

Ms Jessica Rippon
Community Engagement and Communications
Shoalhaven City Council
PO Box 42
Nowra NSW 2541

Dear Jessica,

APPLICATION FOR THE HYAMS BEACH VILLAGERS ASSOCIATION TO BE RECOGNISED AS A CCB

Purpose

We are writing, as the recently elected President and Secretary of the Hyams Beach Villagers' Association (HBVA), to apply to Shoalhaven City Council (Council) to be recognised as a Community Consultative Body (CCB).

We would also like to flag to Council HBVA's intention, assuming that recognition as a CCB is obtained, to implement changes to HBVA's operating arrangements, including its constitution, to allow it to fully comply with the requirements of a CCB and to facilitate its working with Council in identifying strategies for protection of the environmental, social and commercial values of area and enhancement of its amenities and public safety.

Background

HBVA is a longstanding association with 98 financial members and is the only local organisation that is broadly representative of the interests of the Hyams Beach community. Prior to 2012, it had been recognised as a CCB but, that year, HBVA voted to cease that role, but continued as a villagers' association.

However, its meeting on 25 July this year was unsuccessful in filling any of the officeholder positions and the meeting effectively agreed to 'mothball' the association for a period, pending a fresh round of elections. This left the Village without a natural representative voice with Council (although less formal discussions with Council have continued), and was seen as impeding subsequent attempts at developing a range of proposed community activities – including proposals for a community hub and for a Men's Shed. Many villagers expressed regret at the perceived loss of voice and expressed strong support for our efforts to recover a suitable set of arrangements that would provide this voice.

This led to a Special General Meeting being called on 12 December with an agenda to consider reviving the operations of the HBVA with the specific purpose of moving to having it recognised as a CCB and restructured to support that purpose, and (if accepted) to elect an interim committee charged with responsibility for progressing this objective.

The meeting received strong community support, being attended by 36 members and by 12 others from within the village, many of whom have indicated a keenness to pursue the proposed agenda. There were also 28 apologies from members, many of whom also indicated strong support for the proposed direction, with no indications of opposition. The minutes of the meeting are provided at Attachment 1. In brief, the meeting voted unanimously to revive the HBVA for the purposes of transiting to a CCB. It then proceeded to vote in the officeholders required under the current HBVA constitution, as an interim committee to see through the process leading up to the next AGM, to be held in March 2016. All officeholders were elected unanimously. The new officeholders and committee consist of:

- President: Morgan Sant
- Vice-President: Chris Allison
- Secretary: David Campbell
- Treasurer: Vicki Fortescue
- Public Officer: Rob McKinnon
- Committee members: Lois Johnson and Julianne McKay

All but the public officer are permanent residents of Hyams Beach; Chris Allison operates the only commercial retail business in Hyams Beach (its café) and the public officer owns a rental property in the village and frequently stays in the village. Collectively, the group represents both commercial (rental and retail) and residential interests across the community.

This leads to the current situation where this group has been charged with seeking recognition as a CCB, and with progressing the organisational changes that will be needed to make the CCB as effective as possible in ensuring the interests of permanent residents as well as owners/ratepayers (and their partners) in Hyams Beach are well understood by the Council.

I note that the meeting on 12 December was chaired by Cllr Clive Robertson (in the absence, at the time of the meeting, of an HBVA President) and was also attended by the Mayor, Cllr Jo Gash. Both spoke strongly in favour of the proposed transition of HBVA to a CCB and actively encouraged us to seek recognition as early as possible on the basis that this may allow for consideration by Council at its January meeting, after the required 28 day public consultation period.

Information requirements

We understand that applications for recognition as a CCB require that certain information be provided. What follows is our response to those requirements:

Proposed name

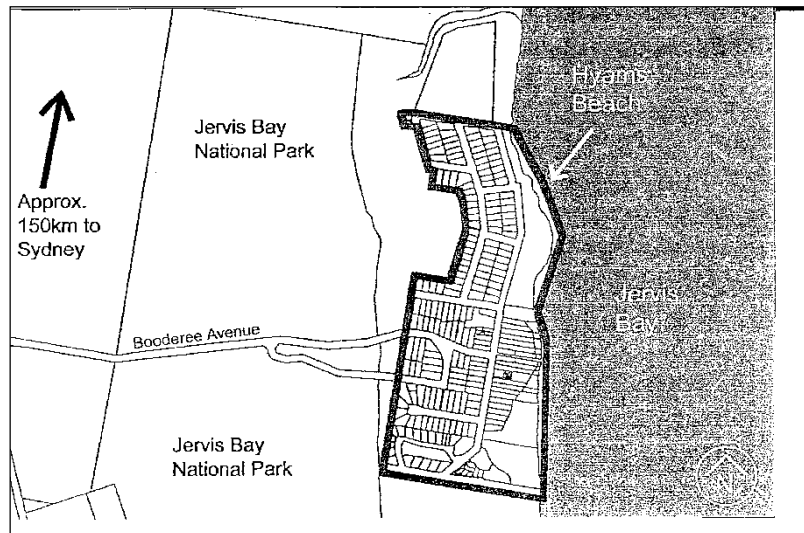
We proposed that the CCB be named the Hyams Beach Villagers' Association CCB, or HBVA/CCB for short.

Note that, in contrast to the arrangements before 2012, we are not seeing HBVA as separate from the CCB, with separate financial members and meetings. The primary purpose of the HBVA is to become the vehicle for sound and balanced community consideration of plans and aspirations for the village and its surrounds, and for associated consultation with Council; all residents and owners/ratepayers would be invited to participate, with no compulsory levies. The CCB is also seen as an important conduit for information to residents and owners/ratepayers, including (but not restricted to) information from Council.

Area covered

The area to which this application formally applies is all areas of Hyams Beach where Council has responsibility. A map setting out this area is provided below.

Geographical Area for Hyams Beach CCB



It is, of course, in the nature of Hyams Beach village that there is a strong association with the surrounding bushland (including the National Parks), the approaches to the 3 adjacent beaches and Jervis Bay. Community interests do not stop at National Park boundaries, and the proposed CCB is likely to collate views on issues that extend across these boundaries. We believe an understanding by Council of these wider views is likely to be beneficial to it in its own planning and engagement with Park's management – while it is likely that the HBVA/CCB would also at times seek to present information on key issues to park managers (and may seek 3-way dialog to ensure that key concerns do not 'fall between the stools'). Two issues of particular concern in this regard are protection of the natural environment that has attracted people to Hyams Beach in the first place, and management of bushfire risks, linked to such activities as illegal camping along the beaches and their hinterlands.

Rationale for choice of area

The HBVA village area that falls within Council control, and its approaches to the adjacent bushland, beaches and bay, is a well-defined area within which HBVA has long played an important representational role. Across this area, growing demands by visitors, many from outside the Shoalhaven, to access these natural assets has been resulting in growing pressures on facilities and associated congestion, road and pedestrian safety risks, dumping of rubbish, fire risks and public health risks. These pressures are seen as challenging by the community and as applying across the proposed area, and provide a focus for community consideration of priorities and for engagement with Council.

Rationale for basing the CCB in HBVA

This point has been covered above. HBVA is already established, is the only broadly representative body within Hyams Beach with a large existing membership, covering residential and commercial interests, and has just voted unanimously to move to take on this function as a CCB.

Support for HBVA becoming the CCB has also been received from other, more tightly focused, groups within the community. This includes the local Bushcare group (the coordinator, Julianne McKay, has just been elected to the HBVA Committee), the group developing the proposal for a Hyams Beach Community Hub (with the key coordinator of this activity, Vicki Fortescue being elected as Treasure of the HBVA) and the proponents of the establishment of a 'Men's Shed' in the village. On this last point, we note that the proponents of the Men's Shed have already offered to assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the Fire Shed, should this become a facility available to the HBVA/CCB and associated community groups.

Copy of current constitution

A copy of the current HBVA constitution is provided at Attachment 2. We expect to move over the next few weeks to develop a revised constitution that would be put to the next AGM, to be held in March. These changes would include any required or desirable given the proposed move to become a CCB, and we will expect to consult with you further on these changes, as well as considering the model rules of the NSW Department of Fair Trading. More generally, the meeting of 12 December recognised that the current constitution would benefit from even broader modernisation, and additional changes might be included. For example, the current constitution does not allow for postal voting – which can be a serious constraint in relation to property owners who live away from Hyams Beach; it is likely that some provision to facilitate wider involvement of owners and residents in voting will be taken to the next AGM.

Contact details

We provide below contact details for both of us, and are happy for these to be made public. If you only wish to make one set of contact details public, we ask that it be the Secretary.

David Campbell
Secretary, HBVA
PO Box 3313
Vincentia NSW 2540

Morgan Sant
President, HBVA
2 Silver Strand Circle
Hyams Beach NSW 2540

The new generic email address is: hbvaccb@gmail.com

Compliance with requirements of the CCB policy

As has been indicated above, the meeting of 12 December has appointed a set of officeholders for HBVA who are charged with responsibility for moving HBVA to become a CCB. The meeting recognised that this will require a range of changes, including changes to the constitution as flagged above, and expansion of membership to include all residents and owners/ratepayers (and their partners) in respect of properties within the proposed Hyams Beach coverage area. The new Committee has commenced work on developing a proposed set of changes to meet these needs and is anticipating that a fully compliant set of changes will be implemented at the next AGM, to be held in March. To facilitate this, it was agreed at the meeting on 12 December to hold an interim meeting in February, to which all residents and owners/ratepayers would be invited, to consider drafts of what is being developed. We would hope that this process would avoid any need for a further iteration after the AGM – and that following the AGM, all needed changes would have been made.

The current constitution's requirements in respect of officeholders already satisfies the requirements of the CCB and the current interim principal office bearers satisfy the policy guideline that no two be from the same household.

We have considered the current guidelines (POL 12/296) and see no problems with compliance. We understand that these guidelines are under review, but doubt that any likely changes would cause us problems, given our plans to work with you in finalising any proposals for change to be taken to the March AGM. We have noted the requirements in respect of meetings and the provision of minutes to Council.

Concluding comments

I hope this proposal meets your needs and that we can proceed smoothly with the application. Of course, if you feel that anything is missing, or could usefully strengthen the case, then please feel free to contact either of us as soon as possible.

Regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Morgan Sant
President

David Campbell
Secretary

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016

REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.ALGA.ASN.AU



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Key drivers of success for the councils of the future will include the ability to innovate and adapt to change. Today's councillors must be open to new ideas, innovative ways of engaging citizens and making interactions with councils simpler, faster and easier.

Under the theme **Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Australia**, delegates at this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) will look at the many ways local government is being innovative both here and overseas. As a responsive, pragmatic and dynamic level of government, councils innovate with technology, with their resources and in practical ways within their organisations and communities. Through the NGA, delegates will be able to learn from the ideas and experiences of other councils and gain valuable ideas for their own councils.

Our theme also underlines the contribution local government makes to national economic prosperity and productivity, a contribution which often goes unacknowledged. We have a significant role to play in fostering

and enhancing the prosperity of our communities. Nationally, local government:

- employs 189,000 Australians (around 10 per cent of the total public sector);
- owns and manages non-financial assets with a replacement value of \$437 million;
- raises around 3.4 per cent of Australia's total taxation revenue per annum; and
- has annual operational expenditure of around \$33 billion, or just under 6 per cent of total public sector spending.

Local government plays a significant role in the national economy and councils play critical roles in their local economies. I encourage you to attend the NGA, and to work with myself and the ALGA Board, as we explore opportunities to strengthen the contribution that local government makes.

With a Federal election due this year, the NGA offers an opportunity to elevate local government issues to the Federal level. In the lead up to this election, ALGA, in conjunction with State and Territory Associations, will undertake a significant

advocacy program to ensure that the promises made by the major political parties address the needs of our councils and our communities. The influence of local government is reflected in the ongoing high level political engagement the NGA receives, and this year will be no different. I have invited the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Local Government to address the NGA and to give you the opportunity to hear directly from them in the lead up to the election.

The NGA program this year features a number of preeminent speakers who will share their views and encourage our thinking on the two key areas of our theme: innovation and prosperity. We have panel sessions that allow for interaction with these presenters and other thought leaders, as well as breakout sessions to give you the maximum opportunity to gain insights which you can take back to your council.

I invite you to join me and your colleagues at this year's NGA held from 19-22 June in Canberra.



Mayor Troy Pickard
PRESIDENT

CONTENTS

President's welcome	2	Regional Cooperation & Development Forum 2016...	8	Social functions.....	11
Provisional program.....	3	Key dates.....	9	Partner tours	12
Panel sessions.....	4	Motions for debate.....	9	Accommodation.....	12
Concurrent sessions.....	4	Voting procedures	9	Coach transfers.....	14
Associated events	5	Registration details	10	Car parking.....	14
Speaker profiles	6			Registration form	15

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

PARTNERS IN AN INNOVATIVE AND PROSPEROUS AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

5.00-7.00pm	Welcome Reception
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MONDAY 20 JUNE

9.00 am	Opening Ceremony
9.20 am	Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP (invited)
10.00 am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER George Megalogenis
10.30 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am	PANEL SESSION The future of Local Government
12.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm	PANEL SESSION Surfing the wave of disruption
2.30 pm	Leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Dr Richard Di Natale
3.00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30 pm	Debate on Motions
5.00 pm	CLOSE

TUESDAY 21 JUNE

9.00 am	Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP (invited)
9.30 am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Pip Marlow , Managing Director, Microsoft
10.00 am	Speaker Q&A
10.30 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am	PANEL SESSION Digital transformation at the Local Government level
12.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New approaches to improve your business • The infrastructure challenge • Innovative approaches to the environment • Northern Australia
3.00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30 pm	Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Bill Shorten MP (invited)
4.00 pm	Debate on Motions
5.00 pm	CLOSE

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE

9.00 am	Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Julie Collins MP (invited)
9.30 am	Debate on Motions
10.30 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am	PANEL SESSION Local Government's role in facilitating prosperity
12.30 pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Robert de Castella AO MBE
1.00 pm	LUNCH/CLOSE

SPONSORS



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

PANEL SESSIONS

MONDAY 11.00-12.30PM

The future of Local Government

As the role of local government continues to change, anticipating the challenges of the next 20 years and determining how councils are best placed to respond is critical. As the level of government closest to Australians, local government must continue to provide high quality services and respond to the myriad of challenges faced by local communities. External factors such as rate capping, amalgamation processes, reductions in grant funding and changing expectations of local government's role are placing increasing pressure on councils' ability to perform. However, it is often under these conditions that innovation thrives as councils look to deliver more with less. How are councils responding to these challenges?

MONDAY 1.30-2.30PM

Surfing the wave of Disruption

Traditional service delivery and business models are changing – recently we've seen the rapid growth of AirBnB and Uber which are challenging how the hotel and the taxi industries operate. The capacity for organisations to accommodate change is increasingly becoming an important determinant of their success. As the pace of change increases and the length of time strategic planning activities can cover reduces, councils are being forced re-examine their planning processes, regulatory frameworks and their basic assumptions as well as their ability to respond to changes within the community.

TUESDAY 11.00-12.30PM

Digital transformation at the Local Government level

Local government has a long history of being an early-adopter of new technologies and of using its own resources to drive innovation based on local knowledge and expertise. Technology can improve collaboration between the public, private and the not-for profit sectors to drive innovation, solve complex problems, and enhance community engagement. How can technology be used to transform council businesses and enable innovation in your community?

WEDNESDAY 11.00-12.30PM

Local Government's role in facilitating prosperity

Strong leadership and the ability to access social and economic capital are crucial preconditions for prosperity. Local government strives, wherever possible, to assist communities to enhance their capacity to respond to challenges and identify opportunities to build resilience and increase overall prosperity. Being able to grow social capital, support entrepreneurs and attract investment are fundamental to the growth in local and regional productivity. What strategies can councils employ to foster prosperity in their community and region?

TUESDAY 1.30-3.00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

New approaches to improve your business

Smart councils are required to use information and communication technologies to enhance quality services and infrastructure. The application of new information, data and knowledge generated through the application of new technologies will improve performance, interactivity with community and reduce costs. As our cities become smarter, councils need more careful consideration of three main areas: technologies; infrastructure and planning; and regulation and markets. In this session delegates will have the opportunity to explore the content covered in the Digital Transformation at the Local Government Level panel session and interact further with our highly experienced international colleagues from Boston.

The infrastructure challenge

Local government community infrastructure underpins and binds many communities. For many Australians, council managed facilities are where their club meets, their kids play and their families learn to swim. In addition to this it is well recognised that every journey starts and ends on a local road. In February Infrastructure Australia published the Australian Infrastructure Plan which sets out a blueprint for infrastructure development and priorities for the next 15 years. This session will provide the opportunity for delegates to explore the role of community infrastructure in supporting productivity, community development and in enhancing social cohesion. It will also examine the challenge we face in maintaining infrastructure at the local and national level.

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016

Innovative approaches to the environment

Managing climate change and the environment are some of the most significant issues many councils are facing. Developing appropriate strategies to reduce emissions at a local government level will be critical if Australia is to meet the global commitments reached in Paris in 2015. Reduction of emissions from council and community activities, improved design of cities and towns, buildings and facilities, transport systems, and the management of water resources and municipal waste are important considerations in reducing carbon emissions. In this session delegates will have access to key leaders in the field to explore innovative approaches to addressing climate change and improving environmental management.

Northern Australia

Advancing sustainable economic outcomes for communities in Northern Australia through existing programs and services, knowledge sharing and new business development opportunities is important not only for Northern Australia but for all of Australia. The session will address some of the many issues regarding economic development and opportunity in Northern Australia. It will also draw on the recent report of the Council of Australian Government's investigation into issues of importance to Indigenous communities, especially land administration. The report, among other things, addresses how the Indigenous land administration systems could effectively support Indigenous land owners and native title holders to leverage their land assets for economic development. This session will provide delegates with the opportunity to discuss and explore key issues facing Northern Australian and Indigenous communities.

ASSOCIATED EVENTS



Australian Local Government Women's Association Breakfast

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2016

7:30am-8:30am

The ALGWA National President is pleased to invite members, friends and colleagues to the 5th Annual Networking Breakfast as part of the National General Assembly.

The Breakfast will be held in the Murray Room on Monday 20 June from 7:30-8:30 am.

Seating is strictly limited, so book early. More details on www.algwa.net.au



Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2016

7:00 am-8:45 am

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) is an alliance of local government associations and councils from around Australia. The alliance is working to create a strong network of regional capitals that are at the forefront of federal policy and the national identity.

RCA will be holding a networking breakfast on Wednesday 22 June at the National Convention Centre during the ALGA conference. RCA's annual networking breakfast is a chance for attendees to hear directly from government and engage with their regional capitals colleagues from across Australia.

To register for the event and for enquiries about RCA, please contact:
Email secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org
Phone (03) 9614 7302

Visit our website at www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org

SPEAKER PROFILES



George Megalogenis

George Megalogenis is an author and journalist with three decades' experience in the media. His books include *The Australian Moment*, which won the 2013 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-fiction and the 2012 Walkley Award for Non-fiction, and formed the basis for the ABC documentary series *Making Australia Great*.

Annabel Crabb said "George Megalogenis is Australia's best explainer", David Marr posits "this man is perhaps the sanest journalist in Australia. He believes in facts and figures. He has a unique grasp of politics in all its messy detail. The result is this splendid account of the great reforms of the last 40 years that have made Australia".

George is also the author of *Faultlines*, *The Longest Decade* and *Quarterly Essay 40: Trivial Pursuit – Leadership and the End of the Reform Era*. His most recent book *Australia's Second Chance* was launched by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

This year George will publish *Quarterly Essay 61: Balancing Act: Australia Between Recession and Renewal*.

Pip Marlow

Managing Director, Microsoft Australia

As Managing Director, Pip Marlow is responsible for Microsoft's overall business in Australia. She ensures the company meets the needs of its customers and more than 11,000 partners and independent software vendors that sell or build on the Microsoft platform.

Pip began her 18-year career with Microsoft in 1995, working in the Australian Partner team on anti-piracy efforts, and the system builder channel and distribution strategy. She then moved

to Microsoft's head office in Seattle, US, where she held a succession of senior roles, including General Manager for US channel sales.

After eight years in the US, Pip returned to Microsoft Australia. She worked in various positions across the business, including as Director of Small and Medium Business Solutions, and Partners. Before being appointed Managing Director in January 2011, Pip held the joint role of Enterprise and Partner Group Director and Public Sector Director.

Robert de Castella AO MBE

Robert de Castella is recognised as one of Australia's greatest athletes after dominating the world in the gruelling event of the marathon. He was the first person to win the Commonwealth Games marathon twice and set the course record at the Boston Marathon.

Robert started running aged eleven at Xavier College in Melbourne, where one of his teachers was 1962 Commonwealth Games athlete Pat Clohessy. Pat continued as his coach throughout his career. Robert won the Canberra Pan Pacific Conference Games in 1977 over 10,000m and the 1978 Australian Cross-Country title. He finished 10th at the Moscow Olympics in 1980, then won Gold at the 1982 Commonwealth Games in a tight battle with Juma Ikangaa from Tanzania. He soon won the Rotterdam marathon and the IAAF World Championships in Holland but finished in fifth place in the 1984 Olympics. In the 1988 Olympics he finished fourth, then at the 1992 Olympics finished in 26th place.

Robert became Director of the Australian Institute of Sport from 1990 to 1995, and has since continued his advocacy and support for athletics and marathon running in particular. He was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP Prime Minister

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn in as the 29th Prime Minister of Australia on 15 September 2015.

Malcolm was a Cabinet Minister in the Howard and Abbott Governments. He served as Minister for the Environment and Water Resources in the Howard Government and Minister for Communications in the Abbott Government.

Malcolm also served as Leader of the Opposition from 2008 to 2009.

Malcolm was educated at Vaucluse Public School and Sydney Grammar School. Malcolm's high school education at Sydney Grammar was assisted by a scholarship. In later life Malcolm arranged for an additional means-tested scholarship to be established at Sydney Grammar in memory of his late father. Malcolm graduated from Sydney University with a BA LLB. He won a Rhodes Scholarship and completed a further law degree at Oxford.

After a successful career in journalism Malcolm began practicing law in 1980. He quickly established a reputation as an effective advocate, most notably when he successfully defended former MI5 agent Peter Wright against the British Government in the "Spycatcher" trial.

Malcolm left law for business in 1987 where he has since been responsible for the establishment and success of many Australian businesses. In particular he has been a determined supporter of Australian technology. He co-founded OzEmail in 1994. His software companies have won many awards for exporting Australian technology.

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016



The Hon Bill Shorten MP

Leader of the Opposition

Bill Shorten is the Federal Member for Maribyrnong and was elected leader of the Australian Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition on 13 October 2013.

Mr Shorten completed a Bachelors degree in Arts and Law from Monash University, as well as an MBA from the Melbourne Business School.

Bill has since worked as a union organiser, union secretary, as a member of the ACTU executive, as a Member of Parliament and as a Minister in a Labor Government.

As a senior member of the Rudd/Gillard Labor Governments, Bill played a key role in securing a number of historic reforms including establishing the National Disability Insurance Scheme and increasing universal superannuation to 12 per cent.

As Minister for Workplace Relations, Bill continued the Labor Government's ongoing commitment to a fair and productive workplace relations system and during his time as Minister for Education helped secure the Better Schools reforms.

Prior to entering Parliament, Bill worked at the Australian Workers Union, holding key leadership positions including State Secretary of the AWU Victoria Branch from 1998 to 2006 and the National Secretary from 2001 to 2007.

Senator Dr Richard Di Natale

Leader of the Australian Greens

Dr Richard Di Natale is the leader of the Australian Greens. He was elected to the Federal Parliament in 2010 and is the Greens' first Victorian senator. His portfolios include health, multiculturalism, youth, gambling and sport.

Prior to entering parliament, Richard was a general practitioner and public health specialist. He worked in Aboriginal health in the Northern Territory, on HIV prevention in India and in the drug and alcohol sector. His key health priorities include preventative health, public dental care and responding to the health impacts of climate change.

Richard's achievements in parliament so far include securing almost \$5 billion towards Medicare-funded dentistry, winning a campaign to divest \$250 million worth of tobacco stocks from the Future Fund, and spearheading senate inquiries into many issues of public significance such as dying with dignity, superbugs, hospital funding, budget cuts, medicinal cannabis, air pollution, pharmaceutical transparency, sports science and gambling reform.

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP

Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government

Paul Fletcher is the Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects.

He entered parliament in December 2009 as the Member for Bradfield, was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications in September 2013, and was appointed to his present role in September 2015.

Before entering parliament, Paul was Director, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs at Optus for eight years; established a consulting firm serving the communications sector; and in 2009 his book about broadband, *Wired Brown Land* was published by UNSW Press.

Earlier in his career Paul was Chief of Staff to the Minister for Communications in the Howard Government, Senator Richard Alston.

He has dual first class honours degrees in law and economics from The University of Sydney and an MBA from Columbia University in New York where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

The Hon Julie Collins MP

Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government

Julie Collins was born in Hobart. She was State Secretary of the Tasmanian Labor Party between 2006 and 2007.

Ms Collins was first elected the Member for Franklin in 2007. She successfully held her seat in the 2010 federal election and was sworn in as Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services on 14 September 2010 in the first Gillard Ministry. In 2011, Ms Collins became Minister for Community Services, Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, and Minister for the Status of Women in the second Gillard Ministry. In 2013, she gained additional responsibilities as the Minister for Housing and Homelessness and promoted to the Cabinet in the second Rudd Ministry.

Ms Collins now serves as Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government and Shadow Minister for Employment Services.



REGIONAL COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2016

Supporting a prosperous visitor economy

The 2016 Regional Forum is a vital opportunity for mayors, councillors and other decision-makers from regional councils to share their ideas, knowledge and experience and to work to further develop the capacity of regional Australia to adapt to the pressures of a rapidly changing global economy.

This year's State of the Regions Report investigates two critical yet interrelated issues relevant to all local governments around the country. One is the importance of ongoing financial commitment to local government through the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants and how the diverse investments by local government support the growing and increasingly important visitor economy.

The Forum will see the launch of the 2016-17 State of the Regions Report. The State of the Regions Report is commissioned by ALGA, prepared by National Economics and published with the support of Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

RCDF16

RCDF Program • SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2016

9:30 AM	Welcome and Introduction: ALGA President, Mayor Troy Pickard
9:45 AM	Keynote Address
10:15 AM	Launch of the State of the Regions Report
10:45 AM	MORNING TEA
11:15 AM	Department of Infrastructure and Regional Australia - Policy and Programme Update
11:45 AM	The Hon Julie Collins MP Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government (invited)
12:15 PM	Capacity Building Insights Project - Regional Australia Institute
12:45 PM	LUNCH
1:30 PM	Importance of Local Government - Australian Regional Tourism Network
2:00 PM	Workshop Discussion: Leveraging the Visitor Economy - Challenges and Opportunities
2:45 PM	AFTERNOON TEA
3:15 PM	Panel Session: Tourism in my region
4:00 PM	The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources (invited)
4:30 PM	CLOSE

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016

KEY DATES

- **Submission of Motions for Debate 22 April 2016**
- **Early bird registration on or before 6 May 2016**
- **Standard registration on or before 3 June 2016**
- **Late registration after 3 June 2016**

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy.

The ALGA Board is calling for motions for the 2016 NGA under the theme Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Australia. To assist Councils in preparing motions a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available via www.alga.asn.au.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers motions must follow the principles:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. be consistent with the themes of the Assembly;
3. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;
4. propose a clear action and outcome; and
5. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties which may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

Motions should be submitted electronically through the online form via www.alga.asn.au and should be received by ALGA no later than 11:59pm AEST, Friday 22 April 2016.

Motions submitted will be reviewed by a committee of the ALGA Board as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state/territory local government association, and will not be included in the Business Papers.

Motions that are agreed to at the National General Assembly become Resolutions. These Resolutions are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy and when the Board is making representations to the Federal Government at Ministerial Councils, during meetings and in ALGA publications. The ALGA Board is not bound by any resolutions passed at the NGA.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Each council is entitled to one voting delegate in the debating session. Councils will need to determine who their voting delegate will be. Voting cards can be collected at the Assembly. Councils do not need to advise ALGA of the name of the voting delegate prior to collecting voting cards.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

General Assembly registration fees

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

🔗 **\$929**

Payment received by Friday 6 May 2016

STANDARD REGISTRATION

🔗 **\$1,029**

Payment received on or before Friday 3 June 2016

LATE REGISTRATION

🔗 **\$1,250**

Payment received on or after Friday 3 June 2016

General Assembly registration includes:

- Attendance at all General Assembly sessions
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as per the General Assembly program
- One ticket to the Welcome Drinks, Sunday
- General Assembly satchel and materials.

Day registration fees

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2016

🔗 **\$489**

TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016

🔗 **\$489**

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2016

🔗 **\$280**

Day registration includes:

- Attendance at all General Assembly sessions on the day of registration
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as per the General Assembly program on that day
- General Assembly satchel and materials.

Regional Development Forum

SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2016

FORUM ONLY

🔗 **\$425**

NGA DELEGATE

🔗 **\$225**

Accompanying partners registration fees

ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS
REGISTRATION FEE

🔗 **\$260**

Accompanying partners registration includes:

- 1 ticket to the Welcome Reception, Sunday 19 June
- Day tour Monday 20 June
- Day tour Tuesday 21 June
- Lunch with General Assembly delegates on Wednesday 22 June.

Payment procedures

Payment can be made by:

- Credit card – MasterCard, Visa
- Cheque made payable to ALGA
- Electronic funds transfer:
Bank: Commonwealth
Branch: Curtin BSB No: 062905
Account No: 10097760.

NOTE: If paying via EFT you must quote your transaction reference number on the registration form.

Cancellation policy

All alterations or cancellations to your registration must be made in writing and will be acknowledged by post, facsimile or email.

Notification should be sent to:

Conference Co-ordinators
PO Box 4994, Chisholm ACT 2905
Fax (02) 6292 9002
Email conference@confco.com.au

An administration charge of \$110 will be made to any participant cancelling before Friday 6 May 2016.

Cancellations received after Friday 6 May 2016 will be required to pay full registration fees. However, if you are unable to attend, substitutes are welcome at no additional cost.

By submitting your registration you agree to the terms of the cancellation policy.

Privacy disclosure

ALGA collects your personal contact information in its role as a peak body for local government. ALGA may disclose your personal contact information to the sponsors of the event for the purposes of commercial business opportunities. If you consent to ALGA using and disclosing your personal contact information in this way, please tick the appropriate box on the registration form. Importantly, your name may also be included in the General Assembly List of Participants. You must tick the appropriate box on the registration form if you wish your name to appear in this list.

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Photographs

During the National General Assembly there will be a contracted photographer, the photographer will take images during the sessions and social functions. If you have your picture taken it is assumed that you are giving consent for ALGA to use the image.

Images may be used for print and electronic publications.

Welcome reception and exhibition opening

SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2016

National Convention Centre

5:00–7:00 pm

\$50 per person for day delegates and guests.

No charge for full registered delegates.

No charge for registered accompanying partners.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

Buffet dinner

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2016

The Ballroom, National Convention Centre

7:00–11:00 pm

\$100 per person.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

Coaches will depart Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza) at approximately 6:45 pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:15 pm.

General Assembly dinner

TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016

The Great Hall, Parliament House

7:00–11:00 pm

\$130 per person.

DRESS CODE Lounge suit/collar and tie for men and cocktail style for women.

Tickets to the prestigious General Assembly Annual Dinner at Parliament House are always highly sought after. Due to the size of the Great Hall, places are limited and therefore booking early is highly recommended to ensure your place. Coaches will depart all Assembly hotels at approximately 6:45pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:15 pm.

Note: Bookings are accepted in order of receipt.

Canberra weather in June

Winter days in Canberra are characterised by clear sunny skies but the days are cool at around 12–15°C and temperatures do drop to 1°C on average in the evenings, so be sure to bring a warm jacket. Mornings can be foggy so keep this in mind when booking flights.

It is best to avoid early arrivals or departures in case of delays due to fog.

Venue and dress code

EXHIBITION OPENING AND WELCOME RECEPTION

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS SESSIONS

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City.

All plenary sessions will be held in the Royal Theatre at the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

EXHIBITION

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City.

The exhibition is being held in the Exhibition Hall of the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

BUFFET DINNER

VENUE The dinner is being held in the Ballroom at the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DINNER

VENUE Parliament House.

The General Assembly Dinner is being held in the Great Hall.

DRESS CODE Lounge suit/collar and tie for men and cocktail style for women.

PARTNER TOURS

MONDAY 20 JUNE

Canberra Celebrates 2016

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of decimal currency in Australia we will visit the Royal Australian Mint. A guided tour will be offered and the opportunity to make your own \$1 coin.

A visit and lunch will be at Old Parliament House in anticipation of the upcoming Federal Election prior to visiting the National Portrait Gallery. At the Gallery guests will be able to see the 2016 National Photographic Portrait Prize Exhibition which features a large range of talented Australian photography.

TUESDAY 21 JUNE

Canberra Truffle Farm

Canberra is celebrating its annual eight-week truffle festival. Today you will travel to The Canberra Truffle Farm and enjoy a truffle cleaning demonstration, a short walk through some of the farm areas (weather permitting) and a truffle tasting. Produce from the farm will be available for purchase prior to departing.

The group will then venture to Bungendore for lunch with time to visit the well known Bungendore Wood Works.

ACCOMMODATION

To book your accommodation at the rates listed below complete the appropriate section of the registration form. Bookings are subject to availability and should be made prior to Friday 6 May 2016. All cancellations or amendments must be made in writing to Conference Co-ordinators and will be acknowledged by email. Please note your credit card details are required to guarantee your room. Neither Conference Co-ordinators nor the hotel will make any charges against your credit card unless you fail to give 21 days notice in writing of your cancellation. Full payment of your account will be required at the time of your departure.

Note: All Canberra hotels have a complete non-smoking policy.

CROWNE PLAZA

1 Binara Street, Canberra

The Crowne Plaza is adjacent to the Convention Centre and only a short walk from restaurants, bars and the main shopping district. Featuring a contemporary design, the Crowne Plaza provides guests with an outdoor pool, sauna, health/fitness centre, 24-hour reception, concierge, undercover parking and onsite dining at the RedSalt Restaurant. All rooms are non-smoking and include iron/ironing board, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and room service is available.

Superior Room: **\$295** per night
single/twin/double

Deluxe Room: **\$345** per night
single/twin/double

AVENUE HOTEL

80 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

A brand new property which recently opened in November 2014, the Avenue Hotel is Canberra's newest and only 5-star hotel in the CBD. The hotel has an onsite restaurant and bar, 24-hour reception and room service, gymnasium, undercover parking (charges apply per night) and guest lounge with free wifi. Offering hotel rooms, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, all rooms have king size beds, rainfall showers, balconies and mini bar. The apartments also have full kitchen facilities, the Avenue is a 15-20 minute walk from the Convention Centre.

Hotel Room: **\$230** per night
single/twin/double

1 Bedroom Apartment: **\$280** per night
single/double

MANTRA

84 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

Mantra on Northbourne is centrally located and approximately a 15-20 minute walk from the National Convention Centre. The hotel features a heated indoor pool, sauna, fully-equipped gymnasium and the Zipp restaurant bar onsite. All rooms offer voice mail, individually controlled air-conditioning, pay per view movies, mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and complimentary toiletries. One and two bedroom apartments also offer a separate lounge and dining area, fully-equipped kitchen and a laundry with washing machine, dryer, iron and ironing board.

Hotel Room: **\$219** per night
single/twin/double

1 Bedroom Apartment: **\$259** per night
single/twin/double

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANBERRA 19-22 JUNE 2016

MEDINA APARTMENT HOTEL JAMES COURT

74 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

The Medina Apartments Hotel James Court is approximately a 15-20 minute walk from the National Convention Centre and is close to cafes, restaurants, gyms and shopping. The hotel offers reception, undercover parking, outdoor heated swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium and a restaurant delivery service. All rooms feature private balconies, climate controlled air conditioning, separate lounge/dining areas, broadband access (for a fee), spa bath, mini bar, fully equipped kitchen facilities and an in-room safe.

Note: Reception operates between the hours of 6.30am and 11.30pm.

1 Bedroom Apartment: **\$210** per night
single/twin/double

2 Bedroom Apartment: **\$260** per night
single/twin/double

NOVOTEL

65 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

Located on Northbourne Avenue, one of Canberra's main thoroughfares, the Novotel is a 15 minute walk from the National Convention Centre. The hotel offers 24-hour reception and room service, an onsite restaurant and bar, gymnasium and undercover parking (charges apply per night). In-room facilities include mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, broadband (for a fee), Fox Sports and News, pay per view movies, climate control airconditioning, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. Executive rooms have a king size bed.

Standard Room: **\$265** per night
single/twin/double

Executive Room: **\$295** per night
single/twin/double

PEPPERS GALLERY HOTEL

15 Edinburgh Place, Canberra

Peppers Gallery Hotel (formally Diamant Hotel, re-branded in 2014) is a boutique 80 room hotel located at the intersection of Marcus Clarke St and Edinburgh Ave, 15 minutes walk from the Convention Centre. Peppers Gallery Hotel features 24-hour reception, a restaurant and a bar. The rooms have a mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities, plasma TVs, CD and DVD players, broadband (for a fee), and in-room safe.

Standard Room: **\$264** per night
single/twin/double

QT HOTEL

1 London Circuit, Canberra

Qt Hotel Canberra (formally Rydges Lakeside) has recently been renovated throughout the foyer and restaurants. The rooms have been updated and offer balconies and high speed internet (for a fee), pay per view movies, mini bar, hairdryer, iron and ironing board. The hotel is a 15 minute walk to the National Convention Centre and has 24-hour reception, room service, onsite restaurant and bar.

Standard Room: **\$249** per night
single/twin/double

WALDORF

2 Akuna Street, Canberra

Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, the Waldorf is only a couple minutes walk from the National Convention Centre.

This hotel has 24-hour reception and provides guests with a gymnasium, indoor heated lap pool and onsite dining at the Waldorf London Restaurant.

All rooms have kitchen and laundry facilities, in room safe, dining table and chairs, complimentary cable TV, pay per view movies, high speed internet service (for a fee) and room service is available. One bedroom apartments also offer a separate lounge/dining area.

Studio Room: **\$200** per night
single/twin/double

1 Bedroom Apartment: **\$220** per night
single twin/double

COACH TRANSFERS

Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening

SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2016

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 4:45 pm. The return coaches will depart at 7:00 pm.

Daily Shuttles to and from the National Convention Centre

A shuttle service between all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) and the National Convention Centre will operate between 8:00 am and 8:30 am. Return shuttles will depart the National Convention Centre at 5:00 pm.

Buffet Dinner National Convention Centre

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2016

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 6:45 pm. A return shuttle service will commence at 10:15 pm.

General Assembly Annual Dinner Parliament House

TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (including Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 6:45 pm. A return shuttle service will operate between 10:15 pm and 11:15 pm.

CAR PARKING

Parking for delegates is available underneath the National Convention Centre for a cost of approximately \$18.00 per day. Alternative parking is available to the rear of Civic Pool at a cost of approximately \$14.90 per day. It is a seven minute walk from this location.

REGISTRATION
FORMREGISTER ONLINE
WWW.ALGA.ASN.AU

Multiple delegates > photocopy form

Register online, download PDF or return
this form to:Conference Co-ordinators
PO Box 4994 Chisholm ACT 2905
Phone (02) 6292 9000 Fax (02) 6292 9002
Email nga@confco.com.auBy submitting your registration you agree to the
terms and conditions of the cancellation policy

NGA16

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 19-22 JUNE 2016
Australian Local Government Association ABN 31 008 613 876

PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE	NAME	SURNAME
<small>(Cr/Ald/Mayor/Other)</small>		
POSITION		
COUNCIL/ORGANISATION		
ADDRESS		
SUBURB	STATE	POSTCODE
PHONE	MOBILE	FAX
EMAIL		
NAME FOR BADGE		

How did you find out about the General Assembly? ☐ ALGA ☐ State/Territory Association ☐ Council Other: _____

PRIVACY DISCLOSURE ☐ I DO consent to my name appearing in the 2016 General Assembly List of Participants booklet (name, organisation and state only disclosed) as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 10.

☐ I DO consent to ALGA disclosing my personal contact information as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 10.

REGISTRATION FEES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FEES

Please note registration does NOT include attendance at the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES (payment received on or before 6 May 2016) ☐ \$929.00

STANDARD REGISTRATION FEES (payment received on or before 3 June 2016) ☐ \$1,029.00

LATE REGISTRATION FEES (payment received after 3 June 2016) ☐ \$1,250.00

DAY REGISTRATION FEES ☐ Monday 20 June \$489.00 ☐ Tuesday 21 June \$489.00 ☐ Wednesday 22 June \$280.00

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM REGISTRATION FEES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM ONLY Registration fee ☐ \$425.00

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE Registration fee ☐ \$225.00

STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2016-17 (Single licence) ☐ \$240.00

STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2016-17 (Organisational licence) ☐ \$700.00

ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTERED ACCOMPANYING PARTNER Name for lapel badge: _____ . . ☐ \$260.00

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDED IN FEES

One ticket to each of the following functions is included in the full General Assembly registration and/or accompanying partners registration fee. Please confirm if you will be attending by placing a tick in the appropriate boxes. To purchase additional tickets to any of the following functions please indicate the number required and complete the total amount payable.

REGISTERED DELEGATES AND PARTNERS

WELCOME RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION OPENING (SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2016)

I/we will attend: ☐ Delegate ☐ Partner Number of additional tickets @ \$50.00 each Total \$

REGISTERED PARTNERS

Day 1 • Canberra Celebrates 2016 (Monday 20 June 2016)

☐ I will attend: ☐ Partner Number of additional tickets @ \$110.00 each Total \$

Day 2 • Canberra Truffle Farm (Tuesday 21 June 2016)

☐ I will attend: ☐ Partner Number of additional tickets @ \$110.00 each Total \$



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

National General Assembly of Local Government

19 - 22 June 2016

Call for Motions Discussion Paper

**'Partners in an Innovative and
Prosperous Future'**

Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.asn.au no later than

11:59pm on Friday 22 April 2016.

Submitting Motions

The National General Assembly of Local Government is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda.

To assist you and your council to identify motions that address the theme of the NGA, the ALGA Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper. You are encouraged to read all of the sections of the Paper, but are not expected to respond to every question in each section. Your motion/s can address one or all of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and then debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must be consistent with the following principles:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally
2. be consistent with the themes of the Assembly
3. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association
4. propose a clear action and outcome, and
5. 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.

Motions should generally be in a form that seeks the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the Federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs. For example: *That this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to restore indexation to local government financial assistance grants.*

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA Website at: www.alga.asn.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 by ALGA no later than 11:59pm on Friday 22 April 2016, electronically in the prescribed format.

Please note that for every motion it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume knowledge. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-Committee as well as by state and territory local government associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the sub-committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Motions may be edited before inclusion in the Business Papers to ensure consistency. If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. 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 Business Papers.

For more information, please contact Clare Hogan at ALGA on (02) 6122 9400.

Preamble

The 2016 National General Assembly (NGA) is most likely to be held in the lead up to the next Federal election. During this time, all national political parties focus on leadership, key messages, marginal seats and political campaigning. National policy initiatives enter the public domain and all Australians are asked to engage in the political process and choose between competing ideas, election promises and the numerous candidates across the nation.

Last year's NGA theme was '*Closest to the People - Local government in the Federation*'. The theme reinforced the vital role of local government in Australia's system of government. It built on the Government's Federation White Paper process, which sought to clarify roles and responsibilities of the levels of government and potentially better align funding with respective responsibilities. It also acknowledged the development of a Green Paper on Taxation. The NGA greatly assisted ALGA in its advocacy and participation in the reform process.

Since then there has been much debate on taxation reform, which will culminate at the 2016 Federal election.

In December 2015 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) reset the national political dialogue. COAG committed to:

'... close collaboration in areas of shared responsibility, including competition, tax, innovation, infrastructure, cities and regulation, as well as in health and education. '

COAG leaders agreed the principles for a new national economic reform agenda should be:

'...to deliver for all Australians no matter where they live:

- a stronger, more productive and more innovative Australian economy, with more jobs, more opportunities and higher living standards
- fairness and equity, with protection for disadvantaged and lower income Australians, and
- more efficient and high quality services.'

The theme of the 2016 NGA – '*Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Future*' – invites councils from across Australia to consider the role of local government in this agenda, and how councils can play their role in the delivery of these objectives.

Many of the services and infrastructure provided by councils are not only critical to the social, cultural and environmental well-being of their communities, but also to the economic prosperity of their regions and the nation more broadly.

The NGA debate on motions and associated discussions will seek to highlight how local government can be more agile in delivering those services to communities, as well as send a strong and unified message to the Commonwealth.

Introduction

The 2016 NGA theme is *'Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Future'*.

This year, the NGA debate on motions and associated discussions will seek to highlight how local government can be more efficient and effective. The discussions will look at how local government, working in partnership with other levels of government, the private sector and the not-for-profit sector, can innovate and create a prosperous future for the community it serves.

This year's theme builds on the work of the 2015 NGA which focused on local government's role in the Federation. The Commonwealth Federation Discussion Paper 2015 sets a context in which motions for this year's NGA should be developed.

The theme *'Partners in an Innovative and Prosperous Future'* seeks to focus attention on the role that local government can play in creating a prosperous Australia. The Federation Discussion Paper notes that Australia today is very different from the country it was at the time of Federation and poses the fundamental question: '... does [the Federation] provide the system of national governance that Australians need right now, and will it help or hinder efforts to adapt and thrive in the vastly different economic, political and social realities of the 21st century?'

To put this question in a local government context:

Are the government systems (including our own), processes and priorities, in many cases set up decades ago, still appropriate today?

Are they delivering accessible and fair systems and are they a help or hindrance? Do they facilitate business activity and contribute to higher living standards, or are they a drag on the local economy? Are they necessary or do they duplicate effort?

Technological change has created opportunities, making many traditional models of business and government obsolete. Have these opportunities been taken up?

Participatory democracy is being enhanced through empowering individuals and local communities with new knowledge and new ways of engaging with each other and with governments. Are these opportunities being captured?

Australian productivity and living standards are comparatively high by world standards. However, the current national productivity and reform debate recognises that without reform, Australia risks being left behind on the world stage—meaning fewer jobs, lower economic growth, and reduced living standards.

COAG has responded positively to this challenge. All governments have committed to collaborate particularly in areas of shared responsibility, including competition, tax, innovation, infrastructure, cities and regulation, as well as health and education.

The 2016 NGA seeks motions that suggest reform, innovation in government operations and opportunities to partner with local government that will support Australia's prosperity.

Local government role in national productivity

Over several decades, the NGA has called on the Australian Government to recognise the importance of greater levels of investment in local and regional infrastructure. This advocacy has been, in part, built on equity considerations as well as productivity considerations.

The NGA has called on the Australian Government to increase Financial Assistance Grants and Roads to Recovery (R2R) funding. These calls have been predominantly based on the need for the Commonwealth to help achieve horizontal equity (i.e. an equitable level of municipal services across the country) and the need to assist local councils to rebuild and maintain local infrastructure, particularly roads.

The rationale for permanent R2R funding and additional freight investment is that essentially the purpose of R2R is to restore the capacity of local roads to a standard able to sustain social and economic services, whereas additional funding through freight investment would be required to improve the standard of roads to meet the higher service levels required to handle higher productivity vehicles and significantly higher volumes of freight traffic.

The NGA's calls to the Australian Government have also sought recognition that local infrastructure provides important economic services. Local roads, for example, are an essential component of the national road network and therefore add to local and regional productivity and, in aggregate, make a significant contribution to state and national productivity.

Community infrastructure also plays an important role in local and regional economic development by enhancing the quality of life for residents as well as helping to attract and retain population, skilled workers and a local and regional workforce. The State of the Regions Report in 2015, commissioned by ALGA and written by National Economics, showed that there is a strong economic rationale for ensuring that all regions in Australia prosper. The report confirmed OECD findings that regional inequality reduces national productivity.

Local government's objectives in local economic development are diverse. They recognise local circumstances, availability of resources and the impact of external factors such as privatisation, technological change, globalisation and structural industry changes. For some councils, particularly in rural and regional areas, the focus is on stemming the decline in population, loss of businesses and local employment. For others, it is a focus on working with local businesses and the local community to optimise economic development and opportunities for the area.

Local government can facilitate and support economic development but it is frequently criticised for impeding economic development by imposing additional costs on business including through regulation, creating red-tape, providing unsuitable infrastructure etc.

Australian councils contribute significantly to the productivity and economy of their regions by focusing their efforts in three key strategic areas:

- creating and maintaining the investment environment – ensuring the availability of appropriate physical and social infrastructure, striving to deliver a quality public domain, and ensuring sufficient housing diversity and lobbying on behalf of local and regional communities for sufficient community services such as education and training, health and well-being, community safety and emergency services
- facilitating new local investment – actively promoting business development through facilitating local economic development, strategic planning, working with business

associations/main street organisations, and active involvement with tourism or other business activities, and

- attracting external investment through the creation of new business and capital – working with regional bodies such as RDA, Austrade and developers to attract and create new businesses and investment.

Local government has a key role to play in the provision of support services and infrastructure that underpins local and regional economic development, and therefore local government plays an essential part in achieving higher productivity. In broad terms, actions geared to creating and maintaining the investment environment in local and regional communities are considered to be of prime importance to a majority of local councils and it is this area that ALGA has focused its greatest attention.

Local government is a natural leader in local economic development because councils know their local business communities, workforce and comparative advantages better than anyone else. Local people and businesses are the key to economic growth and development and councils are perfectly positioned to work with local stakeholders to drive a bottom-up, place-based approach to achieve prosperity. Every council's economic development activity will be different according to the unique structures and needs of their local economies, as well as the capacity of the council and community.

Questions

Given the importance of local and regional infrastructure are there any national initiatives that could further assist local government to support local and regional productivity?

Are there areas of reform that local government can explore to enhance economic development and productivity?

Partnering

The term *partner* as a noun is defined as '... a person who takes part in an undertaking with another or others, especially in a business or firm with shared risks and profits.' In the context of the 2016 NGA, it can be interpreted as '.... how councils can take part in an undertaking with others, including sharing the risk, for the benefit of the community'.

Local government provides a vast array of services and local infrastructure, often in partnership with others including other governments, the private sector, the community and not-for-profit sector.

Example of partnerships include:

- the provision of a local swimming pool in partnership with the private sector, or a not-for-profit organisation, that provides the management service of that facility
- the provision of Meals on Wheels in partnership with the community not-for-profit sector delivering meals to residents at their homes, and
- the provision of Home and Community Care (HACC) to targeted groups of clients in the municipality, in partnership with the federal and state governments which provide funding.

Other examples include:

- councils partnering with a university to provide locally-relevant research to inform decisions on issues such as development applications in areas that could be effected by sea level change
- partnering with other councils to share resources and skills, and
- partnering with the private sector to develop new and innovative ways of delivering services, such as electronic planning or apps to report pot holes.

A key feature of each of these examples is that each party brings different expertise, skills, resources and experiences to the specific undertaking. The combination of these skills, expertise and resources frequently results in innovation and the provision of a service in a way that would not be possible by either party separately.

An alliance between local government and other partners creates new opportunities for business as well as innovative services, increased efficiency, cost savings and more accessible service to the benefit of the community.

Questions

Please note, where local government is mentioned in the following questions it refers to local government as a whole, not specific proposals for partnerships at a single council level. Questions are designed to draw out new ideas that could transform the delivery of services and infrastructure at a systemic level.

Are there new opportunities for the Australian Government to partner with local government to deliver Commonwealth services at the local level? What would be the role of the Commonwealth in such a partnership? How would this benefit the community?

Are there partnerships that could be developed to maximise the opportunities to innovate and provide simpler, smarter and more reliable services and infrastructure at the local level? If so, what are these opportunities and what would be the role of the Commonwealth in supporting these partnerships?

Are there opportunities for the private sector to partner with local government to speed up and improve a local government service or function? What role could the Commonwealth play in facilitating these opportunities?

Innovation

The Australian Government has declared its strong support for innovation. The Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda says innovation is:

'... at the heart of a strong economy—from IT to healthcare, defence and transport—it keeps us competitive, at the cutting edge, creates jobs and maintains our high standard of living. It's not just about new ideas, products and business models; innovation is also about creating a culture where we embrace risk, move quickly to back good ideas and learn from mistakes.'

The statement has a focus on a range of objectives including:

- entrepreneurship and leveraging our public research
- increasing collaboration between industry and researchers to find solutions to real world problems and to create jobs and growth
- developing and attracting world-class talent for the jobs of the future, and
- government leading by example by embracing innovation and agility in the way we do business.

Questions

What is the role of local government in this innovation agenda?

Are these objectives relevant to local government itself? For example, is its role in increasing collaboration between industry and researchers to find solutions to real-world problems and to create jobs and growth? If so, how can these solutions be shared to the benefit of all councils and their communities. How could the Australian Government help this to occur?

What can local government bring to the table as a partner? For example, does local government hold data that, having regard to privacy issues, could be shared with the private sector which could put it to innovative uses? How could the Australian Government support this?

Are there digital innovations that could be introduced to local government that would increase the efficiency of businesses working with local government and vice-versa. How could the Australian Government support this?

Is there a role for local government to help innovative start-ups to rapidly transform their ideas into globally competitive businesses by giving them mentorship, funding, resources, knowledge and access to business networks? If so, how could the Australian Government support this?

Resourcing

In the 2014-15 Federal Budget, the Government committed to provide \$2.2867 billion in Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs). However, the Government also announced it would pause the indexation of FAGs for the three years following that budget.

FAGs are a Commonwealth Specific Purpose Payment to local government paid through the State and Territory Governments. Payments are made to councils by jurisdictional Treasurers on the advice of state and territory Local Government Grants Commissions under the provisions of *the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

The objects of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* enable the Commonwealth Parliament to provide assistance to the states for the purposes of improving:

- (a) the financial capacity of local governing bodies
- (b) the capacity of local governing bodies to provide their residents with an equitable level of services
- (c) the certainty of funding for local governing bodies
- (d) the efficiency and effectiveness of local governing bodies, and
- (e) the provision by local governing bodies of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Freezing the indexation of FAG's will reduce Commonwealth expenditures (and grants to councils) by more than \$925 million over the forward estimates. The freeze also means that the aggregate level of FAGs will be permanently reduced by almost 13 per cent, unless there is a future government decision to restore this base with a catch-up payment.

Councils are invited to submit motions to address this issue.