variety of reasons including an inability to compete against the private sector, worker accommodation, support services for families, ageing of the workforce and geographic isolation. The attrition rate (or rate of turnover) of local government staff is estimated to be between 15 – 20 percent per annum.

The most cited skills shortages include engineers, urban planners, building surveyors, environmental officers and human resources professionals.

ALGA's submission to the Productivity Commission's Productivity Inquiry called on all levels of government to work together to improve training pathways and address skills and labour shortages for the benefit of councils, communities, and businesses right across Australia.

While local government must face its immediate workforce challenges, it must also anticipate the changing nature of work, and future skills needed to meet the changing needs of our communities.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?*

*Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?*

*Are there other initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?*



## 5. Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security

Provision of information technology to all Australians is vital for innovation, economic growth and social equity. However, it is potentially even more important to regional Australia where the tyranny of distance increases the inequity of services available – including education, health, economic and social.

Innovative technology is becoming more broadly available and has the ability to boost productivity and economic growth.

Councils around Australia continue to embrace new technologies to improve their service delivery standards and broaden consultation and engagement with their local communities. However, many councils lack basic technological infrastructure and have a shortage of necessary skills and resources.

In October 2022, cyber-attacks on major Australian corporate organisations including Optus and Medibank Private highlighted the critical importance of cyber security. It is a timely reminder as digital information, services and products become an increasing feature of modern business operation including in local government.

Like all risks, local government must manage the risk of cyber-attack and address cyber security. At a national level, there is a poor understanding of local government's vulnerability to cyber-attacks and a lack or inadequacy of risk management strategies and business continuity planning within the sector. While this is primarily a responsibility of the sector itself, governments at all levels must work together to ensure that the public have confidence in government information management systems and its security.

*Drawing upon your own council experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state, or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure and/or to improve cyber security within the sector?*



## 6. Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Local governments are playing an important leadership role in addressing climate change, supporting a wide range of programs to lower the carbon footprint of their own business operations and in their local communities.

As a sector, local government is leading the debate for lowering carbon emissions, sourcing renewable energy, responding creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and facilitating the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

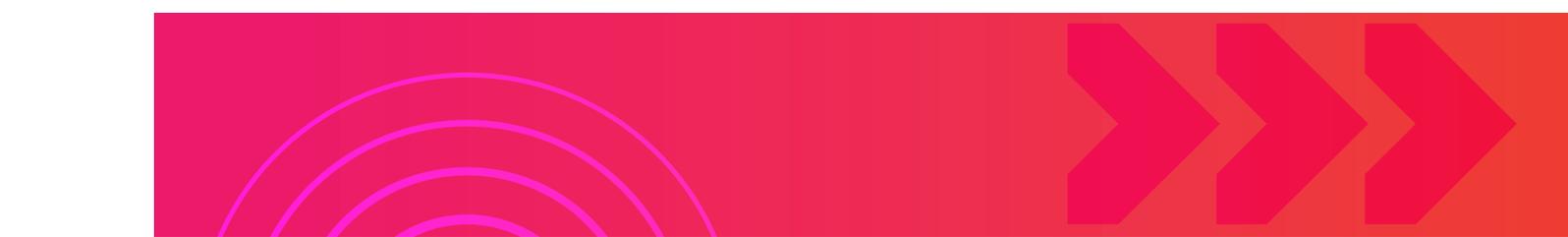
Councils also have a role to play supporting communities in transition, moving away from fossil fuels to new industries.

Pragmatically, local government has been at the forefront of addressing the impacts of climate change and adapting to reduce its environmental footprint. These impacts include an increased number of days with high temperatures, less rainfall and more droughts in southern Australia, less snow, more intense rainfall and fire weather, stronger cyclones, and sea level rise. These changes will increase stress on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets and natural ecosystems that are already threatened, and significantly affect agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health, tourism, finance and disaster risk management.

At the 2022 NGA, there were five Strategic Motions and 15 associated motions debated concerning this issue. Councils are encouraged to review these motions on ALGA's website prior to developing new motions for debate at the 2023 NGA.

*Noting the Government's commitment to reducing emissions, are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could develop to assist councils in their work to address climate change and reduce emissions?*





## 7. Natural Disasters

Over the past five years, Australian communities have experienced unprecedented natural disasters. At the time of writing, almost every community in Australia, particularly those on the East Coast, had been adversely affected by wet weather conditions associated with the La Nina weather pattern.

Councils in Western Australia are still recovering from a cyclone in 2021, and the Black Summer bushfires in 2019/20 burned approximately 250,000 square kilometres across the country.

The impacts of heavy rainfall, record breaking floods and associated social disruption and damage to infrastructure have exposed weaknesses as well as the strength of current emergency management systems.

There have been numerous NGA motions in the past regarding natural disasters. This year, councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to managing emergencies.

Please note, however, that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Commonwealth Government could assist.

*What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?*





## 8. Housing

A lack of affordable housing remains one of the biggest issues for Australian councils and communities.

There is less social and affordable housing stock available than there was a decade ago, and more low-income Australians are experiencing housing stress.

The shortage and rising costs of rental properties and affordable home ownership are having significant social and economic impacts in cities and towns across Australia, including rural and regional communities.

This is due to a range of factors including changes to recent migration patterns, cheap finance and labour and material shortages in the construction sector.

While the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, councils often facilitate affordable housing within their communities, operating within state/territory planning, financial and other legislation requirements.

Some councils are going further, addressing thin markets and developing land and housing themselves, delivering local solutions to meet the needs of their communities.

Local government also plays an important role addressing some of the causes of homelessness, including social inclusion programs that can assist mental health and family violence issues, as well as providing support for people currently experiencing homelessness.

*What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?*

*How can the Australian Government work with councils to address the causes and impacts of homelessness?*





## Conclusion

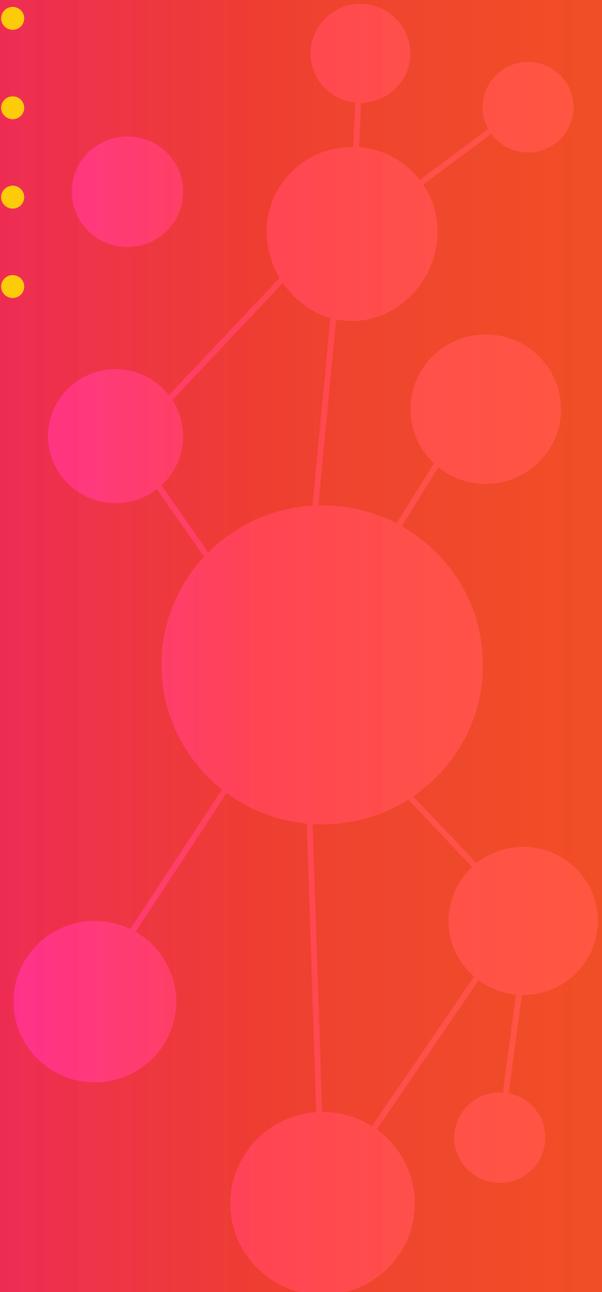
Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.

### A FINAL REMINDER:

- » Motions should be lodged electronically at [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au) and received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.
- » Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- » Motions should commence with the following wording: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'
- » Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued
- » Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- » It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- » Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- » When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2023 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2023 National General Assembly in Canberra.







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**Nillumbik Shire Council  
Motions for Australian Local Government Association  
National General Assembly 2023**

**Motion 1 Biodiversity**

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide direct support to local government in our important work to protect and manage unique plants, animals and habitats and to manage the threatening processes that negatively impact our biodiversity by:

- a. Providing adequate and long-term grant funding for on-ground action, monitoring and collaboration to enable landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes across all land tenures.
- b. Supporting opportunities to increase and diversify environmental management and restoration employment.
- c. Supporting local government programs that promote a stronger connection between people and nature, improve the way nature is cared for, and build and share knowledge.

**National Objective**

Local government plays an important role in coordinating biodiversity protection action across the landscape, particularly as the number of individual stakeholders is large, as well as having an important role in owning and managing land for conservation purposes.

All local governments require adequate Australian Government support to help achieve the objectives within *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030* and as a Party to the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

We need the Australian Government to elevate investment in local government programs that:

- protect biodiversity;
- identify and monitor the important components of biodiversity that need to be conserved and used sustainably;
- establish and maintain protected areas to conserve biological diversity;
- educate and encourage community involvement.

**Background**

The Shire of Nillumbik is just one local government area within Australia, but it alone, in its 432 square kilometers is home to over 1,000 indigenous flora species and 342 indigenous fauna species; as well as 415 introduced flora species and 26 introduced fauna species needs the Australian government support to be managed.

This includes 22 threatened fauna and flora species and habitats that are listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act) occurring on public and private land.



Listed threatened fauna species of national significance	
<b>Fauna</b>	
Regent Honeyeater (Endangered)	Grey-headed Flying-fox (Vulnerable)
Painted Honeyeater (Vulnerable)	Macquarie Perch (Endangered)
Regent Parrot (Vulnerable)	Australian Grayling (Vulnerable)
Swift Parrot (Endangered)	Murray Cod (Vulnerable)
Plains-wanderer (Vulnerable)	Dwarf Galaxis (Vulnerable)
Australasian Bittern (Endangered)	Growling Grass Frog (Vulnerable)
Spot-tailed Quoll (Endangered)	Eltham Copper Butterfly (Endangered)
Greater Glider (Vulnerable)	
<b>Flora</b>	
Round-leaf Pomaderris (Critical)	Matted Flax-lily (Endangered)
Charming Spider-orchid (Endangered)	Clover Glycine (Vulnerable)
Little Pink Spider-orchid (Endangered)	River Swamp Wallaby-grass (Vulnerable)
Crimson Spider-orchid (Vulnerable)	

Many of these listed species and habitats as well as biodiversity more broadly are impacted by threatening processes that are also listed under the EPBC Act.

Nillumbik Council has a strong track record of using regulatory tools and implementing on ground works to protect and conserve biodiversity in our Shire but more support is needed.

### Summary of Key Arguments

Biodiversity in the Shire of Nillumbik is a local, state and national asset and broader support is required to protect biodiversity assets.

Direct financial support from the Australian government is required to assist Nillumbik and other municipalities implement effective on ground biodiversity conservation works including works to protect threatened species and control threatening processes.

With regard to threatening processes operating at a national scale for example feral cats and foxes; greater leadership and investment should be provided at that scale rather than a project by project piecemeal scale.

**Nillumbik Shire Council  
Motions for Australian Local Government Association  
National General Assembly 2023**

**Motion 2 Climate action**

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to:

- a. Ensure the national energy electricity grid can support our ambitious net zero targets which require rapid transition to all-electric homes, transport and industry based on renewable energy.
- b. Legislate ambitious climate targets that align with meeting international Paris Agreement Protocols to keep warming below 2°C global temperature rise. That is, setting net zero emissions for Australia by 2035 in collaboration with local government emissions targets.

**National Objective**

The Australian Government needs to be a leader in enabling renewable energy by ensuring a prepared national grid, in order to enable delivery of Australia's national climate changes strategies which are designed to achieve 43% emissions reduction by 2030, and the many more ambitious local government climate action goals.

In addition, a national target for achieving net zero emissions is currently lacking.

**Background**

More than 100 councils across the country have declared a Climate Emergency while investing in renewables and are setting ambitious targets for cutting emissions.

Nillumbik Council has ambitious emissions reduction targets of net zero for Council by 2030 and net zero for the Nillumbik community by 2035.

There are limitations on homeowners being able to connect their on-site renewable energy generation to the grid. There are significant costs associated with connecting small to medium scale renewable energy generation to the grid. Weaknesses are already inhibiting the expansion of electric vehicle charging networks.

There is evidence of limitations in the national electricity grid's capacity to balance peak renewable generation with peak consumer demand along with limitations to distributing renewable energy from large and small generation sources to consumers.

**Summary of Key Arguments**

As Australia becomes more electrified, our ageing national energy grid will require upgrades and investments in ongoing technical improvements.

For local government to achieve our ambitious net zero targets, action is required by the Australian Government to ensure that the national grid is able to absorb renewable energy inputs and supply an increased electricity demand.

For Nillumbik to achieve our ambitious net zero targets, action is required by the Australian Government to ensure that the national electricity grid is able to absorb and distribute additional renewable energy inputs and supply an increased electricity demand.



This is about ensuring that homeowners can connect their on-site renewable energy generation to the grid; that businesses can develop small to medium scale renewable energy supply without a prohibitive grid connection cost.

An ambitious, legislated Australian Government net zero emissions target signals a strong intention to community and business that can accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

**Nillumbik Shire Council  
Motions for Australian Local Government Association  
National General Assembly 2023**

**Motion 3: Funding for youth outreach and support services**

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide funding for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services for young people aged 12-25 years.

**National Objective**

Community Wellbeing

**Background**

- In 2022, Nillumbik Shire Council unanimously endorsed the Nillumbik Mental Health and Wellbeing Advocacy Priorities
- This campaign was in part informed by the 2021 Nillumbik “Young Minds: Your Voice, Our Future” Youth survey, which found:
  - 28% of respondents identified as experiencing a mental illness
  - 58% of respondents identified anxiety as the biggest challenge they personally face as a young person in Nillumbik
- This campaign was further informed by a service mapping report of local mental health service providers, demonstrating:
  - A 20% increase in occasions of service at the Nillumbik/Banyule headspace service compared to pre-Covid visitation
  - An average waitlist time of 2-3 months for local mental health service provision

**Summary of Key Arguments**

- Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health system was tabled in Victorian Parliament on 2 March 2021
- This has led to Victoria’s new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act (the Act) being passed in Victorian Parliament in September 2022
- Acknowledging that the implementation of the new Act is not due to commence until late 2023, local government is in need of urgent, short-term increased funding to address significant gaps and waiting lists in local mental health service provision.
- A dynamic, engaging and targeted local youth outreach service to support young people who are at the very start of disengagement would provide the necessary intervention.
- Early identification, timely and appropriate supports and providing links to greater long term support and stability will be key to improving mental health outcomes for young people in Nillumbik Shire.

**Nillumbik Shire Council  
Motions for Australian Local Government Association  
National General Assembly 2023**

**Motion 4: Short term funding increase to support Regional Assessment Service**

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to provide immediate short term, adequate funding to support the spike in Regional Assessment Services.

**National Objective**

Community Wellbeing

**Background**

Regional Assessment Services (RAS) are experiencing a significant increase in the number of assessment requests coming through over the last few months.

This is suspected to be a flow on effect from the pandemic and the high rate of deterioration that older people have experienced throughout the past two years due to:

- Fear associated with getting support and medical assistance during the pandemic due to risks of exposure
- Inability to get adequate medical and family support due to restrictions imposed to service delivery and people carrying out their usual day to day business
- Reluctance to explore residential care options due to fear of quality and risk associated with negative publicity

Funding is currently received as block funding and is not flexible to increase as demand increases.

Councils have dealt with service surges in the past by forming Memorandums of Understanding with other agencies and set up inter-office agency support models to take overflow for each other during peak times.

**Summary of Key Arguments**

Acknowledging there is a policy review and reform underway for RAS, LGs are in need of short term increased funding to address the spike in assessment referrals post COVID on the basis that:

- Councils who have not experienced waiting lists in the past, are now experiencing up to 12 week waiting times to undertake an assessment for an older person
- Clients who have been assessed are currently waiting months for services to commence. Extended waiting times at the assessment phase compounds the risk of older people's needs and wellbeing declining more rapidly
- Waiting times to conduct assessments and receive services is resulting in a significant increases in the volume of call coming in to the RAS, resulting in further pressure and resources being directed away from conducting assessments
- Additional pressure on RAS officers poses a risk to a workforce that is already fatigued and has ongoing supply shortages.
- Inter-office agency support is no longer available with all RAS agencies unable to meet their current assessment demands

Short term funding to increase program resources to address the back log of assessment requests is required whilst the review of the program and funding model continues over the next 12 months.

**MAV State Council - Friday 19 May 2023**

<b>Nillumbik Shire Council Motions</b>	
<b>Name of Motion</b>	<b>Mental Health and Wellbeing</b>
<b>Motion</b> <i>The Motion should be no longer than 250 words (1700 characters)</i>	
That the MAV seek funding to improve mental health services by increasing support for the delivery of flexible and dynamic youth outreach and support services with an increased focus on mental health prevention.	
<b>Rationale for Motion</b> <i>Relevant background information in support of the motion. The rationale should be no longer than 350 words (2400 characters).</i>	
<p>In 2022, Nillumbik Shire Council unanimously endorsed the Nillumbik Mental Health and Wellbeing Advocacy Priorities</p> <p>This campaign was in part informed by the 2021 Nillumbik “Young Minds: Your Voice, Our Future” Youth survey, which found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28% of respondents identified as experiencing a mental illness</li> <li>• 58% of respondents identified anxiety as the biggest challenge they personally face as a young person in Nillumbik</li> </ul> <p>This campaign was further informed by a service mapping report of local mental health service providers, demonstrating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A 20% increase in occasions of service at the Nillumbik/Banyule headspace service compared to pre-Covid visitation</li> <li>○ An average waitlist time of 2-3 months for local mental health service provision</li> </ul> <p>Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the final report of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health system was tabled in Victorian Parliament on 2 March 2021</p> <p>This has led to Victoria’s new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act (the Act) being passed in Victorian Parliament in September 2022</p> <p>Acknowledging that the implementation of the new Act is not due to commence until late 2023, local government is in need of urgent, short-term increased funding to address significant gaps and waiting lists in local mental health service provision.</p> <p>A dynamic, engaging and targeted local youth outreach service to support young people who are at the very start of disengagement would provide the necessary intervention.</p> <p>Early identification, timely and appropriate supports and providing links to greater long term support and stability will be key to improving mental health outcomes for young people in Nillumbik Shire.</p>	
Other supporting councils (please list councils that support this motion) ( <i>optional</i> )	
Not applicable	
For a motion to be considered at State Council, the motion or item must be of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting. Identify which priority the motion relates to or state if it is considered “of local government significance”.	
This motion is considered of local government significance.	

<b>Nillumbik Shire Council Motions</b>	
<b>Name of Motion</b>	<b>Expanding Funding for Kindergarten Infrastructure</b>
<b>Motion</b> <i>The Motion should be no longer than 250 words (1700 characters)</i>	
<p>That the MAV advocate for expanded capital funding for kindergarten infrastructure to ensure that eligibility:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognises individual needs and usage patterns of funded kindergarten programs across different LGAs</li> <li>2. Considers the ability of non-growth areas to expand facilities with limited land availability</li> <li>3. Funding streams and associated agreements offered by the State can work in partnership with each other to enable larger projects to be co-funded</li> </ol> <p>It is also requested the MAV advocate that the strategy applied for infrastructure planning for funded 3 year old kindergarten planning be reconsidered and a new approach be developed to plan for future infrastructure for expanded 4 year old kindergarten.</p>	
<b>Rationale for Motion</b> <i>Relevant background information in support of the motion. The rationale should be no longer than 350 words (2400 characters).</i>	
<p>In planning for the implementation of funded 3 year old kindergarten in 2020/2021, Local Governments were required by the Department of Education and Training (DET) to develop a Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP).</p> <p>The purpose of the KISP was to determine future kindergarten needs based on population data projections and apply the anticipated need to existing supply within an area.</p> <p>This method of application was effective for many councils but very ineffective to other councils as it didn't take into consideration individual factors and characteristics of LGA such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interface councils that are not experiencing population growth but have the interface challenges of lack of services in rural areas</li> <li>• Consideration of the direction of travel for families in interface councils</li> <li>• Individual choice and needs of families seeking a specific type of kindergarten program being it quality or financial perspective</li> </ul> <p>The KISPs also do not take into consideration where Councils have a high level of children attending services that come from other LGAs, particularly if boarding onto a growth corridor.</p> <p>Since the KISPs were developed there has been further impacts with the implementation of free 3 and 4 year old kindergarten and the announcement of expanded 4 year old kindergarten. This has essentially voided many KISPs but has made the need for fair distribution of infrastructure funding to Councils' more critical.</p> <p>It is requested that eligibility to receive the larger streams of funding consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual needs and usage patterns of kindergarten</li> <li>• Small Councils with limited growth, smaller population and therefore much lower rate base and developer contributions</li> <li>• How DET funding streams can work in partnership and support co-funded projects through a variety of funding sources rather than present barriers put in place by funding agreements.</li> </ul>	

Attachment 1. Nillumbik Shire Council Motions to be submitted to the 19 May 2023 MAV State Council Meeting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability threats to standalone preschools where the majority of infrastructure stock held by the LGA is the historic model of single room buildings built to old staff: child ratios.</li></ul> <p>We request that the State plan to work with individual LGA's to agree on future infrastructure needs so that future budgets are based on actual need rather than trying to allocate from unrealistic budgets.</p>
Other supporting councils (please list councils that support this motion) ( <i>optional</i> )
For a motion to be considered at State Council, the motion or item must be of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting. Identify which priority the motion relates to or state if it is considered "of local government significance".

<b>Nillumbik Shire Council Motions</b>	
<b>Name of Motion</b>	<b>Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding Review</b>
<b>Motion</b> <i>The Motion should be no longer than 250 words (1700 characters)</i>	
<p>That the MAV advocate to the State Government to undertake a review of the Maternal and Child Health Program Model and Funding with the intention to improve key quality components of the program including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Key Ages and Stages model to address increased scope</li> <li>2. Workforce attraction and retention to address workforce shortages</li> <li>3. Database functionality</li> <li>4. Program and capital funding provided by the State.</li> </ol>	
<b>Rationale for Motion</b> <i>Relevant background information in support of the motion. The rationale should be no longer than 350 words (2400 characters).</i>	
<p>The MCH program model and funding has not undergone a review in many years irrespective of the significantly changing need and challenges of families, the pandemic and the continuously increasing scope the program.</p> <p>A review to ensure the program continues to deliver this critical and highly valued service to support family and child wellbeing and development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Key Ages and Stages (KAS) consultations has not been reviewed in approximately 10 years and is required in light of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current complexities experienced by families and requiring more time management from nurses</li> <li>• Inclusion of additional areas of assessment by nurses</li> <li>• Insufficient time allocation to undertake the increased requirements of a KAS visit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Workforce pressures as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ageing workforce resulting in high number of nurses reaching retirement age and transitioning/entering retirement</li> <li>• overall reduced number of graduating MCH nurses compounded by many staying in the hospital system or choosing to enter the Council workforce in a part-time capacity</li> <li>• Limited casual workforce to backfill short-term staff shortages resulting in increased pressure on existing nurses or inability to meet service targets and community needs</li> <li>• Competition between Councils to attract workforce when there is no pay parity, disadvantaging some Councils</li> <li>• Workforce stress and burnt out as a result of a program that is underfunded when complexities, demands and compliance requirements are increasing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Database functionality to be improved/replaced to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a system capable of generating detailed reports that can inform Councils of critical matters affecting the program delivery and broader community considerations</li> <li>• Ensure time efficient and effective usability by nurses who are in a time pressured environment with a critical requirement to document information.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

4. Funding provided by the State needs to be addressed to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The State upholds its agreement with Councils to a 50/50 funding split</li><li>• The delivery of the matters raised in the previously mentioned three points</li><li>• Targeted funding to address the challenges faced by individual councils as a result of factors including location, community vulnerability, size etc</li><li>• 'Backend' business components including administration, management and clinical support to the program is adequate</li><li>• Capital funding to maintain, renew and rebuild MCH facilities.</li></ul>
Other supporting councils (please list councils that support this motion) ( <i>optional</i> )
For a motion to be considered at State Council, the motion or item must be of strategic relevance to the MAV or of such significance to local government that it ought to be considered at the meeting. Identify which priority the motion relates to or state if it is considered "of local government significance".