

# **ADDITIONAL ITEM**

8 April 2015  
To the Ordinary Council Meeting

Director's Report  
Councillor

## **1.5 Mayoral Minute - Motions to 2015 National General Assembly of Local Government**

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2012/00189 - D11906471

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The 2015 National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government will be held in Canberra from 14-17 June 2015.

The NGA provides Council with the opportunity to deliver its views and concerns as well as contribute its own experience and knowledge to debate on a broad set of national issues.

The theme for this year's NGA is 'Closest to the Community: Local Government in the Federation'. It reflects not only the dominant debate being pursued by the Australian Government, but also an opportunity to dig much deeper to discuss and debate the role of local government not just in the larger Federation, but in our communities.

It also provides attendees to contribute to policy discussions at a national level and a key opportunity to engage with key decision makers, such as the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Australian Greens.

I will be representing Wyong Shire Council at the 2015 NGA.

Council has the opportunity to contribute by preparing 'motions' to be considered by the NGA under the following themes:

- A Federation for Our Future
- Roles and Responsibilities in Housing and Homelessness
- Roles and Responsibilities in Health
- Roles and Responsibilities in Education
- COAG and Federal Financial Relations

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. Motions must be resolved by Council and submitted by 17 April 2015.

The following two motions are proposed for Wyong Council to submit to the NGA:

### **1 Amendments to 888 Significant Investment Visa Scheme**

*That the National General Assembly call on the federal government to promote investment in rural and regional Australia by way of incentives introduced into the 888 Significant Investment Visa scheme that favours investment in rural and regional Australia.*

Council Note:

This visa class requires an investment of \$5million but unlike most other business visas there is no regional version that has lower thresholds. This means the majority of the investment is going into the major metropolitan areas.

A requirement could be introduced to have at least \$1m of the \$5 m invested in the regions.

## **2 National Financing Authority**

*That the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to work with State and Territories to establish a national financing authority to finance local government borrowing through the issuance of infrastructure bonds to investment markets.*

Council Note:

Such a mechanism follows on success of similar financing programs in Sweden and New Zealand.”

***I formally move:***

***That Council submit the following motions to the 2015 National General Assembly of Local Government:***

### ***a Amendments to 888 Significant Investment Visa Scheme***

***That the National General Assembly call on the federal government to promote investment in rural and regional Australia by way of incentives introduced into the 888 Significant Investment Visa scheme that favours investment in rural and regional Australia.***

***Council Note***

***This visa class requires an investment of \$5million but unlike most other business visas there is no regional version that has lower thresholds. This means the majority of the investment is going into the major metropolitan areas.***

***A requirement could be introduced to have at least \$1m of the \$5 m invested in the regions.***

***b National Financing Authority***

***That the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to work with State and Territories to establish a national financing authority to finance local government borrowing through the issuance of infrastructure bonds to investment markets.***

***Council Note:***

***Such a mechanism follows on success of similar financing programs in Sweden and New Zealand.”***

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.