

Wyong Shire Council

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

**ENCLOSURES – PART 4,  
PAGES 105- 138**

**Wednesday, 14 March, 2012**



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

8 February 2012

Mr Michael Whitaker  
General Manager  
Wyang Shire Council  
PO Box 20  
WYONG NSW 2259

Dear Mr Whitaker

It has been brought to my attention that an incomplete draft was included by mistake in the package of material sent to you on 24 January 2012 regarding the Call for Motions for the National General Assembly.

As there was a substantive mistake in one of these documents I am asking you to discard all the documents sent to you, and replace them with the documentation included with this letter.

To assist in differentiating the two versions, the correct documents have a footer with the document name and the word FINAL on them.

If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact ALGA's Director of National Events, Clare Hogan, on (02) 6122 9436 or by email [clare.hogan@alga.asn.au](mailto:clare.hogan@alga.asn.au).

I am sorry for the inconvenience and additional administration caused by this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Beresford-Wylie".

Adrian Beresford-Wylie

Chief Executive



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**2012 National General Assembly of Local  
Government**

**Discussion Paper**

*National Voice, Local Choice - Infrastructure,  
Planning, Services*

Prepared by the Australian Local Government Association to help councils develop motions for the  
2012 National General Assembly for Local Government.

## *Overview*

This Discussion Paper aims to assist councils to develop motions for consideration at the upcoming 2012 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA). In 2009, based on feedback from delegates of previous NGAs, the ALGA Board resolved to develop specific themes to guide both the program and the motions that would be debated at future assemblies. By adopting annual themes it is possible to prioritise policy discussions, thereby assisting the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in its task of engaging with the Federal Government and major political parties in the development and/or refinement of its local government national policies.

The ALGA Board has agreed that the themes for the 2012 NGA will be Infrastructure, Planning and Services. These are broad policy matters that cover the core work of local government nationally and, at a time of economic uncertainty, they remain the key priorities facing councils across Australia. This Discussion Paper seeks to gain your feedback on the ways your council believes the Federal Government and major political parties should work with and support councils in planning for and delivering these critical functions.

The Paper discusses a range of key policy issues that arise under each of the themes. While the themes are not mutually exclusive, they are discussed separately to help focus attention on specific policy initiatives that could assist the local government sector. It is anticipated that motions for the 2012 NGA will propose credible ideas and policy initiatives that will strengthen local government's capacity to respond to the social, economic and environmental changes facing Australia today and into the future.

The issues presented in this paper are designed to stimulate ideas that may form the basis of 'motions' to be considered at the NGA. You are encouraged to read all of the sections of the Discussion Paper, but are not expected to respond to every question contained in them. Your motion/s can address one or all of the issues identified in the discussion paper. All that ALGA asks at this stage is that your council's motion(s) must address at least one or more of the three themes to be considered at the NGA.

If your council would like to put forward a motion(s), you may lodge it electronically at [www.nga.alga.asn.au](http://www.nga.alga.asn.au) using the online form. Motions should be received by ALGA no later than Friday 27 April 2012.

For more information, please contact ALGA's Director National Events, Clare Hogan, on (02) 6122 9400.

## *Introduction*

Local government plays a significant role in the Australian economy. It is estimated that local government employs up to 180,000 people across the nation; has more than \$245 billion of physical assets (including 650,000 kilometres of local roads worth more than \$80 billion); and has a total national expenditure of up to \$28 billion per annum (or around 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product).

Local government is a richly diverse level of government. Because of its unique position at the heart of Australia's local and regional communities, it is also a highly responsive, accountable and dynamic level of government.

Some of local government's recent national achievements include:

- developing and advocating a clear set of principles for constitutional reform;
- successful delivery of over 4000 community infrastructure projects worth more than \$1 billion on time and within budget as part of the Australian Government's response to the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) to create jobs and economic stimulus throughout the nation;
- campaign launch for the renewal and permanent adoption of the Roads to Recovery program (R2R); and
- Actively pursuing internal reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government through improved asset management and structural reform including amalgamations where appropriate.

As 2012 dawns, there is an air of uncertainty about the future direction of the international economy and broad debate within Australia about the likely impacts on our economy of any major downturn. At the same time there is a strong acknowledgment of the strength of the mining boom and agreement that the nation as a whole should share the benefits of growth and that we should avoid growing regional inequality. There is, however, disagreement about how this might be achieved, particularly with regard to the need for a national mining profits tax and the way the revenue from the Goods and Services Tax should be distributed across states.

While the debate is focused mostly at the national and state government level, local government faces similar questions about how to address disparity between councils and how to meet the expectations from local communities that all Australians should receive a similar and reasonable level of infrastructure and services. There is a strongly held view that planning at the local level should reflect local concerns but be integrated with state and national planning to achieve the best outcome for local communities. People want to see the three levels of government working together effectively and they want to see the services and infrastructure they need planned for and delivered at the local level.

## *Infrastructure*

What we as a nation choose to invest in, how we invest and where we invest will have profound impacts on local communities across Australia and will influence the lives of Australians for many years to come. Good quality infrastructure that is well managed and well maintained is essential to our national productivity including the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of every local community.

When Sir Rod Eddington, the Chairman of Infrastructure Australia (IA), released the *June 2011 Report to the Council of Australian Governments – Communicating the Imperative for Action*, he said:

*Productivity has slowed as a direct result of infrastructure shortfalls – time lost in travel, delay at ports, or lost production due to water restrictions. Infrastructure properly planned and financed will improve productivity, economic development and help preserve a sustainable future for all Australians... Action is needed to reform the way Governments choose the right projects, finance those projects, and operate and maintain them.*

Former Federal Secretary of Treasury Dr Ken Henry, in his final address as Secretary also said:

*Those of us working in the infrastructure sector need to find a better way of engaging with the community, and making the case for change in the way we plan, deliver and manage our infrastructure networks. Most critically, we need to make the case for reform in the way we finance the development, operation and maintenance of infrastructure networks. We need to show the consequences – lower rates of growth, declining standards of services – of failing to act.*

While both men were speaking of the national challenge for infrastructure, a similar argument can be presented at the local level and regional level. There is need to reform the way we plan, finance, operate and maintain local government infrastructure as critical parts of the nation's extensive infrastructure network.

The IA Infrastructure Report to COAG asks the question: Are we prepared to pay for our infrastructure – where does Australia stand? In answering this question it identifies a 'profound disconnect' that has the potential to threaten our future prosperity. The disconnect identified is that 'as a country and a community', we:

- are reluctant to borrow because of the potential to be criticised for increasing government debt;
- baulk at raising taxes to pay for better infrastructure and services;
- are uncomfortable with the 'user pays' concept; and
- are 'against' recycling capital, i.e. selling poorly performing infrastructure assets that could be better managed by the private sector, and using the proceeds of those sales to fund other types of important infrastructure.

Yet at the same time we are concerned about transport congestion (be it our roads, rail or ports), the health and security of our water supplies, the prospect of electricity 'brown outs' and recognise the need to modernise our telecommunications given the pressures of a global

economy. At the local level, our communities expect well kept parks, playing fields, footpaths, swimming pools, libraries and all the other infrastructure that modern day local government provides.

All infrastructure providers are faced with significant challenges to meet expectations within constrained budgets and an understandable unwillingness by communities to pay additional taxes and charges. Local government has proven itself to be practical and reliable in delivering infrastructure projects for local communities. In recent times the Australian Government has acknowledged this by providing grant programs such as the Community Infrastructure funding in the Economic Stimulus Package, and the highly successful Roads to Recovery (R2R) program.

The Australian Government commissioned Ernst and Young to review local infrastructure financing in November 2011. The review was aimed at identifying additional sources of capital for local infrastructure, including Public Private Partnerships and superannuation capital.

**Are there untapped sources of funding for local government infrastructure and how can councils be supported to access them? What other local government infrastructure funding programs could the Australian Government consider introducing?**

#### *Local Roads*

ALGA's 2010 study into local road funding found that expenditure on local roads has been less than the life cycle cost for the past five years and that the shortfall in funding to simply maintain, rather than improve, Australia's local roads in the period from 2010 to 2025 is estimated to be around \$1.2 billion annually. Local government needs to look creatively and pragmatically at ways to address this shortfall.

ALGA is currently mounting a national campaign for the R2R program to be increased and renewed. As part of this campaign, delegates at the NGA will be asked to consider and pass a motion relating to the R2R program.

**How can the Roads to recovery Program be strengthened or complemented to support councils?**

#### *COAG Road Reform Plan*

COAG is currently looking into the feasibility of mass, distance and location charging for heavy vehicles as a form of funding for road infrastructure. This would create a direct link between the road damage caused by heavy vehicles and funds available to road authorities.

From a local government perspective, we have strongly argued that it is critical that any form of direct charging should include local roads. Local government's concern is that if a selective approach to the charging of roads is adopted and there is no direct charge for the use of local roads by trucks, these roads would be perceived as being "free" and would result in the transfer of traffic to these roads. As local roads are generally built to a lower standard than arterial roads, any diversion of heavy vehicle traffic to local roads would cause massive and disproportionate damage.

Local government is also arguing that the costs recovered from heavy vehicles for damage to local roads be returned to the local road owners (councils). At present, there is no direct link between use of local roads by heavy vehicles and local road funding, except for limited arrangements in WA and Tasmania, where some of the revenue from registration charges on heavy vehicles is provided for local roads.

**Have your council officers attended information sessions on the COAG Road Reform Plan? How should any funding raised from heavy vehicle damage to local roads be distributed to councils?**

#### *National Road Safety Strategy*

The National Road Safety Strategy was recently endorsed by the Australian Transport Council with the aim of cutting the road toll by at least 30 per cent by 2020. The strategy marks a commitment by all governments to significantly improve road safety across the country and has a strong emphasis on local roads.

With road crashes killing approximately 1,400 people each year, and seriously injuring 32,000, we must do more to change the way we think and respond to the road safety challenge.

The strategy changes the thinking from the previous focus on drivers, through programs such as driver education and risk awareness campaigns, to a focus on governments. As part of the strategy, all governments have agreed to implement a number of actions, based on a Safe System approach, which aims to achieve Safe Roads, Safe Speeds, Safe Vehicles, and Safe People.

**Is your council aware of the National Road Safety Strategy? What actions can be taken to improve road safety in your community? Does your council have a policy of limiting its car purchases to cars with a 5 star safety rating? Is your council looking at other road safety strategies such as using speed cameras or decreasing speed limits?**

#### *Managing Climate Change Impacts*

Addressing and adapting to the impacts of climate change is an area where all levels of government must work together effectively. The Australian Government has passed the Clean Energy Futures Legislation as Australia's main mechanism for mitigating against climate change, however more work needs to be done to ensure the Australian community is well placed to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.

From natural disaster preparedness, rising sea levels and coastal inundation, unusual and unseasonal weather patterns and resource scarcity, now is the time for all governments to partner together. The recent Local Adaptation Pathways Program, whereby the Australian Government funded local government to identify the risks from climate change and develop responses, is one example of such partnerships between the Australian Government and local government.

**It has been said that climate change is the greatest challenge facing us today. What is your council doing and what support do you need to ensure your community is prepared and positioned to manage the impacts of climate change? Has your council sufficient information to meet the future challenges of climate change? Is further community**



education required? Do potential legal impediments hamper your council's ability to responsibly manage the challenges of climate change?

### *Planning*

Local government plays an important role in land use planning and development approvals systems in all state jurisdictions in Australia. Councils develop strategic plans for the future development of their municipalities, coordinate and provide a range of physical and community infrastructure, guide the application of land use and development zones through a planning instrument and administer the local planning instrument on a day to day basis.

Constitutionally, planning is a state responsibility and as such there is no single national planning and development system. Instead there exists a composite of state and territory systems and thus the 'experience' of the planning system by national developers or developers operating in more than one state varies from state to state.

As the 'primary gateway' for those wishing to develop land, including the vast majority of occasional one-off builders or developers, local government provides an essential service to the community. The downside is that councils are held responsible for the performance of all parts of the system, some of which are not in their control, such as the responsiveness and requirements of state planning departments and referral agencies. It is the development assessment component of the planning system that is the most confrontational and subject to greatest scrutiny and criticism, even though the vast majority of development applications across Australia are determined efficiently and effectively by councils (either under delegation or by full council).

The Federal Government has traditionally played a relatively passive role in the area of land use and development planning. However, this has changed over the past few years as senior policy makers have increasingly identified planning as a means of achieving an ambitious agenda including housing affordability, competition policy and economic stimulus. A Major Cities Unit (MCU) and national urban policy and urban design protocol is now in existence and Infrastructure Australia continues to provide advice on major infrastructure priorities nationally.

Whilst planning continues to generate considerable interest at the local level, the community at large is passionate about the rights of the community to retain an active role and involvement in the planning process. The Commonwealth and many sections of industry and small business remain committed to 'fast tracking' approval systems, usually at the cost of limiting community and elected officials' involvement in the planning process.

**Is the Commonwealth providing national leadership in addressing the range of planning issues that confront local government today and possibly in the future? What opportunities exist in this area to encourage local government to work together regionally or on common priority issues to make better use of scarce resources, pool data and information and enhance regional outcomes? What assistance is required to meet the challenges of eplanning and electronic Development Assessment?**

### *Population*

At the national level, the Australian Government has introduced a number of strategies and initiatives that need to be considered in managing the challenges of population change and ensuring it leads to economic growth and productivity, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and overall liveability. These include:

- Sustainable Population Strategy;
- Major Cities Strategic Planning criteria;
- Regional Development Australia;
- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience; and
- a range of transport related strategies for freight, air travel and ports.

In 2011, the Australian Government released *Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities: A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia*. The Population Strategy is aimed at addressing the marked population growth forecast in the 2010 Intergenerational Report (IGR3). This report forecast the Australian population would grow from its current 22 million to 36 million by 2050. The Report also noted that demographic and other factors will pose substantial challenges for economic growth and long-term fiscal sustainability for the Australian Government. Some of the key projections include:

- that the number of older people (65 to 84 years) will more than double and the numbers of people over 85 years will more than quadruple over the next 40 years;
- the number of traditional working aged people to support each retiree is expected to fall from 5 people to 2.7 people by 2050;
- the annual growth of real GDP per person is expected to slow to 1.5 per cent by 2050, compared to an average of 1.9 per cent for the previous 40 years; and
- substantial fiscal pressures will emerge due to projected increases in spending, particularly in the areas of health, age pensions and aged care.

**As the level of government closest to the community, what can local government do to better plan and accommodate for the envisaged population changes? How can local government nationally plan for and manage this massive population growth? What support do we need (especially from the Australian Government) to undertake this planning? How can we better realise and harness the potential of a more active community of seniors?**

### *Major Cities*

The Australian Government released *Our Cities, Our Future - A National Urban Policy* for a productive, sustainable and liveable future in 2011. *Our Cities, Our Future* outlines the Australian Government's objectives and directions for our major cities in the decades ahead. It recognises the critical roles that state, territory and local governments, the private sector and individuals play in planning, managing and investing in cities.

This policy defines major cities as having a population of over 100,000. By adopting this classification, there are 18 major cities in Australia that accommodate some three quarters of Australia's population. The key challenges facing Australia's cities are in many ways the same or similar to those faced by all local governments. These include:

- providing sufficient, affordable and accessible housing choice;
- creating safe and interesting community spaces;
- meeting the needs of a changing (growth, stagnant or declining) and ageing population;
- ensuring an inclusive and cohesive society;
- improving productivity growth; and
- addressing the implications of climate change and strengthening the resilience against natural disasters.

**What more does the Commonwealth need to do in sustainably managing the challenges of our cities? How supportive is your council of the need to sustainably manage population change and the livability of our cities? What specific challenges do our cities with populations under 100,000 face? What can be done to assist these smaller centres?**

#### *Regional Development*

The Australian Government has a renewed focus on regional development since being re-elected to office in August 2010. Through Regional Development Australia (RDA) the Australian Government brings together all levels of government to support the development of regional Australia.

A key focus of RDA is on the economic, social and environmental issues affecting communities. The Australian Government has allocated almost \$1 billion over five years (some of which is subject to the passage of the Mineral Resource Rent Tax) for regional development initiatives through the Regional Development Australia Fund. RDA committees have been given a key role in shaping regional infrastructure investment to meet identified regional needs.

**Is your council involved in an RDA committee? Are you undertaking initiatives to drive development in your area independently of RDA? Are there issues, examples or case studies that other councils can learn from based on your experiences? What other regional development initiatives should the Commonwealth consider introducing?**

#### *Natural Disasters and Emergency Management*

Increasingly, our communities are facing a diverse range of natural disasters and emergency situations. Local government is well positioned to provide immediate on-the-ground assistance to communities. Local government's ability to respond in practical and timely ways has been demonstrated time and time again particularly during recent bushfires, floods and cyclones.

Given that local government is the level of government closest to the people it is understandable that councils continue to be among the first organisations that people look to for assistance and leadership. This important role centres on councils' ability to connect communities, make local resources readily available and partner with other levels of government, NGOs and businesses to both prepare and mitigate where possible, and respond and recover from such disasters. The

longevity of local councils also means that there is considerable experience and expertise in dealing with adversity and building resilience and sustainability at the local and regional level.

Local government has proven itself capable, willing and successful in helping people and communities during emergencies, but it is not well resourced to do so. The impacts of climate change are expected to exacerbate this situation in the future.

All levels of government, including local government through ALGA, are active in efforts to strengthen Australia's resilience and capacity to deal with these natural threats. Communities which understand the risks, the importance of people taking responsibility to prepare for disasters by having a plan and introducing better planning systems and building standards, will ensure Australians are much better placed to deal with whatever future challenges we are confronted with.

**Do you believe your council has adequate risk management strategies to ensure the community's preparedness for natural disasters or emergencies? Do you have capability and systems in place to respond? What can you do to improve these and what support do you need to do this? What mitigation assistance is needed to make a real difference at the local and regional level?**

### *Services*

Local government is providing an increasing number of services to local communities. Councils have always provided roads, footpaths, drains, street trees, parks and gardens, local libraries, and public swimming pools. In recent times however they have responded to increasing community demands by providing considerably more services and facilities. Local government is now also a provider of early childhood services, kindergartens, immunization services, aged care, museums, art galleries, community transport, animal management, community education, family counselling and community health and food inspections. It is the authority that predominately determines the look, the feel and development of our neighbourhoods and is usually the instigator of regional economic development and tourism strategies.

This explosion in the growth of services provided by local government can be attributed to many reasons including increasing community expectations, changing social norms, transfers of responsibility by other levels of government and impacts of new technologies. However, the point remains that regardless of how and why local government is now providing this increasing range of services, councils are not adequately funded or resourced to do this on a sustainable basis.

Given these circumstances, councils need to consider a range of strategies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and develop more innovative means to finance these diverse services.

**What services does your council provide now that it didn't provide 10 years ago? Are you adequately funded (either from the community or other spheres of government) to do this? What would happen if you stopped providing some of these services? How can councils best manage the increasing demands being placed on them with the limited budgets available?**

### *Broadband*

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is expected to have a major impact on service delivery. Through the NBN, communities will gain access to high speed broadband and councils will be able to build on the benefits that flow from access to online services in general.

Recently, many councils have been working closely with the Australian Government on the roll-out of the NBN. The NBN will provide new ways of doing business across Australia and many of the benefits for the community and government are only just beginning to be realised.

By working in collaboration with other councils in this new online environment, councils may be able to make innovative changes that would not be possible working alone.

Local governments have identified the potential benefits of online services to:

- extend and enhance the service delivery capabilities of local government to the community;
- realise efficiency and productivity gains with the aim of reducing the cost of service delivery;
- provide a greater level of communication and interaction between local government and the local community; and
- provide the ability to work more effectively across levels of government in delivering coordinated 'whole of government' services at the local level.

The *2008-09 State of the Regions* report points out the benefits of broadband to remote regions of Australia. For remote regions, broadband is expected to be significant in reshaping the local economy, building skills and providing greater access to services, such as health and education, to those communities and individuals which currently have very limited access.

The Government has signalled a greater focus on regional development in the rollout and has asked NBN Co to ensure that fibre is built in regional areas as a priority. It has also encouraged NBN Co to explore mechanisms by which community inputs and advice on regional priorities can be facilitated in order to overcome the digital divide and improve the efficiency of the rollout. This regional focus is important in ensuring equal access to those communities.

Access to affordable and reliable broadband services creates significant opportunities for local government and local communities. Opportunities include:

- the delivery of local government services via the internet;
- joined up government services;
- facilitation of business networks and services to support local and regional development; and
- social and community benefits.

**How will modern communication channels allow you to provide your community with better access to council services? Will your council be able to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of field officers by providing them access to their data anywhere at any time? How could the NBN allow you to provide better reporting and public accountability for the delivery of community outcomes? Are there opportunities for local government to progress eDemocracy?**

*Cultural and Multicultural Development*

Culture in all of its forms is integral to every part of our lives. Whilst all three spheres of government have roles to play in facilitating the cultural life of our citizens, local government is home to the greatest diversity and opportunities to celebrate what this means for its community. Cultural development covers much more than the arts, and as such it is an area that can play an important role in creating identity, a sense of place, community expression and general enjoyment.

**What opportunities exist to enhance cultural development expression at the local level? What more can the Commonwealth do in this area to support and increase opportunities of communities to express themselves and their history.**

All levels of government are realising the social and economic benefits of a stable and cohesive community and recognising the need to fully respond to all groups making up a democratic society. From citizenship to the development of liveable communities, local government welcomes, supports, embraces and celebrates the diverse experiences of all Australians.

As the level of government closest to communities, local government plays a fundamental role in facilitating the inclusion and participation of residents. Working in partnership with community groups, service providers and residents, and state and federal agencies, local government plays an integral part in national and international efforts to understand and celebrate cultural diversity.

Many of Australia's local government areas have large numbers of constituents from different cultural, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. This has seen the development of considerable expertise in inclusive decision making and improved access to migrant settlement, multicultural and citizenship services. Councils often have their own local programs and staff dedicated to managing cultural diversity issues, be they related to access and equity considerations, healthcare, family support, learning skills, arts and community engagement activities.

The actual responsibilities of councils across Australia with respect to cultural diversity, vary across jurisdictions, and reflect differences under state and territory legislative and regulatory frameworks. ALGA's core role is to represent the interests of local government at the national level.

**What further support can the Commonwealth provide local government in delivering citizenship, migration and settlement services?**

## *National Policy Updates*

### **Financial Assistance Grants Review**

ALGA has been calling for the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to be reviewed for many years. This has been outlined in the annual submission for the Federal Budget, as well as in representations from ALGA to Commonwealth decision-makers.

Local government, through ALGA, has constantly drawn attention to the inadequacy of the current level of FAGs, their decline in relative terms since 1996 and the need to update the FAGs escalation methodology.

The 2011-12 Federal Budget contains a commitment from the Government to review the "equity and efficiency" of the FAGs program. The review is expected to be completed by 2013.

ALGA continues to stress that any review should look at two key areas: the adequacy of the current level of FAGs and the indexation arrangements. ALGA has also argued that the significant increases in federal funding to the states through the GST and renegotiated intergovernmental arrangements covering Specific Purpose Payments support the case for an increase in funding to local government.

ALGA will continue to argue the case for additional FAGs and a change to the escalation methodology (from CPI to greater alignment with existing local government cost indices).

### **Constitutional Recognition**

In less than five years, considerable progress has been made toward a referendum on the recognition of local government.

ALGA and state and territory associations have developed a comprehensive constitutional reform campaign to be conducted over the coming years and have secured an undertaking from the Australian Government to hold a referendum by 2013 on local government recognition in the Australian Constitution.

The core of the ALGA campaign is that although the Commonwealth Government has provided direct funding to local government for many years, a recent High Court decision has highlighted its lack of power to do so. The 2009 High Court case of *Pape v Commissioner of Taxation* has found that the Commonwealth does not have power to directly fund areas such as local government. It can only spend money where it has a specific power under the Constitution.

Without constitutional recognition, direct Commonwealth funding of local government, through programs such as Roads to Recovery, may be technically invalid. Local government needs certainty and security of funding in order to provide the range and level of services expected by the community.

The Australian Government recently set up an Expert Panel to provide advice on if, how and when the Government should proceed on a referendum on the constitutional recognition of local government. The Panel presented its report late last year and favoured the option for recognition proposed by ALGA. The Government is yet to respond to the report.

A full report of progress on the campaign will be provided at the NGA.

**R2R Renewal Campaign**

Councils have an obligation to manage their local roads effectively and to continue to improve their asset management. However, improved asset management alone cannot meet the backlog in funding to address the issue. A study released by ALGA in 2010 into local road funding found expenditure on local roads has been less than the life cycle cost for the past five years and that the shortfall in funding to simply maintain, rather than improve Australia's local roads in the period from 2010 to 2025, is estimated to be around \$1.2 billion annually.

Since 2000, the Federal Government has recognised that the needs of local roads are beyond the financial capacity of local government and has provided supplementary funding under the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program. Local government acknowledges and is grateful for the significant contribution that the R2R funding has made to improving local roads and the economic, social and community benefits the program has achieved to date. It is difficult to imagine what the state of local roads would now be without the \$3.5 billion provided so far.

The R2R program is a true partnership between federal and local government. Under the terms of the R2R program, local government has complete management responsibility for the delivery of the program without federal intervention.

Councils across Australia have been passing a resolution calling for the continuation and increase of the R2R program and have been writing to the Prime Minister, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and their local member about this.

*Resolution*

The R2R program provides a successful and proven mechanism and local government calls on the Federal Government to:

- recognise the successful delivery of the R2R program by local government since 2000;
- continue the R2R program on a permanent basis to assist local government meet its responsibilities to provide access for its communities;
- continue the R2R program with the current administrative arrangements; and
- provide an increased level of funding under a future R2R program that recognises the shortfall of funding on local roads of \$1.2 billion annually.

At the 2011 National Local Roads and Transport Congress, the Leader of the Nationals, the Hon Warren Truss, announced that a Coalition Government would extend and enhance the R2R program beyond 2014.

A full report of progress on the campaign will be provided at the NGA. Delegates will also be asked to consider and carry the same resolution as councils.



**Cost Shifting IGA Renegotiation**

Currently a key indicator of the legitimacy and level of recognition given to local government is the way local government is treated, by other levels of government in particular, when councils are involved in the delivery of services on behalf of or in partnership with other levels of government.

In April 2006, all levels of government in Australia signed the Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Intergovernmental Relations of Local Government Matters (the IGA). The IGA, at the highest level, is an important expression of trust and respect between all levels of governments, and a commitment to deal with each other [fairly] in accordance with the agreement when other levels of government seek to delegate responsibilities to local government.

Part I outlines the Fundamental principles of the IGA. These are:

- All parties are committed to achieving an open and productive relationship between the three spheres of government.
- All parties acknowledge the need for services and functions to be provided to communities in an efficient and effective manner.
- All parties agree in principle that where local government is asked or required by the *Commonwealth Government or a State or Territory Government to provide a service or function to the people of Australia, any consequential financial impact is to be considered within the context of the capacity of local government.*

The IGA, which is currently being reviewed by governments, outlines a set of principles designed to establish an ongoing framework to address future cost-shifting.

## 2012 National General Assembly Call for Motions

### Guidelines and Background Information

This year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) theme is 'National Voice, Local Choice – Infrastructure, Planning, Services'. The NGA theme reflects current issues being debated nationally and priority issues facing local government.

The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy. The ALGA Board is calling for motions for the 2012 NGA under the theme National Voice, Local Choice – Infrastructure, Planning, Services.

To assist Councils in preparing motions, a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au).

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

1. Fall under one of the themes – Infrastructure, Planning, Services;
2. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of state and territory associations.

Motions should be submitted electronically via the online form on the website [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) and should be received by **ALGA no later than 27 April 2012**.

Motions submitted will be reviewed by the National General Assembly 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 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.*

Through the review process, minor edits may be made to motions to ensure they can be included in the Business Papers. These edits will change the motion to call for action, for example to 'call on the Australian Government' to do something, to ensure relevance to local government nationally by removing state specific references, or to ensure the wording is consistent with current conventions such as referring to the Australian Government instead of the Federal Government.

To assist in facilitating efficient and effective debate, motions that cover similar matters will appear grouped together in the Business Papers and the matter will be debated only once with the lead or strategic motion being that which is debated.

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, 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 Resolution passed at the NGA.

For further information please contact Clare Hogan, Director National Events, on (02) 6122 9400 or [clare.hogan@alga.asn.au](mailto:clare.hogan@alga.asn.au)

## 2012 National General Assembly Call for Motion

### Required Information for Online Form

Motions are to be submitted online at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au). The following information will be required when you submit a motion using the online form.

#### *Motion*

- Text of the Motion

#### *Theme*

- Which theme do you believe the motion should fall under?
- Infrastructure, Planning or Services

#### *National Objective*

- Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?
- Maximum 100 words

#### *Summary of Key Arguments*

- Background information
- Supporting arguments
- Maximum of 300 words (additional information should be provided as speaking notes to the council representative who will move the motion at the NGA)

#### *Declaration*

You will need to declare that the motion has been endorsed by your Council.

#### *Contact Information*

Name of Council

#### *Admin Contact*

Title	Phone
First Name	Fax
Last Name	Email
Position	Address
	Suburb

#### *Council Contact*

Title	State
First Name	Postcode
Last Name	
Position	

2012 NGA – Required Information for Online Form – FINAL



National General Assembly  
of Local Government

NGA  
2012

***National Voice, Local Choice***  
INFRASTRUCTURE • PLANNING • SERVICES

***17-20 JUNE 2012***

NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE • CANBERRA



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)

## President's Welcome

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is the premier local government event bringing together more than 700 mayors, councillors and senior officers from councils across Australia to develop local government policy ideas, meet with key federal politicians and hear from renowned experts on the key issues affecting local government in Australia.

The theme for this year's NGA is **National Voice, Local Choice—Infrastructure, Planning, Services**, and it is aimed at stimulating ideas about improving the way in which local government serves its communities and the way in which it works with other levels of government.

The three elements of the theme allow for an exploration of the key priorities and challenges facing governments and local communities:

- **Infrastructure** allows delegates to focus on the local and community infrastructure provided by local government and seeks to develop innovative ideas for the provision of this infrastructure now as well as into the future;
- **Planning** recognises the important role local government plays in planning for local communities. It asks delegates to consider how best to provide this critical role and the impact it has on shaping the future of communities in Australia; and
- **Services** refers to the wide range of services provided by local government and the need to ensure the delivery of these services caters to the needs and opportunities in Australia's diverse communities.

This year's program includes keynote speakers addressing the three themes prior to distinct debate sessions on each theme.

I have invited leading federal politicians including the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Minister for Health, the Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water and the Leader of the Greens to address the NGA and look forward to hearing their views on current policy and the future direction of our nation.

Local government is involved in two major campaigns and the NGA will provide national updates on each. The campaign for constitutional reform continues to be a strategic priority for local government and we will hear about the progress of the technical and political aspects of the case for reform. We will also hear about the campaign to renew the Roads to Recovery Program and the next steps for local government in this campaign.

The NGA is your opportunity to make sure that your council's view is reflected in the national priorities identified for local government. I invite you to be part of this important event by joining your colleagues in Canberra from 17–20 June 2012.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.



*Genia McCaffrey*  
**Mayor Genia McCaffrey**  
 PRESIDENT • ALGA

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## Provisional Program

NGA  
2012

17-20 JUNE 2012

## SUNDAY 17 JUNE

5.00-7.00 pm WELCOME DRINKS

## MONDAY 18 JUNE

9.00 am	Opening Ceremony
9.25 am	ALGA President's Address
9.45 am	<b>Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP</b> (invited)
10.30 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am	Keynote Speaker (tbc)
11.30 am	National Local Government Campaign Insights
12 noon	THEME 1 ADDRESS: <i>Infrastructure</i>
12.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm	<i>Infrastructure</i> : Debate on Motions
3.00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30 pm	Commissioner for Taxation, <b>Michael D'Ascenzo</b>
4.00 pm	National Awards for Local Government
5.00 pm	Close
7.00 pm	DINNER

## TUESDAY 19 JUNE

8.30 am	Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, <b>the Hon Simon Crean MP</b>
9.00 am	THEME 2 ADDRESS: <i>Planning</i>
9.30 am	<i>Planning</i> : Debate on Motions
10.30 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am	Leader of the Greens, <b>Senator Bob Brown</b> (invited)
11.30 am	<i>Planning</i> : Debate on Motions
12.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm	Concurrent Sessions
3.00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30 pm	National Awards for Local Government
4.30 pm	Minister for Health, <b>the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP</b> (invited)
5.00 pm	Close
7.00 pm	DINNER

## WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE

9.00 am	THEME 3 ADDRESS: <i>Services</i>
9.30 am	<i>Services</i> : Debate on Motions
10.30 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am	Shadow Minister for Local Government, <b>Senator Barnaby Joyce</b>
11.30 am	National Campaigns Road Map
12 noon	Leader of Opposition, <b>the Hon Tony Abbott MP</b> (invited)
12.30 pm	President's Closing Address
1.00 pm	Close

 Key Dates
Submission for  
Motions for Debate

FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2012

Early Bird Registration  
on or before

FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2012

Standard Registration  
on or before

FRIDAY 1 JUNE 2012

Late Registration  
after

FRIDAY 1 JUNE 2012

## THEME OVERVIEW

***National Voice, Local Choice***

## INFRASTRUCTURE • PLANNING • SERVICES

Local government plays a significant role in the Australian economy. It is estimated that local government employs up to 180,000 people across the nation; has more than \$245 billion of physical assets (including 650,000 kilometres of local roads worth more than \$80 billion); and has a total national expenditure of up to \$28 billion per annum (or around 2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product).

Local government is a richly diverse level of government. Because of its unique position at the heart of Australia's local and regional communities, it is also a highly responsive, accountable and dynamic level of government.

Some of local government's recent national achievements include:

- developing and advocating a clear set of principles for constitutional reform;
- successful delivery of over 4000 community infrastructure projects worth more than \$1 billion on time and within budget as part of the Australian Government's response to the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) to create jobs and economic stimulus throughout the nation;
- campaign launch for the renewal and permanent adoption of the Roads to Recovery program (R2R); and
- Actively pursuing internal reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government through improved asset management and structural reform, including amalgamations where appropriate.

At the national level there is currently broad debate about the international economy and the likely impacts on our own economy. While the debate is focused mostly at the national and state government level, local government faces similar questions about how to address disparity between councils and how to meet the expectations from local communities that all Australians should receive a similar and reasonable level of infrastructure and services. There is a strongly held view that planning at the local level should reflect local concerns but be integrated with state and national planning to achieve the best outcome for local communities. People want to see the three levels of government working together effectively and they want to see the services and infrastructure they need planned for and delivered at the local level.

This year's NGA builds on previous assemblies and existing national local government policy, by exploring the theme ***National Voice, Local Choice—Infrastructure, Planning, Services***.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

What we as a nation choose to invest in, how we invest and where we invest will have profound impacts on local communities across Australia and will influence the lives of Australians for many years to come. Good quality infrastructure that is well managed and well maintained is essential to our national productivity including the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of every local community.

All infrastructure providers are faced with significant challenges to meet expectations within constrained budgets and an understandable unwillingness of communities to pay additional taxes and charges. Local government has proven itself to be practical and reliable in delivering infrastructure projects for local communities. In recent times the Australian Government has acknowledged this by providing grant programs such as the Community Infrastructure funding in the Economic Stimulus Package, and the highly successful Roads to Recovery (R2R) program.

Some of the key elements of the Infrastructure theme examined by the NGA will be local roads, the COAG Road Reform Plan, the National Road Safety Strategy and how to manage the impacts of climate change.

**PLANNING**

Local government plays an important role in land use planning and development approvals systems in all state jurisdictions in Australia. Councils develop strategic plans for the future development of their municipalities, coordinate and provide a range of physical and community infrastructure, guide the application of land use and development zones through a planning instrument and administer the local planning instrument on a day to day basis.

Constitutionally, planning is a state responsibility and as such there is no single national planning and development system. Instead, there exists a composite of state and territory systems and thus the 'experience' of the planning system by national developers or developers operating in more than one state varies from state to state.

As the 'primary gateway' for those wishing to develop land, including the vast majority of occasional one-off builders or developers, local government provides an essential service to the community. The downside is that councils are held responsible for the performance of all parts of the system, some of which are not in their control, such as the responsiveness and requirements of state planning departments and referral agencies.

The Federal Government has traditionally played a relatively passive role in the area of land use and development planning. However, this has changed over the past few years as senior policy makers have increasingly identified planning as a means of achieving an ambitious agenda including housing affordability, competition policy and economic stimulus. Whilst planning continues to generate considerable interest at the local level, the community at large is passionate about the rights of the community to retain an active role and involvement in the planning process. The Commonwealth and many sections of industry and small business remain committed to 'fast tracking' approval systems usually at the cost of limiting community and elected officials' involvement in the planning process.

Some of the key elements of the Planning theme examined by the NGA will be population, regional development, natural disasters and emergency management.

## National Voice, Local Choice

INFRASTRUCTURE • PLANNING • SERVICES



### SERVICES

Local government is providing an increasing number of services to local communities. Councils have always provided roads, footpaths, drains, street trees, parks and gardens, local libraries, and public swimming pools. In recent times however they have responded to increasing community demands by providing considerably more services and facilities. Local government is now also a provider of early childhood services, kindergartens, immunization services, aged care, museums, art galleries, community transport, animal management, community education, family counselling and community health and food inspections. It is the authority that predominately determines the look, the feel and development of our neighbourhoods and is usually the instigator of regional economic development and tourism strategies.

This explosion in the growth of services provided by local government can be attributed to many reasons including: increasing community expectations, changing social norms, transfers of responsibility by other levels of government and impacts of new technologies. However, the point remains that regardless of how and why local government is now providing this increasing range of services, councils are not adequately funded or resourced to do this on a sustainable basis.

Given these circumstances, councils need to consider a range of strategies to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and develop more innovative means to finance these diverse services.

Some of the key elements of the Services theme examined by the NGA will be broadband, cultural and multicultural development and community services such as aged care.

## MAJOR NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS



### CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

In less than five years, considerable progress has been made toward a referendum on the recognition of local government.

ALGA and state and territory associations have developed a comprehensive constitutional reform campaign to be conducted over the coming years and have secured an undertaking from the Australian Government to hold a referendum by 2013 on local government recognition in the Australian Constitution.

The core of the ALGA campaign is that although the Commonwealth Government has provided direct funding to local government for many years, a recent High Court decision has highlighted its lack of power to do so. The 2009 High Court case of *Pape v Commissioner of Taxation* has found that the Commonwealth does not have power to directly fund areas such as local government. It can only spend money where it has a specific power under the Constitution.

Without constitutional recognition, direct Commonwealth funding of local government, through programs such as Roads to Recovery, may be technically invalid. Local government needs certainty and security of funding in order to provide the range and level of services expected by the community.

The Australian Government recently set up an Expert Panel to provide advice on if, how and when the Government should proceed on a referendum on the constitutional recognition of local government. The Panel presented its report late last year and favoured the option for financial recognition proposed by ALGA. The Government is yet to respond to the report.

A full report of progress on the campaign will be provided at the NGA.

### R2R RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

Councils have an obligation to manage their local roads effectively and to continue to improve their asset management. However, improved asset management alone cannot meet the backlog in funding to address the issue. A study released by ALGA in 2010 into local road funding found expenditure on local roads has been less than the life cycle cost for the past five years and that the shortfall in funding to simply maintain, rather than improve Australia's local roads in the period from 2010 to 2025, is estimated to be around \$1.2 billion annually.

Since 2000, the Federal Government has recognised that the needs of local roads are beyond the financial capacity of local government and has provided supplementary funding under the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program. Local government acknowledges and is grateful for the significant contribution that the R2R funding has made to improving local roads and the economic, social and community benefits the program has achieved to date. It is difficult to imagine what the state of local roads would now be without the \$3.5 billion provided so far.

The R2R program is a true partnership between federal and local government. Under the terms of the R2R program, local government has complete management responsibility for the delivery of the program without federal intervention.

Councils have been passing a resolution calling for the continuation and increase of the R2R program and have been writing to the Prime Minister, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and their local member about this.

At the 2011 National Local Roads and Transport Congress, the Leader of the Nationals, the Hon Warren Truss, announced that a Coalition Government would extend and enhance the R2R program beyond 2014.

A full report on the progress of the constitutional recognition and R2R renewal campaigns will be provided at the NGA.



## Speaker Profiles

### The Hon Julia Gillard MP

#### PRIME MINISTER

Julia Gillard was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia on 24 June 2010 and re-sworn in as Prime Minister on 14 September 2010 following the 2010 Federal Election.

From 1996 to 1998 Ms Gillard served as Chief-of-Staff to the then Opposition Leader of the State of Victoria, John Brumby.

Julia Gillard first contested the Federal seat of Lalor for the Australian Labor Party in 1998 and was elected that year.

From 1998 to 2001 Ms Gillard served on the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Workplace Relations. In 2001 Ms Gillard was appointed Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration and subsequently took on responsibilities for Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs in 2003.

From 2003 to 2006 Ms Gillard served as Shadow Minister for Health. On 4 December 2006 Ms Gillard was appointed Deputy Leader of the Australian Labor Party and served as Shadow Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Social Inclusion.

Following the Australian Labor Party's victory at the 2007 Federal Election, Ms Gillard was sworn in as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Social Inclusion.

### The Hon Tony Abbott MP

#### LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Tony Abbott was elected Member for Warringah at a by-election in March 1994.

On the election of the Howard Government in 1996 he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. In this role, he was responsible for the establishment of the successful Greencorps program for young people.

Following the 1998 election he was appointed to the new portfolio of Minister for Employment Services. As Minister, he oversaw the development of the Job Network and a major expansion of Work for the Dole.

In January 2001, Tony was promoted to Cabinet as Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business. Following the 2001 election he was appointed Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Leader of the House and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service.

Tony was appointed Minister for Health and Ageing on 7 October 2003.

After the election in 2007 Tony became Shadow Minister for Families, Community Services, Indigenous Affairs and the Voluntary Sector, followed by Shadow Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Tony became Leader of the Opposition on 1 December 2009.

### The Hon Simon Crean MP

#### MINISTER FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Simon Crean was elected Member for Hotham in 1990. He is the only member of the Government who has served in four Cabinets—in the Governments of Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard.

Simon was born in Melbourne in 1949. He was educated at Melbourne High School and Monash University, and obtained degrees in Economics and Law.

Prior to entering Parliament, Simon was President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) from 1985 to 1990, and a full-time trade union official with the Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia from 1970 to 1985.

Simon has held a number of ministerial roles, including Minister for Science and Technology, Minister assisting the Treasurer, Minister for Primary Industries and Energy and Minister for Employment, Education and Training.

He was Leader of the Opposition between 2001 and 2003, Shadow Treasurer for the periods 1998 to 2001 and 2003 to 2004, and Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1998 until 2001.

Simon is the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government as well as Minister for the Arts in the Gillard Labor Government.



### **The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP**

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Tanya was elected to the Australian Parliament as the Federal Member for Sydney at the 1998 federal election.

In her first speech to House of Representatives, Tanya spoke of her strong interest in social justice and her conviction that ordinary people working together can achieve positive change.

Tanya became a Shadow Minister after the 2004 federal election and for the next three years was responsible for a range of portfolios including childcare, work and family, women, youth, human services and housing.

Following the election of the Rudd Government in 2007, Tanya was appointed Minister for Housing and Minister for the Status of Women.

As Minister for Housing, Tanya delivered a wide ranging reform agenda, including significant new investments in affordable rental housing.

Tanya was also responsible for a Homelessness White Paper that set out a comprehensive national strategy to tackle homelessness in Australia.

As Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya was responsible for development of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

Following the 2010 federal election Tanya was appointed Minister for Human Services and Minister for Social Inclusion.

On 14 December 2011, Tanya was appointed to Minister for Health.

### **Senator Barnaby Joyce**

LEADER OF THE NATIONALS IN THE SENATE,  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AND WATER

Barnaby Joyce is a champion for rural communities and small business and believes that representing the people is a privilege. As a rural banker and accountant he understands the challenges of small business.

Barnaby has strong belief in a duty to your nation and community. He was a member of the Army Reserve and a long term member of St Vincent De Paul. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary.

In 1998, Barnaby became the Leader of the Nationals in the Senate. In late 2009 he became the Shadow Minister for Finance and Debt Reduction and in early 2010 became the Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Infrastructure and Water.

### **Senator Bob Brown**

LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS,  
SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

Senator Brown was born and educated in rural NSW and worked as a doctor before becoming the face of the campaign to save the Franklin River in 1982. He was elected to the Tasmanian state parliament in 1982 and over his ten year tenure notably achieved gun law reform, gay law reform and the expansion of the Tasmanian World Heritage area. In 1996, Bob was elected to the Senate, where he has led the national debate over the past 14 years on climate change, water, preventative healthcare, conservation, and human rights. His current term expires in 2014. He is a published author and acclaimed photographer.

## 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 2012 NGA under the theme *National Voice, Local Choice—Infrastructure, Planning, Services*.

To assist Councils in preparing motions, a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)

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

- 1 Fall under one of the themes—*Infrastructure, Planning, Services*;
- 2 Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and
- 3 Complement or build on the policy objectives of state and territory associations.



Motions should be submitted electronically via the online form on the website [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) and should be received by ALGA no later than 27 April 2012

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.

To assist in facilitating efficient and effective debate, motions that cover similar matters will appear grouped together in the Business Papers and the matter will be debated only once with the lead or strategic motion being that which is debated and passed.

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.



## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: ADDRESSING DIVERSE CHALLENGES OR PLACE-BASED APPROACHES

SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2012  
NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE CANBERRA

### → Includes the launch of the 2012–13 State of the Regions Report

A 'patchwork economy', tightening fiscal budgets, dark clouds in the United States of America and Europe, and ongoing climate change concerns. These are just some of the current challenges facing Australia's diverse regional economies. What are the projected impacts going to mean for specific regions? What role can local councils play in addressing the subsequent challenges and opportunities that may arise? Could Governments address regional disparity through place based policies?

The Gillard Government continues to recognise the value of Australia's regions. Regional development policy continues to enjoy a greater emphasis and prominence in the national political agenda. The Forum will allow the sharing of ideas and opportunities through both a mix of academic and practitioner insights, as well as hearing the latest positions from relevant Commonwealth politicians and senior officials.

The Regional Cooperation and Development Forum will continue to build on examining the regional development opportunities and challenges in Australia through the lens of regional typologies—core metro, dispersed metro, producer, resource, rural and lifestyle.

### Provisional Program

SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2011 • NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, CANBERRA

9.30 am	Welcome: ALGA President, <b>Cr Genia McCaffery</b>
9.35 am	Minister for Regional Development, <b>the Hon Simon Crean MP</b> (invited)
10.05 am	Regional Development: Place based approaches
10.35 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 pm	State of the Regions Launch: Addressing Diverse Challenges
12 noon	Regional Development Australia Representative
12.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm	PANEL DISCUSSION Regional Performance: Typologies under the Spot Light
3:00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3:30 pm	Opposition spokesperson
4.00 pm	Questions and wrap-up
4:30 pm	CLOSE

Regional Forum Registration is \$395 (INCL GST) or \$195 when you also register to attend the National General Assembly.

**For more information** or to register for the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum, go to [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)

## Associated Events

### *Breakfasts*



#### Australian Local Government Women's Association Inc

MONDAY 18 JUNE • 7.30-8.30 AM

*National Convention Centre, Canberra*

Following the overwhelming success of the ALGWA 60th anniversary celebrations in 2011, the ALGWA National President Darriea Turley, invites you to breakfast this year as part of the National General Assembly.

Members, friends and colleges will be warmly welcomed. Seating is limited, so please book early. Register your interest at [www.algwa.net.au](http://www.algwa.net.au)



#### ICLEI Oceania Briefing Breakfast *Taking up the sustainability challenge*

MONDAY 18 JUNE • 7.15-8.30 AM

*National Convention Centre, Canberra*

ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability has played an integral role in supporting and advocating the role of local government in addressing sustainability.

The Triennial ICLEI World Congress opens in Belo Horizonte, Brazil on 18 June prior to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro. Cross live to Belo Horizonte and experience some of the atmosphere and hear from delegates attending the World Congress as they share their stories for a more sustainable future.

The ICLEI Oceania Briefing Breakfast offers delegates the opportunity to be informed on the work of ICLEI over the past 12 months and plans for the future.

The breakfast is at 7.15-8.30 am on 18 June and will be in the Swan/Torrens Room at the National Convention Centre.

For updates or more information please check our website at: [www.iclei.org/index.php?id=oceania-events](http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=oceania-events) or email [events-oceania@iclei.org](mailto:events-oceania@iclei.org) or phone Martin Brennan at ICLEI Oceania on 03 9639 8688

## National General Assembly Registration Details

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FEES

<b>REGISTRATION FEES – EARLY BIRD</b>	<b>\$880.00</b>
<i>Payment received by Friday 27 April 2012</i>	
<b>REGISTRATION FEES – STANDARD</b>	<b>\$990.00</b>
<i>Payment received on or before Friday 1 June 2012</i>	
<b>REGISTRATION FEES – LATE</b>	<b>\$1,150.00</b>
<i>Payment received after Friday 1 June 2012</i>	

#### 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

<b>MONDAY 18 JUNE 2012</b>	<b>\$470.00</b>
<b>TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2012</b>	<b>\$470.00</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2012</b>	<b>\$255.00</b>

#### 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 17 JUNE 2012

<b>FORUM ONLY</b>	<b>\$395.00</b>
<b>NGA DELEGATE</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>

### ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS REGISTRATION FEES

<b>PARTNERS REGISTRATION FEE</b>	<b>\$255.00</b>
----------------------------------	-----------------

#### Accompanying Partners Registration Includes

- 1 ticket to the Welcome Reception, Sunday 17 June
- DAY TOUR The Parliamentary Triangle Attractions, Monday 18 June
- DAY TOUR The Delights of the Canberra District Villages and Wineries, Tuesday 19 June
- Lunch with General Assembly Delegates on Wednesday 20 June

#### Payment Procedures

Payment can be made by:

- Credit card: MasterCard, Visa and American Express
- 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.

Completed registration forms should returned to:

Conference Co-ordinators Pty Ltd, PO Box 139, Calwell ACT 2905  
Facsimile (02) 6292 9002 Phone (02) 6292 9000  
Email conference@confco.com.au

#### 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 Pty Ltd, PO Box 139, Calwell ACT 2905  
Facsimile (02) 6292 9002 Email conference@confco.com.au

An administration charge of \$110.00 will be made to any participant cancelling before Friday 27 April 2012. Cancellations received after Friday 27 April 2012 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.

## Social Functions

### WELCOME RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION OPENING

#### Sunday 17 June 2012

National Convention Centre

TIME 5:00–7:00 pm

COST \$44.00 per person for day delegates and guests.  
No charge for full registered delegates.  
No charge for registered accompanying partners

DRESS Smart casual

### BUFFET DINNER

#### Monday 18 June 2012

The Ballroom, National Convention Centre

TIME 7:00–11:00 pm

COST \$95.00 per person

DRESS 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 19 June 2012

The Great Hall, Parliament House

TIME 7:00–11:00 pm

COST \$125 per person

DRESS 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 6:45 pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:30 pm.

Note: Bookings are accepted in order of receipt.

## Accompanying Partners Program

### Monday 18 June 2012

#### THE PARLIAMENTARY TRIANGLE ATTRACTIONS

Depart from the front of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 10.00 am.

Today we will visit two of the Parliamentary Triangle's iconic national institutions both of which have impressive new displays and exhibitions. Starting at the *National Library of Australia's* new 'Treasures' permanent exhibition that features some of Australia's most historic documents and artifacts; Captain Cook's Endeavour's journal, pages from botanist Joseph Banks, Patrick White's glasses to name a few of the remarkable items on display.

Following lunch we will discover the newest gallery at the *National Museum of Australia* featuring some of the most historic pieces of Australian history. View Sir Robert Menzies' Bentley, Phar Lap's heart and much more before returning to the Crowne Plaza at 3.30 pm.

### Tuesday 19 June 2012

#### THE DELIGHTS OF THE CANBERRA DISTRICT VILLAGES AND WINERIES

Coaches leave the front of the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 10.00 am.

The first stop will be *Cockington Green*. This miniature English village now features a large display of international buildings, many built and donated by Embassies represented in the National Capital. Stroll around the beautifully manicured gardens and marvel at the craftsmanship of this quaint little village set amongst an array of magnificent trees and flower beds.

We will then travel to *Murrumbateman*, the heart of the Canberra District Wine industry where we will enjoy a relaxing lunch and visit to one of the region's wineries. We will then take a leisurely coach ride back to Crowne Plaza hotel, passing many of Canberra's burgeoning new suburbs to the north of the National Capital.



## 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** 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** 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** Smart casual

#### BUFFET DINNER

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

**DRESS** Smart casual

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY DINNER

**VENUE** Parliament House

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

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

## 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 15 June 2012.**

All cancellations or amendments must be made in writing to Conference Co-ordinators and will be acknowledged by facsimile.

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.

### CROWNE PLAZA

*1 Binara Street, Canberra*

Renovated in 2007 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 King Room: \$290 per night single/twin/double*  
*Deluxe King Room: \$340 per night single/twin/double*

### CLIFTON SUITES

*100 Northbourne Avenue*

Quality Clifton Suites is approximately a 30 minute walk from the Convention Centre and is located on Northbourne Avenue. The property has an onsite pool, gymnasium and restaurant. All the rooms have reverse cycle heating and air conditioning, fully equipped kitchen, movies on demand, washing machine, dryer and a private balcony.

*1 bedroom apartment: \$240 per night single/twin/double*

### DIAMANT

*15 Edinburgh Place, Canberra*

Opened in June 2008 this boutique 80 room hotel is located at the intersection of Marcus Clarke and Edinburgh Ave, 15–20 minute walk from the Convention Centre. The Diamant 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: \$255 per night single/twin/double*

### HOTEL REALM

*18 National Circuit, Barton*

Canberra's newest 5-star hotel and is located walking distance from the popular shopping and restaurant villages of Kingston and Manuka. The Hotel Realm has two restaurants and a bar, and a Day Spa, Hairdresser and Health Club are located on-site. The rooms are modern and have king sized bed, high speed internet (for a fee) LCD TV, pay movie channel, Foxtel and 24-hour room service.

*Standard Room: \$255 per night single/twin/double*



**MANTRA ON NORTHBOURNE***84 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra*

Mantra on Northbourne (formerly the Saville) offers stylish accommodation centrally located approximately a ten 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: \$209 per night single/twin/double**1 bedroom apartment: \$249 per night single/twin/double***MEDINA EXECUTIVE JAMES COURT***74 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra*

The Medina Executive James Court is approximately a seven 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 6.30 am and 11.30 pm.

*1 bedroom apartment: \$190 per night single/twin/double**2 bedroom apartment: \$240 per night single/twin/double***NOVOTEL***65 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra*

Located on Northbourne Avenue, one of Canberra's main thoroughfares, the Novotel is a 10-15 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 air-conditioning, hairdryer, iron and ironing board.

*Standard Room: \$280 per night single/twin/double***RYDGES LAKESIDE***1 London Circuit, Canberra*

Over the last two years the area surrounding Rydges Lakeside has undergone major changes with office developments, apartments, bars and restaurants opening. Rydges Lakeside is a 15-20 minute walk to the National Convention Centre. This property has 24-hour reception, room service and two onsite restaurants. All rooms have balconies and offer high speed internet (for a fee), pay per view movies, mini bar, hairdryer, iron and ironing board.

Note: This hotel has an absolute no-smoking policy.

*Standard Room: \$239 per night single/twin/double***WALDORF***2 Akuna Street, Canberra*

Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, the Waldorf is only a four minute 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**Studio Room: \$215 per night twin/double**1 Bedroom apartment: \$220 per night single**1 Bedroom apartment: \$235 per night twin/double*

## Coach Transfers

**WELCOME RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION  
OPENING SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2012**

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 8:45 am. Return shuttles will depart the National Convention Centre at 5:30 pm.

**BUFFET DINNER: NATIONAL CONVENTION  
CENTRE MONDAY 18 JUNE 2012**

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 19 JUNE 2012**

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 10:30 pm and 11:45 pm.

## Car Parking

Parking for delegates is available underneath the National Convention Centre for a cost of approximately \$12.00 per day. Alternatively, voucher public parking is available across the road at a cost of approximately \$7.00 per day. The voucher machines are coin operated.

# National Voice, Local Choice

INFRASTRUCTURE • PLANNING • SERVICES

National General Assembly  
of Local Government

NGA  
2012

NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, 17-20 JUNE 2012  
AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ABN 31 008 613 876

## Registration Form

**Register Online**

[www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)

Multiple delegates > photocopy form  
Register online [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)  
or download PDF or return this  
form to:  
Conference Co-ordinators  
PO Box 139 CALWELL ACT 2905  
Phone (02) 6292 9000  
Fax (02) 6292 9002  
Email [conference@confco.com.au](mailto:conference@confco.com.au)  
By submitting your registration you  
agree to the terms and conditions of  
the cancellation policy

### PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE	NAME	SURNAME
<small>(C/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: (Please Specify)

#### PRIVACY DISCLOSURE

- I DO consent to my name appearing in the 2011 General Assembly List of Participants booklet (name, organisation & state only disclosed) as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 11.  
 I DO consent to ALGA disclosing my personal contact information as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 11.

### REGISTRATION FEES

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FEES

PLEASE NOTE registration does NOT include attendance at the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum

<b>EARLY BIRD</b> Registration Fees [payment received on or before 27 April 2012]		\$880.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>STANDARD</b> Registration Fees [payment received on or before 1 June 2012]		\$990.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LATE</b> Registration Fees [payment received after 1 June 2012]		\$1,150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DAY</b> Registration Fees	Monday 18 June \$470.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Tuesday 19 June \$470.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday 20 June \$255.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

#### REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM REGISTRATION FEES

<b>REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM ONLY</b> Registration Fee	\$395.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE</b> Registration Fee	\$195.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2012-13</b> [Single licence]	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2012-13</b> [Organisational licence]	\$700.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE NOTE A hard copy of the 2012-13 Report (excluding regional profiles) is included in the registration fee

#### ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS REGISTRATION FEES

**REGISTERED ACCOMPANYING PARTNER'S** name for lapel badge: \_\_\_\_\_ \$255.00

### 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 17 June 2012]

I/we will attend: Delegate  Partner  Number of additional tickets  @ \$44.00 each Total \$

#### REGISTERED PARTNERS

##### PARLIAMENTARY TRIANGLE ATTRACTIONS [Monday 18 June 2012]

I will attend: Partner  Number of additional tickets  @ \$100.00 each Total \$

##### DELIGHTS OF THE CANBERRA DISTRICT VILLAGES AND WINERIES [Tuesday 19 June 2012]

I will attend: Partner  Number of additional tickets  @ \$100.00 each Total \$

Registration form continues over the page

