

**Australian Local Government Association
National General Assembly 24-27 June 2025
Nillumbik Shire Council Motions**

Category: Environment

Motion 1

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to increase funding available to enable the recovery of all Threatened Species and Ecological Communities, and to support on-ground actions to track and inform priorities to support nationwide biodiversity.

National objective and background:

- Increased funding for local governments to enable the recovery of all Threatened Species and Ecological Communities listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act 1999)*. Including funding support for on-ground actions, monitoring and community engagement across all land tenures.
- Provision of resourcing to develop and maintain a nationwide biodiversity atlas would ensure consistency across regions and states in how biological data is collected, stored and made available to track change and inform investment priorities.
- Halting and reversing biodiversity loss is a local, national and global issue. No country, including Australia, can achieve its objectives under the Global Biodiversity Framework without national effort.
- As the level of government closest to the community, councils are well placed to coordinate strategic, collaborative action that protects and enhances biodiversity.
- Australia's 537 local governments undertake broad and diverse work to support environmental outcomes. However, councils do not receive adequate support for this work.
- In particular, councils manage significant sites and also support community land stewardship on private land with Australian Government listed threatened species and ecological communities. This investment is beyond the direct scope of the *Local Government Act 2020* and is undertaken for the benefit of all Australians and our native wildlife.
- Greater support from the Australian Government is needed to support local government to protect biodiversity.

Category: Environment

Motion 2

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to increase grant funding and investment of infrastructure to support the delivery of their National Feral Deer Action Plan 2023, which aims to limit the spread of feral deer into new areas and reduce their negative impacts on agriculture, communities and the environment.

National objective and background:

- The introduction of a commonwealth feral deer control grant program would support the delivery of the National Feral Deer Action Plan 2023.
- Further investment into the infrastructure upgrades and procurement chains could turn feral deer carcasses into a commodity with sufficient commercial value to fund widespread control.
- Deer are rapidly increasing in population and extent across Australia. This needs to be halted.
- Deer destroy ground and mid-story vegetation, destroy habitat for native fauna; destroy saplings and damage mature trees; and damage waterways with hard hooves and wallowing, causing erosion and reducing water quality. They also cause agricultural, indigenous heritage and road safety impacts.
- More intensive and ongoing landscape-scale deer control is necessary to protect Australia's native biodiversity.
- There is an opportunity to for the Australian Government to partner with local government to increase on-ground control efforts; and should explore opportunities to make deer control commercially viable and self-sustaining in the long-term.

Category: Climate change and renewable energy

Motion 3

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to allocate funding for adaptation measures at the local government level to allow the proactive asset betterment to build back better after disaster events.

National objective and background:

- Local government are on the frontline preparing for, mitigating, and responding to the risks and impacts of climate change as communities across Australia experience the compounding effects of successive flood, storm, fire and heatwave events, directly linked to the ongoing impacts of climate change, and councils require Australian Government assistance to amplify this work.
- Local government plays a critical role in community resilience and wellbeing, providing vital community service, involvement in local disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and in managing billions of dollars of high value community assets and infrastructure including roads, drains, community buildings and facilities, parks, paths, tracks and trails - all of which are impacted by climate change.

Category: Climate change and renewable energy

Motion 4

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to enhance cooperation between national and local governments, and allocate sufficient funding to help enable Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to be rapidly reduced.

National objective and background:

- By setting an ambitious 2035 emissions reduction target and improving cooperation greenhouse gas emissions would be rapidly reduced.
- Current science makes it clear that greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced faster to reduce climate change impacts. This requires strong government leadership and investment. It is critical that all levels of government work together to accelerate the transition to net zero as fast as possible.
- Local government has a strong track record of delivering nation-leading work to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to emissions reductions targets, and require ongoing Australian Government assistance to enable this work. Improvements/investments required include targeted Government focus on improving Australia's electrical grid network infrastructure, support with the cost of transitioning off fossil fuels, raising the standards of Building Codes to international best practice, and supporting emissions accounting process improvements.

Category: Emergency Management

Motion 5

The Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to undertake a targeted approach to enhance their funding for improved mobile and internet connectivity in blackspot areas, particularly those that are impacted by natural disasters.

National objective and background:

- The Australian Government currently have 2 programs, the Mobile Black Spot Program and the Peri-Urban Mobile Program.
- These programs fund telecommunication providers and mobile infrastructure providers to invest in new mobile phone infrastructure in rural, regional and semi rural / peri urban areas of Australia.
- There is an opportunity for the Federal Government to nominate specific areas the telecommunication providers should improve this essential service rather than locations be determined by the commercial operators through their funding applications.
- While round eight of the Mobile Black Spot Program focuses on areas that have faced natural disasters, a commitment is required to ensure these areas remain a focus of improved connectivity.
- Reliable and fast mobile phone coverage is essential to ensure communities have 24/7 telephone access to support them in times of need and to access the emergency alert warning system.

Category: Community Services

Motion 6

That the Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to establish a joint initiative with all councils to develop a dedicated investment mechanism for refurbishing and developing community infrastructure, focussing on public libraries and aquatic centres.

National objective and background:

- Equitable access to community facilities and services is essential for the health, wellbeing, and improving the social fabric of all communities. Councils nationwide and undoubtedly nationwide, face ongoing financial challenges inhibiting their capacity to deliver and maintain vital infrastructure that supports community engagement, education, and social connection.
- Many councils manage well-utilised but ageing facilities, such as libraries and aquatic centres, which require significant investment to meet contemporary standards and continue serving diverse community needs. At the same time, some municipalities lack essential community infrastructure altogether, limiting access to critical services and public spaces that foster participation, mobility, and inclusion.

- Current funding models and grant opportunities often prioritise high-growth areas, unintentionally disadvantaging councils in low-growth population areas where infrastructure demand remains high despite minimal population increases. The introduction of rate capping in Victoria and New South Wales has further constrained these councils, limiting their ability to fund essential upgrades and renewal projects. As a result, the infrastructure gap between high-growth and low-growth councils continues to widen, leaving many communities increasingly disadvantaged. A more balanced funding approach is needed, one that accounts for both usage intensity and the renewal of ageing assets to ensure all councils can provide modern, accessible, and sustainable community spaces. Without this, ageing infrastructure risks falling into disrepair, leading to unforeseen closures and reductions in essential community facilities, ultimately diminishing the liveability and well-being of communities across municipalities.
- A more balanced funding approach is needed, one that considers both usage intensity and the ongoing maintenance and renewal of ageing assets—to ensure all councils can provide modern, accessible, and sustainable community spaces.
- Investing in new and upgraded community infrastructure is not only about addressing existing gaps but also about strengthening long-term community resilience, well-being, and social cohesion. Modern libraries, aquatic centres, and other shared facilities act as hubs for learning, health, and connection, contributing to the vibrancy and liveability of all communities.
- This motion aligns with the ALGA 2025 vision of fostering equitable, sustainable, and forward-thinking communities. It calls for a federal commitment to partner with local government to ensure that all municipalities, regardless of their growth profile, have the resources needed to deliver and maintain the essential facilities their communities rely on.