



Item No: 1.4
Title: Mayoral Minute - Council Motions to be Considered at Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2019
Department: Councillor

12 August 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2019/00041-02 - D13625515

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The Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2019 will be held in Warwick Farm from 14 October to 16 October 2019. Motions to be debated at the Conference must be submitted to Local Government NSW by Monday 19 August 2019.

When submitting a motion there must be evidence the motion is endorsed by the Council – such as an extract from the Minutes of a Council Meeting endorsing the motion. In the absence of a council meeting, evidence should be a letter signed by both the Mayor and the General Manager.

At the 22 July 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting Council appointed seven delegates for voting on policy motions and for the election of Office Bearers and the Board at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2019.

At that same meeting, Council resolved that Council would consider any motions submitted by Councillors for inclusion on the Conference Business Paper and advise Local Government NSW accordingly.

LGNSW have advised that motions will be included in the Business Paper only if they meet the following criteria:

- 1 Are consistent with the objects of the Association
- 2 Relate to Local Government in NSW and/or across Australia
- 3 Concern or are likely to concern Local Government as a sector
- 4 Seek to advance the Local Government policy agenda of the Association and/or improve governance of the Association
- 5 Have a lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws)
- 6 Are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature and
- 7 Do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

The format of motions should call on a specific body (eg. LGNSW, state government, a specific Department or Minister) and have a specific outcome that the motion is aiming to achieve.

The proposed motions meet these criteria as set out by LGNSW.

Proposed Motions

Private Certification

There is a lot of concern in the community and in Councils across NSW and Australia regarding current building standards, particularly in medium and high-rise density developments.

The NSW State government introduced the use of Private Certifiers in 1998. The increasing use of private certifiers in the approval of construction and complying development certificate has been identified as one potential reason for the fall in building standards and is something that needs to be addressed by the State Government. Local Councils are still able to provide certification services but are finding it difficult to compete with private certifiers who offer cheaper rates.

The intent of this motion is to call on the State Government to return the function of building certification to Council on a fee for service basis.

Consultant Reports in the development process

The intent of this motion is to call on the NSW Government to introduce a system that guarantees independence and integrity in consultant reporting in the development process including the following elements:

- Establishing a list of appropriately qualified independent consultants to procure the reports needed for the development process (such as EIS, transport plans, arborist reports and the like)
- Applicants pay into an Independent Consultancy Fund to procure consultancy services.
- Councils allocate work to consultants, from an approved list of consultants, to prepare the reports and provide directly to Council.
- An audit process to ensure quality, independence and transparency of the process

Weed management and the use of Glyphosate

The intent of this motion is to note recent media about the use of glyphosate by Councils following recent court cases in the United States, investigate alternatives for effective weed management, and develop guidance and protocols regarding options in NSW.

Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA)

Concerns have been raised about the unintended impacts of STRA on local amenity, with Councils fielding more and more complaints, from residents, about their operation. Concerns have also been raised about its impacts on affordable housing in areas with STRA replacing

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long term rental options in communities.

The intent of this motion is to provide Councils with options in terms of how STRA is approved and managed in their local area, including area where STRA is permitted and to what degree.

This motion would allow Councils to consider areas where STRA is best suited, such as tourist areas and town centres, and include any restrictions in terms of management. Byron Bay is in the process of preparing a Planning Proposal that suits their particular circumstances.

I formally move:

- 1 That Council support, in principle, the following topics to be submitted as motions for the Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2019 consistent with the background notes:**
 - i Private certification in the building industry***
 - ii Consultant reports in the development process***
 - iii Weed management by Councils***
 - iv Short Term Rental Accommodation***
- 2 That Council circulate the proposed wording of the motions to all Councillors by Wednesday 14 August 2019 for input.**
- 3 That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor to finalise wording and submit the motions to Local Government NSW by Monday 19 August 2019.**

Attachments

Nil.