

# AMENDED ITEM

9 April 2014  
To the Ordinary Council Meeting

General Manager's Report  
General Manager's Unit

## 4.7 2014 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06497 - D06053716  
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### SUMMARY

The 2014 National General Assembly of Local Government will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra between 15 and 18 June 2014 and the Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast on 18 June 2014.

### RECOMMENDATION

1 *That Council note that motions are to be resolved by Council and submitted to the National General Assembly of Local Government prior to Thursday 17 April 2014.*

2 *That Council endorse the following motions for submission to the National General Assembly of Local Government:*

#### *A Regional Tourism*

*That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to establish a Regional Australia Tourism program that provides funds to Regional and Rural Councils to develop and grow their tourism sectors.*

*That the Federal Government recognises that tourism is crucial to Regional Australia and that the establishment of a Regional Australia Tourism Program will provide the leadership and incentive to attract private sector investment and will create local jobs.*

#### *B Central Coast Regional Airport*

*That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to provide resources (key Commonwealth Government staff) to assist in developing and delivering a Regional Airport for the NSW Central Coast. The Central Coast Region believes this project will be a key catalyst to stimulate economic investment and to create local jobs in this region of 330,000 people.*

#### *C Regional Development Australia*

*That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to review the structure, operation and funding*

*arrangements to Regional Development Australia to ensure its strategies and outcomes align to the strategic directions that the Local Governments in the regions are taking on delivering essential infrastructure to support economic growth and to create local jobs.*

**D Financial Assistants Grants**

*That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to remove the minimum payment within Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) methodology and replace it with a methodology which gives greater recognition to population growth and the associated infrastructure requirements and secondly to Councils that have infrastructure backlogs. This would support Councils that have Communities with the greatest growth pressure/need and with the focus placed on infrastructure backlogs and infrastructure for future growth will ensure that our existing and new communities are planned and established with an adequate standard of service.*

- 2 *That Council authorise interested Councillors and the General Manager or his delegate to attend the 2014 National General Assembly of Local Government between 15 and 18 June 2014.*
- 3 *That Council authorise interested Councillors and the General Manager or his delegate to attend the Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast on 18 June 2014.*
- 4 *That Council reimburse expenses incurred by Councillors and accompanying persons attending the Assembly in accordance with Council's Facilities and Expenses Policy for Councillors.*
- 5 *That Council determine the voting delegate should the Mayor be unable to attend.*

**BACKGROUND**

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is the largest and most important event on the Local Government calendar. It is convened by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for local councils across Australia to develop and express a united voice on the core issues affecting local government and their communities.

The NGA provides an important platform to showcase local government to influential decision-makers of the Federal Government, at both the political and departmental levels.

Discussions and debate at the NGA will focus around the theme "Getting Down to Business", please see extract from the ALGA website below (<http://alga.asn.au/?ID=11679>):

***"Getting down to Business***

*Local government is a pragmatic and hands-on level of government. Our focus is the provision of services, infrastructure, planning and coordination at the local level. In*

*short, local government is the level of government that responds to local needs, challenges and opportunities; and in meeting community needs local government plays a critical role in Australia's federal system of Government.*

*The new federal government has promised a comprehensive review of the Federation. In his book, *Battlelines*, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, discussed his views on the States and the Federation. In essence his concern is that in our federation '...often the states have the legal responsibility for issues that only the federal government has the political authority and financial muscle to resolve'. The review of the Federation is one in which local government has a vital interest, and it is important that local government nationally is active in the debate.*

*On 22 October 2013 the Government announced the development of a Federation White Paper that will focus on roles and responsibilities of the levels of government and that will have a major impact of federal financial relations.*

*This year's National General Assembly is an important opportunity for local government to take a serious look at what business local government is in, how we do it and where we fit in the Federation both today and in the future. The National General Assembly brings our sector together providing a platform for serious consideration and policy development.*

*The 2014 NGA will be held in Canberra from 15 - 18 June."*

### **Call for Motions**

The 2014 National General Assembly of Local Government is an opportunity for local government to identify and discuss issues which it believes should be addressed by the new Federal Government. Every council has the opportunity to raise relevant issues for debate at the Assembly and is invited to participate in the 2014 NGA by submitting a motion for consideration.

The guidelines for motions eligibility, Call for Motions Guidelines and Background, and the background paper 'Getting Down to Business', are provided as attachments for this report.

All motions will need to be submitted electronically through the designated form, which can be found at <http://alga.h3consulting.net/motions/>.

The closing date for motion submissions will be Thursday 17 April 2014.

### **CURRENT STATUS**

The Council may choose to submit or not submit motions to the NGA.

The Council may or may not agree to reimbursement of expenses incurred.

## STRATEGIC LINKS

The Assembly is an opportunity for Councillors to bring forward issues affecting the Shire that are of National relevance.

## Financial Implications

The table below indicates the cost for attendance at the Conference, breakfast and associated travel expenses per Councillor:

National General Assembly 2014	(\$)
Registration <i>(early bird rate payment prior to 28 April 2014)</i>	\$899.00
<i>(standard registration on or before 30 May 2014)</i>	\$999.00
<i>(late registration received after 30 May 2014)</i>	\$1,200.00
Travel <i>(Own vehicle / petrol – based on 2.5L or more)</i>	\$560.00
Travel (flight)	\$400.00 (Sydney Return) \$750.00 (Newcastle Return)
Accommodation <i>(Based on approx. \$345 per night for 3 nights)</i>	\$885.00
Other disbursements <i>(Meals, taxis, associated events etc.)</i>	\$600.00
Partner Registration	\$240.00
Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast	\$110.00
<b>Total – estimate (based on early bird registration)</b>	<b>\$3,484.00 (Newcastle flights)</b> <b>\$3,134.00 (Sydney flights)</b> <b>\$3,294.00 (own vehicle)</b>

## CONSULTATION

Nil Impact

## GOVERNANCE

Reimbursement of costs is in accordance with the provisions of Council's Facilities and Expenses Policy for Councillors.

Clause D7 of the Policy provides that WSC will reimburse expenses for attendance at eligible conferences, seminars, workshops and professional development courses for each elected member including attendance at the annual NSW Local Government Association Conference and National General Assembly.

## **CORPORATE RISKS**

Nil impact.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Assembly is an opportunity for Council to ensure issues of concern are debated widely and for Councillors to network with other elected representatives from throughout Australia.

Submission made by Councillors on behalf of Council will ideally require presentation at the Assembly. Attendance by the appropriate Councillor(s) would be necessary if submissions are made.

Motions submitted to the National General Assembly must be by resolution of Council.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1	2014 National General Assembly of Local Government - Background Paper	D06053816
2	Call for Motions Guidelines and Background Information	D06053858
3	2014 National General Assembly Registration Brochure	D06053861
4	A - Regional Tourism - 2014 NGA Motion	D06509991
5	B - Central Coast Regional Airport - 2014 NGA Motion	D06509995
6	C - Regional Development Australia - 2014 NGA Motion	D06510005
7	D - Financial Assistance Grants - 2014 NGA Motion	D06510059
8	Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast - 18 June 2014	D06730126

**National General Assembly of Local  
Government**

**15 - 18 June 2014**

**Call for Motions**

**'Getting Down to Business'**

**Discussion Paper**

***Purpose***

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

Your council is invited to submit notices of motion/s that can be debated on the floor of the National General Assembly (NGA) that can assist councils nationally to meet the needs of local communities across the country.

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

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

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association; and
3. proposes a clear action and outcome.

***The Process***

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the National General Assembly Website at: [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au). All motions require among other things: a contact officer; a clear national objective; a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be received by ALGA no later than Friday 17 April 2014, electronically in the prescribed format.

All motion 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.

For more information, please contact the 2014 Director National Events, Josh Thompson, on (02) 6122 9400.

### *Preamble*

The 2014 NGA is being held against a backdrop of several key developments. Each of them could profoundly redefine the operation of Australia's system of government. These include

- the establishment, by the Commonwealth Government, of a National Commission of Audit;
- a promise within two years of coming to office to develop a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation;
- a commitment by all jurisdictions including the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) through the Council of Australian Government's (COAG), to reduce duplication between governments; and
- a promise to develop a White Paper on Taxation within two years of coming to office.

Each of these are significant undertakings in their own right, but taken together, they could substantially help reshape the operation of the Australia federated system of government.

It is imperative that local government is an active participant in these processes and that we take every opportunity to influence the outcomes of these White Paper processes. The 2014 NGA is a great opportunity to commence this discussion.

The theme of the 2014 National General Assembly is 'Getting Down to Business'. It is a theme that invites NGA delegates, councils and interested stakeholders to reflect on the roles and responsibilities of local government, its funding and relative place in the Federation. It's a theme that enables local government to define for itself:

- what business local government is in;
- the resources we need to do it; and
- what we should expect from the Commonwealth and what we should expect from state and territory governments. In short how local government should fit in the Federation.

It's a theme that enable your council to engage with other councils from across the country to inform the national debate, and ALGA, on the issues contained in these important national processes, in particular the Government's White papers.

### **National Fiscal Settings**

On 14 September 2013 the Federal Coalition was elected to Government. In coming to office the Government foreshadowed a deterioration in the federal budget position since the 2013 Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook (PEFO) and the need for a review of the current split of roles and responsibilities between levels of government. In December 2013 the Government's budget position was confirmed with the release of the 2013 - 14 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) which reported budget deficits totalling \$123 billion across the forward estimates. Further it suggests that '... Without policy change and taking no remedial action, deficits would be projected in each and every year to 2023-24'.

While the Commonwealth expressed concern about the sustainability of its budget position, in particular revenues, state, territories and local government have similar concerns. State and territory governments regularly report financial constraints and the limitation of, and distribution of, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the inadequate intergovernmental



financial transfers to meet growing demand for their services and conditions placed upon national reforms, such as school and hospital funding.

Further, local government itself, that has well documented financial sustainability challenges included in a number of independent reports including the PricewaterhouseCoopers, National Financial Sustainability Study of Local Government commissioned by ALGA in 2006. The latter report highlighting the financial challenges councils face in particular in meeting the infrastructure backlog and underspend.

As a consequence, coupled with Australia's highly centralised taxation collection system, all state and territory governments and local government have sought changes to intergovernmental financial transfers from the Commonwealth, as well as options for increasing own source revenues.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

*Are there things that the could be done to assist local government to expand own-source revenues?*

*Are there specific initiatives the Commonwealth can implement that improve the financial sustainability of local government?*

*Are there things that the Commonwealth could do to assist local government nationally to improve its efficiency and effectiveness?*

#### **The Commonwealth National Commission of Audit**

In addressing the Commonwealth's challenges, the Government foreshadowed the establishment of a National Commission of Audit which would in broad terms, examine the details of what the Commonwealth Government does and whether it could be done better and more cost effectively.

The National Commission of Audit was established in October 2013 and required to complete its work in two Phases. The report on the first Phase being due to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Finance by the end of January 2014.<sup>11</sup> This Phase was among other matters to "... assess the current split of roles and responsibilities between and within the Commonwealth government and State and Territory governments, including areas of duplication. In relation to activities performed by the Commonwealth, the Commission is asked to identify:

- whether there remains a compelling case for the activity to continue to be undertaken; and if so,
- whether there is a strong case for continued direct involvement of government, or whether the activity could be undertaken more efficiently by the private sector, the not-for-profit sector, the States, or local government.

<sup>11</sup> This Report is not available publicly.

This second dot point is particular relevant for the NGA with the direct reference to local government but it does not address the resourcing issues involved if the Commonwealth decided to transfer a specific role or a responsibility to the other potential service providers.

A full copy of the National Commission of Audit Terms of Reference is included as Attachment 1.

At the time of writing it is expected that the Commission will have completed or almost completed its Phase 1 Report to the Government. Unfortunately, the Commission's Phase 1 Report will not be a public document and therefore we cannot provide any specific information on the outcomes of the Commissions' deliberations. The Phase 2 Report focuses on the internal managerial matters and Commonwealth controls of its own financial expenditure. Both Phase 1 and 2 will presumably be directly relevant to the Federal Budget which will be brought down in May 2014 prior to the NGA.

The Budget therefore will be the first opportunity for the Government to flag to the Australian people how it proposes to address financial sustainability challenges in the short to medium term. However, more importantly for the longer term, the Government has committed to develop a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation and a separate White Paper on Taxation. The Government has set itself 2 years to complete these tasks and has indicated that it will take the outcome of these important processes to the next election.

### **The 1996 National Commission of Audit**

As previously mentioned, the current Commission of Audit reports are not public documents and therefore this paper cannot provide insight into the Audit's content. However, for illustrative purposes it may be instructive to highlight the approach taken by the National Commission of Audit conducted for the Government led by the Prime Minister the Hon. John Howard Government in 1996. In particular, to highlight the findings of this Commission in relation to local government and regional development matters. The 1996 commission's report was essentially based on a strict interpretation of constitutional authority of the Commonwealth and its responsibilities. In doing so, it should be noted that the 1996 Audit Commission Report was an independent report and was not Government policy. Indeed several aspects of the 1996 Report were considered by the Government and rejected, including the view that the Commonwealth did not have a role in regional development.

The 1996 National Commission of Audit was asked to examine a wide range of matters which are substantially similar to of the current Audit. That Commission was Chaired by Professor Bob Officer and in relation to regional development, urban management and local government found: '... Current (1996) arrangements for regional development and urban management involve overlap with State and local government responsibilities. **There is no clear rationale or constitutional basis for Commonwealth involvement.** Further, whatever the objectives behind Commonwealth involvement in these areas, they are not being achieved under current arrangements.'

The Commission recommended that these programs (the Regional Development Program, Better Cities Program and Urban Flood Mitigation Program) be abolished, and while there were changes made, the Commonwealth Government continued to be involved in regional development and subsequently introduced a number of initiatives including the Sustainable Regions Program in 2001.

In relation to local government financial assistance grants, the 1996 Commission recommended that these payments be integrated into revised State payments. This was also rejected, albeit that the FAGs were to be included in the original Good and Services Tax proposal, but were subsequently excluded in the final negotiated agreement between the Howard Government and the Democrats to pass the legislation. The system of FAGs continued and the current Government has given an undertaking to maintain the current system of FAGs and other direct funding to local government such as Roads to Recovery (R2R) and the new Bridge Renewal Program.

The 1996 Commission of Audit highlights a particular view of how the Federation and the Commonwealth should work. It took the view that the Commonwealth should only deal with national matters and the states and local government should deal with everything else. It also took the view that local government is a state responsibility and while accepting the legitimacy of providing FAGs, implied they should be integrated into revised state payments. While the continued recognition of the need for FAGs by the Commonwealth is welcome, it begs the question as to what support, in particular through untied grants, should local governments expect from state and territory governments?

#### **QUESTIONS?**

*In thinking about the 1996 Commission of Audit are there any specific proposals your council has on Commonwealth - local government relations.*

*Should state and territory Governments do more to support councils including through providing direct untied funding to local government? If so what relationship would this have to Commonwealth provided FAGs?*

*Are the specific state and territory services that are Commonwealth or state responsibilities, that councils undertake that should be undertaken by the private sector or other levels of government on equity grounds? e.g. market failure?*

Note: it should be noted that the NGA should deal with national issues and that motions related to specific state matters must be addressed through state and territory local government associations. NGA Motions should focus on funding for the system of local government in Australia, and therefore apply to all states and territories.

#### **Regulation Reform**

Over recent decades governments at all levels have acknowledged the importance of microeconomic reform, including regulatory reform. The purpose of regulatory reform is to enhance Australia's productivity and competitiveness, raising potential growth rates, living standards, and better enable Australia to deal with difficult international economic circumstances.

At the December 2013 COAG meeting, first ministers, including the President of ALGA, agreed unnecessary regulation is holding back Australia's economic prosperity and development. Cutting excessive red tape and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of regulation are important parts of the productivity story.

By way of example, the COAG Communiqué highlights the following: In '... running a cafe that serves alcohol and provides outdoor dining illustrates Australia's current problems with regulation. For example, it can require the operator to navigate around 21 local, 29 State and 25 Commonwealth regulations, or sets of regulations — 75 hoops to jump through. All governments acknowledged this is not good enough, and that collective action is needed to remove the excessive burden currently placed on small business'.

In coming to office the Government has set itself a target of reducing the red tape which impacts on business, individuals and the community by at least \$1 billion per year, and that this would complement existing State deregulation activity. COAG agreed to work together on reducing red tape in four areas — manufacturing, higher education, early childhood and 'end-to-end' regulation of small businesses, with each State to target specific small business sectors.

In July 2012 the Productivity Commission Reported on its study 'Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation, Role of Local Government as Regulator'. The report notes that local laws, quasi-regulatory instruments, rules, as well as delays, information requirements, restrictions on approvals, fees and penalties can be imposed costs on business and/or be anti-competitive. However, it suggests that 'implementing and enforcing state and territory laws, rather than local laws, dominates local governments' regulatory work.

In regard to support from states to local governments it identifies the following gaps:

- insufficient consideration of local governments' capacity to administer and enforce regulation before a new regulatory role is delegated to them ;
- limited guidance and training on how to administer and enforce regulations; and
- no clear indication and ranking of state regulatory priorities.

#### ***QUESTIONS?***

*Are there areas of unnecessary areas of unnecessary regulation that impose costs on manufacturing, business and residents that can be reformed?*

*What support do councils need to implement and enforce regulation, often on behalf of states and territory government?*

*Are there areas of regulation which local government are involved that could be streamlined and how?*

#### **What Business is Local Government in?**

Local government is a pragmatic and hands-on level of government. It's focus is the provision of selected services, infrastructure, planning and coordination at the local level. In short local government is the level of government that responds to local needs, challenges and opportunities. The roles and responsibilities of local government are assigned to it through respective state and territory legislation and in all jurisdictions the relevant Local Government Acts are broadly consistent with the power of general competence, in general

terms the legislation require local government to provide for the good governance of the 'district'. In practise however, local governments roles and responsibilities are broadly confined to property services and specific policy choices to meet local community needs. They are sometime specified by statute, e.g. environmental health, constrained by access to resources, community expectations, the capacity to pay, and roles and function of the private sector and other levels of government. In simple terms councils cannot be held responsible for everything that occurs at the local level.

States and territory governments, for example, are responsible for a range of services and infrastructure at the local, regional and state level, including schools, hospitals and policing. Increasingly, over time, the Commonwealth has assumed policy, planning and funding responsibility for a range of activities including income and welfare support and selected national infrastructure such as the Auslink road network, major projects identified through Infrastructure Australia and the National Broadband Network, which have profound impacts on local communities.

While this complex stratification, and mix of roles, responsibilities and services, including those provided by the private sector contributed significantly to Australia having one of the highest standards of living in the world, it begs the question of whether there should be greater clarity in the roles and responsibilities of governments, and who should do what in the Federation. Indeed, the current system is frequently criticised as perpetuating duplication, inefficiency, cost and blame shifting between levels of government and policy and service delivery gaps. Moreover, all levels of governments face financial sustainability challenges which significantly impact on their capacity to deliver government services and infrastructure.

Examination of ABS General Government Expenses (2011 - 12) shows that local government spends around \$30.5 billion. Almost half of total local government expenditure i.e. 46 per cent is on 'Transport and Communications (primarily local roads) and 22 per cent of on 'Housing and Community Amenity, which includes waste services and in some states water and sewerage. The next highest area of expenditure is on General Public Services (which includes legislative and executive affairs and government superannuation benefits) at 18 per cent. This is followed by Recreation and Culture spending, which includes public halls and civic centres, swimming pools and beaches, national parks and wildlife, cultural institutions, etc, which is at 15 per cent.

While national averages are informative, broadly indicating the areas of local government activity state difference is also interesting. For example while the national average of spending on Transport and Communications is 24 percent, expenditure ranges from 34 per cent of total local government expenditure in Queensland and 28 per cent in Tasmania, down to 9 per cent in the Northern Territory.

Expenditure on Housing and Community Amenity nationally is 22 per cent but in NSW councils spend around 27 per cent of total expenditure in this area while in Western Australia it is 16 per cent.

Expenditure on Recreation and Culture nationally is 15 per cent of total expenditure but in Western Australia's local government expenditure it runs as high as 24 per cent and in South Australia around 22 per cent.

While this variation reflect different responsibilities, policy choices and priorities in respective states and territories, it makes defining the role of local government difficult in the

context of a review of the roles and responsibilities of each level of government. It is also sometimes criticised as causing duplication and inefficiency.

***QUESTIONS?***

*What should the core business of local government be?*

*How should the Commonwealth support that role?*

*Are the specific services including state and territory or / and Commonwealth responsibilities, that councils undertake that should be undertaken by the private sector or other levels of government on equity grounds? e.g. market failure?*

*Are there services that local government is providing that could be provided by the private sector?*

**Regulation Reduction**

The Coalition will streamline COAG meeting agendas and focus on concrete outcomes that will contribute to a Coalition government meeting the annual \$1 billion red and green tape reduction target.

We intend to make deregulation and red tape reduction a standing agenda item at COAG meetings.

Within two years of a change of government, working with the states, the Coalition will produce a White Paper on Reform of the Federation, and the responsibilities of different governments, to ensure that, as far as possible, the states are sovereign in their own sphere. The objective will be to reduce and end, as far as possible, the waste, duplication and second guessing between different levels of government that has resulted, for instance, in the Commonwealth employing 6,000 health bureaucrats even though it doesn't run a single hospital.

## National Commission of Audit Terms of Reference

### CONTEXT

- It is almost 20 years since there has been a thorough review of the scope, efficiency and functions of the Commonwealth government. During this time the size of the Commonwealth government has expanded significantly, as has the remit of some of its activities.

- It is also essential that the Commonwealth government live within its means and begin to pay down debt.

- It is therefore timely that there should be another full-scale review of the activities of the Commonwealth government to:
  - ensure taxpayers are receiving value-for-money from each dollar spent;
  - eliminate wasteful spending;
  - identify areas of unnecessary duplication between the activities of the Commonwealth and other levels of government;
  - identify areas or programs where Commonwealth involvement is inappropriate, no longer needed, or blurs lines of accountability; and
  - improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness with which government services and policy advice are delivered.

- Accordingly, the Commission of Audit ('the Commission') has a broad remit to examine the scope for efficiency and productivity improvements across all areas of Commonwealth expenditure, and to make recommendations to achieve savings sufficient to deliver a surplus of 1 per cent of GDP prior to 2023-24.

- In carrying out its work, the Commission may wish to invite submissions, consult key stakeholders and seek information from persons or bodies, where this will assist its deliberations.

- The Commission should also be guided in its work by the principles that:
  - government should have respect for taxpayers in the care with which it spends every dollar of revenue;
  - government should do for people what they cannot do, or cannot do efficiently, for themselves, but no more; and
  - government should live within its means.

### SCOPE

#### Phase 1

##### *Scope of government*

- The Commission is asked to assess the current split of roles and responsibilities between and within the Commonwealth government and State and Territory governments, including areas of duplication.

- In relation to activities performed by the Commonwealth, the Commission is asked to identify:
  - whether there remains a compelling case for the activity to continue to be undertaken; and
  - if so, whether there is a strong case for continued direct involvement of government, or whether the activity could be undertaken more efficiently by the private sector, the not-for-profit sector, the States, or local government.
- The Commission may consider and comment upon the current architecture of Commonwealth-State relations. The Commission's views on this issue will help to inform the Government's forthcoming White Paper on the Reform of the Federation.

*Efficiency and effectiveness of government expenditure*

- The Commission is asked to report on efficiencies and savings to improve the effectiveness of, and value-for-money from, all Commonwealth expenditure across the forward estimates and in the medium term, including:
  - options for greater efficiencies in the Australian Government, such as:
    - : increasing contestability of services;
    - : adoption of new technologies in service delivery and within government;
    - : consolidation of agencies and boards;
    - : rationalising the service delivery footprint to ensure better, more productive and efficient services for stakeholders;
    - : flattening organisational structures and streamlining lines of responsibility and accountability;
    - : consolidating government support functions into a single agency; and
    - : privatisation of Commonwealth assets.
  - potential improvements to productivity, service quality, and value for money across the public sector, including better delivery of services to the regions; and
  - anything that is reasonably necessary or desirable to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government generally.
- The Commission is asked to review and report on:
  - options to manage expenditure growth, including through reviewing existing policy settings, programs and discretionary spending (such as grants);
  - savings and appropriate price signals – such as the use of co-payments, user-charging or incentive payments – where such signals will help to ensure optimal targeting of programs and expenditure (including to those most in need), while addressing the rising cost of social and other spending;
  - mechanisms that allow for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of all areas of expenditure in meeting their announced objectives; and



– other savings or matters that the Commission considers should be brought to the Government’s attention.

*State of the Commonwealth’s finances and medium-term risks to the integrity of the budget position*

- The Commission is asked to assess the financial position of the Commonwealth, including the state of the balance sheet, including all assets and liabilities, and Commonwealth risk expenditures.
- The Commission is asked to review and report on the long-term sustainability of the budget position, identifying key policy areas where trends in expenses and revenue pose risks to the structural integrity of the budget.
- Where possible, the Commission should identify options to address any such budget risks in the medium to long term, including by introducing appropriate incentives to encourage self-provision of services by individuals over time.

*Adequacy of existing budget controls and disciplines*

- The Commission is asked to assess the adequacy of current budgetary practices and rules (including specified timeframes and targets) in promoting efficient and effective government, disciplined expenditure, long-term fiscal sustainability and budget transparency.

**Phase 2**

*Commonwealth infrastructure*

- The Commission is asked to review and report on the extent, condition and adequacy of Commonwealth sector infrastructure and, if found to be deficient, factors that may have contributed to the current situation and possible remedies.

*Public sector performance and accountability*

- The Commission is asked to:
  - identify options for continuous assessment of programs, agencies and performance;
  - identify options for strengthening Commonwealth budgeting arrangements by:
    - : increasing independent and credible scrutiny;
    - : examining the role of the Parliamentary Budget Office, the Australian National Audit Office and the Intergenerational Report; and
    - : reviewing the way risk expenditures are accounted for.
  - report on a methodology for developing and implementing financial performance targets for Commonwealth departments and agencies (having regard to international experience and Australian best-practice, including by government business enterprises);
  - review and report on the effectiveness of existing performance metrics and options for greater transparency and accountability through improved public reporting;
  - identify options for a clearer delineation of responsibilities for policy and service delivery;
  - and

– identify other savings or matters that the Commission considers should be brought to the Government’s attention.

### Reporting

- The Commission will report to the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Finance with:
  - the first phase due by the end of January 2014; and
  - the second phase due by no later than the end of March 2014.

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES BY PURPOSE, Local

	NSW 2011– 12 \$m	Vic 2011– 12 \$m	Qld 2011– 12 \$m	SA 2011– 12 \$m	WA 2011– 12 \$m	Tas 2011– 12 \$m	NT 2011– 12 \$m	ACT 2011– 12 \$m	Total 2011– 12 \$m
General public services	1 680	1 044	1 953	130	400	111	144	–	1044
Public order and safety	311	169	124	33	117	7	19	–	779169
Education	72	79	7	–	4	–	5	–	166
Health	81	120	50	50	57	10	5	–	374
Social security and welfare	361	884	69	115	142	30	25	–	1 626
Housing and community amenities	2 590	1 433	1 681	434	498	136	99	–	6 872
Recreation and culture	1 321	1 184	837	392	727	104	57	–	4 622
Fuel and energy	–	–	10	13	–	–	1	–	25
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	–	3	15	12	1	–	–	–	31
Mining, manufacturing and construction	214	–	91	35	32	–	–	–	373
Transport and communications	1 871	1 266	2 740	416	783	182	41	–	7 297
Other economic affairs	313	356	187	58	111	30	38	–	1 093
Public debt transactions	227	52	277	40	32	4	1	–	633
Other	546	209	135	93	188	23	22	–	1 215
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 588</b>	<b>6 796</b>	<b>8 176</b>	<b>1 821</b>	<b>3 092</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>30 569</b>

– nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Cat 5512.0 Government Finance Strategic, Australia 2011 - 12

### Call for Motions Guidelines and Background Information

The theme for this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is '*Getting down to Business*'. 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 and currently the ALGA Board is calling for motions for the 2014 NGA.

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 following principles:

1. Fall under the NGA theme;
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 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.

Motions are to be submitted online at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) and should be received by **ALGA no later than 17 April 2014**.

The following information will be required when you submit a motion using the online form.

*Motion*

- Text of the Motion

*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.

For further information please contact Josh Thompson, Director National Events, on (02) 6122 9400 or [josh.thompson@alga.asn.au](mailto:josh.thompson@alga.asn.au)

PROGRAM & REGISTRATION

# Getting Down to Business

**NGA  
2014**

**National  
General  
Assembly  
of Local  
Government**

**15-18 JUNE 2014**

NATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
CENTRE  
**CANBERRA**



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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

## President's Welcome



Colleagues,

I invite you to attend this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) in Canberra from 15-18 June.

The NGA is the premier local government event, bringing together more than 800 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.

I have invited the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. We will also be joined by other ministers, shadow ministers and leading public figures presenting keynote addresses which will help to focus discussions at the NGA.

The theme for this year's NGA is '**Getting Down to Business**'. There is no more relevant an issue for government across Australia at the moment. The Federal Government is working through the outcomes of its Commission of Audit and is preparing for White Papers on the Federation and our taxation system. Each of these

processes will help to shape Government in Australia in the coming years and local government needs to be in as strong a position as possible to respond to whatever changes may emerge.

This year also marks the 20th NGA. This is a time for local government to celebrate our achievements over those 20 years but also an opportunity to focus on the future and how we apply the lessons from the past.

The ALGA Board recently called for Notices of Motions for the NGA and these will set out the framework for debate. I would encourage you and your council to think through ideas or initiatives you would like to see debated at the NGA and to submit these as motions.

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 15-18 June 2014.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis

ALGA PRESIDENT

→  
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## 2014 THEME OVERVIEW

## Getting Down to Business

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

The 2014 NGA is being held against a backdrop of several key developments. Each of them could profoundly redefine the operation of Australia's system of government. These include:

- the establishment, by the Commonwealth Government, of a National Commission of Audit;
- a promise within two years of coming to office to develop a White Paper on the Reform of the Federation;
- a commitment by all jurisdictions including the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) through the Council of Australian Government's (COAG), to reduce duplication between governments; and
- a promise to develop a White Paper on Taxation within two years of coming to office.

Each of these are significant undertakings in their own right, but taken together, they could substantially reshape the operation of the Australian Federal system of government.

It is imperative that local government is an active participant in these processes and that every opportunity is taken to influence the outcomes of these White Paper processes. The 2014 NGA is a great opportunity to commence this discussion.

The theme of the 2014 National General Assembly is 'Getting Down to Business'. It is a theme that invites NGA delegates, councils and interested stakeholders to reflect on the roles and responsibilities of local government, its funding and relative place in the Federation. It's a theme that enables local government to define for itself:

- what business local government is in;
- the resources we need to do it; and

- what should be expected from the Commonwealth and what we should expect from state and territory governments. In short how local government should fit in the Federation.

This NGA will provide delegates not just the opportunity to hear from political leaders, experts in their fields and prominent members of the local government sector, it will be an opportunity to network and share knowledge through panel and concurrent sessions.

Panel sessions will be focusing on the what the community and business expectations are of local government and how it fits in the sometimes complex system of political Federation that we have in Australia as well as hearing from councils who have shown themselves to be real innovators and ground-breakers in collaboration and information-sharing.

The concurrent sessions will be looking at what local government needs to do to manage the often difficult task of building and maintaining sustainability across a number of areas. This includes the challenges of finances and infrastructure, managing the impacts of our volatile environment and dealing with the complex issue of human services delivery.

Local government knows what it does best, this is an opportunity to share experiences and develop the policies that will ensure it will remain the strong and vibrant representative of our communities it is today. This NGA is about further supporting local government as it moves forward to face new challenges and it needs the voices and input of as many of you as possible.

2014 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Provisional Program

## SUNDAY 15 JUNE

5:00–7:00 pm	Welcome Reception
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## MONDAY 16 JUNE

9:00 am	Opening Ceremony
9:20 am	President's Welcome
9:30 am	Prime Minister, <b>The Hon Tony Abbott</b> (invited)
10:00 am	KEYNOTE <b>Ken Henry AC</b> (invited)
10:30 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 am	PANEL SESSION Local Government in the Federation
12:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 'Building a Sustainable Future' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance and Infrastructure</li> <li>• The Environment</li> <li>• Human Services</li> </ul>
3:00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3:30 pm	Collaboration on Climate Action
4:00 pm	Debate on motions
5:00 pm	Close Day 1
7:00 pm	Dinner

## TUESDAY 17 JUNE

9:00 am	KEYNOTE <b>Helen Silver</b> , Chief General Manager, Worker's Compensation, Allianz; Former Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria
9:30 am	Debate on motions
10:30 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 am	Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, <b>The Hon Julie Collins</b> (Invited)
11:30 pm	Debate on motions
12:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 pm	PANEL SESSION Councils Getting Down to Business
3:00 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3:30 pm	Debate on Motions
4:30 pm	Leader of the Opposition, <b>The Hon Bill Shorten</b> (invited)
5:00 pm	Close Day 2
7:00 pm	OFFICIAL DINNER Parliament House

## WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

9:00 am	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, <b>The Hon Warren Truss</b>
9:30 am	Debate on Motions
10:30 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 am	Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, <b>The Hon Scott Morrison</b>
11:30 am	<b>Dr Brendan Nelson</b> , Director, The Australian War Memorial
12:00 noon	KEYNOTE TBC
12:20 pm	President's Closing remarks
12:30 pm	Close



## Associated Events



### AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BREAKFAST

**Monday 16 June, 2014 • 7:30–8:30 am**

The ALGWA National President is pleased to invite members, friends and colleagues to our 4th Annual Networking Breakfast as part of the National General Assembly. The Breakfast will be held on Monday 16 June from 7:30–8:30 am.

Seating is strictly limited, so book early. Details will be available on [www.algwa.net.au](http://www.algwa.net.au)



### ICLEI OCEANIA BRIEFING BREAKFAST

**Tuesday 17 June, 2014 • 7:15–8:30 am**

Many local governments have been implementing sustainability projects for some years. So what can Australian local governments use that is practical and useful, but also works within the broader sector to develop a joint approach to local sustainability?

Local governments are the sum of their neighbourhoods – and we want them to be thriving! What does a thriving neighbourhood look like? What examples are there, here and around the world? What are the policy and operational steps that we can take to enable our neighbourhoods to thrive?

Bookings are essential on (03) 9639 8688 or [oceania@iclei.org](mailto:oceania@iclei.org)

For further information contact: Martin Brennan, [martin.brennan@iclei.org](mailto:martin.brennan@iclei.org)



### REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA NETWORKING BREAKFAST

**Wednesday 18 June, 2014 • 7:30–8:45 am**

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

RCA will be holding a networking breakfast on Wednesday 18th June at the National Convention Centre during the ALGA conference. The keynote speaker for the event will be The Hon Jamie Briggs MP, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development.

To register for the event and for enquiries about RCA, please contact:

Email [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

Phone 0422 067 858

Visit our website at [www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](http://www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

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## Speaker Profiles

### Prime Minister, The Hon Tony Abbott MP

Tony Abbott was sworn in as the 28th Prime Minister of Australia on 18 September 2013.

Mr Abbott was first elected as Member for Warringah in March 1994. Prior to the election of the Coalition Government on 7 September 2013, Mr Abbott had been Leader of the Opposition since 1 December 2009.

During the Howard Government, Mr Abbott served as a Parliamentary Secretary, Minister, Cabinet Minister, and Leader of the House of Representatives. As Minister for Employment Services (1998–2001) Mr Abbott oversaw the development of the Job Network and a major expansion of Work for the Dole.

As Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (2001–2003) Mr Abbott boosted construction industry productivity through the establishment of the Cole Royal Commission.

As Minister for Health and Ageing (2003–2007) Mr Abbott oversaw the expansion of Medicare rebates to allied health professionals such as dentists and psychologists and introduced the reforms which delivered record levels of bulk billing for patients. Mr Abbott also introduced the Medicare safety net.

Prior to entering parliament, Mr Abbott was a journalist with *The Australian* and *The Bulletin*. He was press secretary and political adviser to the Leader of the Opposition, Dr John Hewson, before becoming Executive Director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy.

Mr Abbott holds Economics and Law degrees from Sydney University. He is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a Master of Arts (Politics and Philosophy) from Oxford University. Mr Abbott is the author of four books.

### The Hon Bill Shorten MP

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

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

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

Before his promotion to the Ministry, Mr Shorten was the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Children's Services and Victorian Bushfire reconstruction. Bill was first sworn into the Labor Ministry in September 2010 and promoted to Cabinet in December 2011.

As a senior member of the Labor Government, Bill played a key role in securing a number of historic reforms including establishing DisabilityCare and increasing universal superannuation to 12 per cent.

As Minister for Workplace Relations, Bill continued the Labor Government's ongoing commitment to a fair and productive workplace relations system and during his time as Minister for Education helped secure the Better Schools reforms which will deliver more individual attention and more resources for students in every school.

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

Bill has an enduring interest in social justice issues such as domestic violence, equal opportunity at work, and as a father of three and a stepdad the increasing diversity of families in Australia.



### The Hon Julie Collins MP

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

Ms Collins was first elected the Member for Franklin in 2007.

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

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

Ms Collins' priorities are ensuring equal access to a quality education, decent health services and fairness in the workplace, issues she cares about due to her own life experiences.

She is an active local Member and was humbled to have been made the first Tasmanian Cabinet Minister since 2001.

She lives on the Eastern Shore with her husband Ian and their three children.



### The Hon Scott Morrison MP

Scott Morrison grew up in Bronte, eastern Sydney. Mr Morrison was educated at Sydney Boys High, and other state schools. He then went on to the University of New South Wales, where he received an honours degree in Applied Science, studying economics and geography.

Before entering Parliament, Mr Morrison was the Managing Director of Tourism Australia and NSW State Director of the Liberal Party of Australia from 2000-2004. Prior to this, he served in senior executive roles in the tourism and property sector in Australia and New Zealand, including the Property Council of Australia and the Tourism and Transport Forum.

Mr Morrison was first elected to the seat of Cook at the November 2007 Federal election.

In September 2008, Mr Morrison was appointed as a member of Malcolm Turnbull's coalition frontbench as Shadow Minister for Housing and Local Government.

He has also served on Coalition's Policy Committees on Social Policy, Education and Industrial Relations and Legal and Immigration issues as well as the Party Leader's Taskforces on Party Reform and Reform of Federalism.

On 8 December 2009, Mr Morrison became Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, coming into the cabinet for the first time during Tony Abbott's first shadow cabinet.

On 18 September 2013, Scott Morrison was sworn in as Australia's Minister for Immigration and Border Protection in the new Coalition Government Cabinet.



### The Hon Warren Truss MP

The Hon Warren Truss MP is Deputy Prime Minister of Australia and the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development.

He became Leader of the Nationals in 2007 and is the longest serving federal leader of any political party in Australia today.

A third generation farmer from the Kumbia district near Kingaroy in Queensland, Mr Truss first won the federal seat of Wide Bay in 1990.

He was a Minister in the Howard Government for 10 years, serving as Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs in October 1997, and a year later, Minister for Community Services. In July 1999 Mr Truss became the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, where he served for six years. He became Minister for Transport and Regional Services in July 2005 and, in September 2006, was appointed Minister for Trade.

Before entering Parliament, Mr Truss was a Kingaroy Shire Councillor (1976 to 1990), including seven years as Mayor. He was Deputy Chairman of the Queensland Grain Handling Authority and a member of the State Council of the Queensland Graingrowers Association for more than 10 years.

Mr Truss is also former State and National President of the Rural Youth Organisation and President of the Lutheran Youth of Queensland.



# 2014 Regional Cooperation and Development Forum

## Regional Development in a Globalised Economy

The 2014 National Forum is the premier event of the National General Assembly of Local Government Australia. It is a unique opportunity for regional mayors, councillors and other decision-makers to gather together, share knowledge and experience and work to further develop the capacity of regional Australia to adapt to the pressures of a changing world.

The forum will see the release of the 2014-15 *State of the Regions Report* and *Regional Report*, commissioned by ALGA and prepared by National Economics and published with the support of Jardine Lloyd Thompson.

This year's Report examines the challenges facing Australia's regions in strengthening their competitiveness in the global economy. With the election of the new Coalition Government, international competitiveness and national policy reviews are firmly on the political agenda. Infrastructure remains one of the key drivers in economic growth and this year's report investigates the full range of infrastructure needs that are necessary in delivering sustainable regional development across the country.

### Program

9:30 am	Welcome and Introduction: ALGA President, <b>Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis</b>
9:45 am	<b>KEY NOTE ADDRESS</b> <b>Professor Anthony Hogan</b> , Chair, Regional Governance and Policy, ANZOG Institute for Governance, University of Canberra, <i>Making of Rural and Regional Australia</i>
10:30 am	<b>MORNING TEA - POSTER DISPLAY AND ENGAGEMENT.</b>
11:00 am	State of the Regions Report <b>Boosting Regional Performance</b> , <b>Dr Brain and Dr Manning</b> of National Economics
11:30 am	Regional Australia Update - Department of Infrastructure and Regional Australia
12:00 pm	Shadow Minister, Regional Development and Local Government, <b>The Hon Julie Collins MP</b>
12:30 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:30 pm	<b>WORKSHOP DISCUSSION</b> Regional Collaboration <b>TECHNICAL WORKSHOP</b> National Economics
2:45 pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
3:15 pm	Q & A Panel (Representatives from LGNZ, Regional Australia Institute, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Australia, Regional Development Australia)
4:00 pm	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, <b>The Hon Warren Truss MP</b>
4:35 pm	Official Closing



Submission deadline for Motions for Debate	Thursday 17 April 2014
Early Bird Registration on or before	Monday 28 April 2014
Standard Registration on or before	Friday 30 May 2014
Late Registration after	Friday 30 May 2014

## 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 2014 NGA under the theme *Getting Down to Business*. 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 the NGA theme;
- 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 17 April 2014.

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

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

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

### Voting Procedures

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

# General Assembly Registration Details

## General Assembly Registration Fees



### EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$899

Payment received by Monday 28 April 2014

### STANDARD REGISTRATION \$999

Payment received on or before Friday 30 May 2014

### LATE REGISTRATION \$1,200

Payment received after Friday 30 May 2014

### General Assembly Registration Includes

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

## Day Registration Fees

MONDAY 16 JUNE 2014	\$470
TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014	\$470
WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2014	\$260

### 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

## Sunday Regional Development Forum Sunday 15 June 2014

NOT REGISTERED TO ATTEND NGA	\$395
NGA REGISTERED DELEGATE	\$195

## Accompanying Partners Registration Fees

### ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS REGISTRATION \$240

### Accompanying Partners Registration Includes

- 1 ticket to the Welcome Reception, Sunday 15 June
- Day tour Monday 16 June
- Day tour Tuesday 17 June
- Lunch with General Assembly Delegates on Wednesday 18 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.

## Cancellation Policy

All alterations or cancellations to your registration must be made in writing and will be acknowledged by post, facsimile or email. Notification should be sent to: Conference Co-ordinators, PO Box 139, Calwell ACT 2905  
Fax (02) 6292 9002 Email [conference@confcc.com.au](mailto:conference@confcc.com.au)

An administration charge of \$110.00 will be made to any participant cancelling before Monday 28 April 2014. Cancellations received after Monday 28 April 2014 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 15 June 2014

**NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE** 5:00–7:00 pm

\$44 per person for day delegates and guests

No charge for full registered delegates

No charge for registered accompanying partners

**DRESS** smart casual

Coaches will depart Assembly hotels (except *Crowne Plaza*) at approximately 4:45 pm with return coaches departing at 7:00 pm.

### Buffet Dinner

#### Monday 16 June 2014

**THE BALLROOM, NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**  
7:00–11:00 pm

\$100 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 17 June 2014

**THE GREAT HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE**  
7:00–11:00 pm

\$130 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.

### 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** National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City

The buffet 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

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## Accompanying Partners Program



### MONDAY 16 JUNE War Memorial and High Court

In 2014 the world will be recognising 100 years since the start of the First World War. The Australian War Memorial has established a special exhibition as part of this commemoration entitled *ANZAC voices*, this touching display of letters and diaries from ANZACs involved in Gallipoli and the Western Front, in the mud of Flanders and the deserts of Sinai–Palestine. After the exhibition, guests will enjoy lunch at a city location before a guided walking tour of the High Court to take in its award winning architecture and history.

### TUESDAY 17 JUNE Bungendore

The tour will start with a visit to Duntroon House, Canberra's first home which was built in 1833 and still stands within the grounds of The Royal Military College. The group will then travel to the Bungendore Woodworks to view spectacular pieces of wooden art with lunch at the gorgeous Woodworks café located at the gallery. After lunch guests will have time to explore the art, craft and antique shops that populate the village square.



## 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 16 May 2014.*

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

Please note your credit card details are required to guarantee your room. Neither Conference Co-ordinators nor the hotel will make any charges against your credit card unless you fail to give 21 days notice in writing of your cancellation. Full payment of your account will be required at the time of your departure.

### **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 ROOM \$295** per night single/twin/double

**DELUXE ROOM \$345** 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 \$210** per night single

**STUDIO ROOM \$225** per night twin/double

**1 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$230** per night single

**1 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$245** per night 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 minutes 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 \$250** per night single/twin/double

### **HOTEL REALM**

18 National Circuit, Barton

The Hotel Realm is one of Canberra's 5 star hotels and is located walking distance from the popular shopping and restaurant villages of Kingston and Manuka. The Hotel Realm has 2 restaurants, a bar, Day Spa, Hairdresser and Health Club 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 \$230** 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 to 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

### **MANTRA**

84 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

Mantra on Northbourne 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

*Accommodation options continue over page*

## Accommodation

*Continued*

### **ADINA APARTMENT HOTEL CANBERRA JAMES COURT**

74 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra

Adina Apartment Hotel Canberra (formally 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 6.30am and 11.30pm

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT **\$210** per night single/twin/double

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT **\$260** 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, onsite restaurant and bar. 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 **\$249** 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

## Coach Transfers

### **Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening**

**SUNDAY 15 JUNE 2014**

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

### **Daily Shuttles to and from the National Convention Centre**

A shuttle service between all General Assembly hotels (*except Crowne Plaza Canberra*) and the National Convention Centre will operate between 8:00 am and 8:30 am. Return shuttles will depart the National Convention Centre at 5:15 pm.

### **Buffet Dinner - National Convention Centre**

**MONDAY 16 JUNE 2014**

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 17 JUNE 2014**

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 11:30 pm and 11:45 pm.

## Car Parking

Parking for delegates is available underneath the National Convention Centre for a cost of approximately \$16.00 per day. Alternatively, voucher public parking is available across the road at a cost of approximately \$13.00 per day. The voucher machines are coin operated.



# Registration Form

NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT 15-18 JUNE 2014  
 Australian Local Government Association ABN 31 008 613 676

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

Multiple delegates > photocopy form  
 Register online, 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@conlga.com.au](mailto:conference@conlga.com.au)  
 By submitting your registration you agree to the terms and conditions of the cancellation policy

## PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cr/Ald/Mayor/Other)

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL/ORGANISATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SUBURB \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME FOR BADGE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PRIVACY DISCLOSURE**  I DO consent to my name appearing in the 2014 General Assembly List of Participants booklet (name, organisation and state only disclosed) as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 10.  
 I DO consent to ALGA disclosing my personal contact information as outlined in the privacy disclosure on page 10.

## REGISTRATION FEES

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FEES

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

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES (payment received on or before 28 April 2014)	.....	\$899.00
STANDARD REGISTRATION FEES (payment received on or before 30 May 2014)	.....	\$999.00
LATE REGISTRATION FEES (payment received after 30 May 2014)	.....	\$1,200.00
DAY REGISTRATION FEES	..... <input type="checkbox"/> Monday 16 June \$470.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday 17 June \$470.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday 18 June \$260.00	

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

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM ONLY Registration Fee	.....	\$395.00
GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE Registration Fee	.....	\$195.00
STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2014-15 (Single licence)	.....	\$240.00
STATE OF THE REGIONS REPORT 2014-15 (Organisational licence)	.....	\$700.00

### ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTERED ACCOMPANYING PARTNER Name for lapel badge: \_\_\_\_\_ . . . . \$240.00

## 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 15 JUNE 2014)

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

### REGISTERED PARTNERS

Day 1 • War Memorial and High Court (Monday 16 June 2014)

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

Day 2 • Bungendore (Tuesday 17 June 2014)

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

Registration form continues over the page



NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT 15-18 JUNE 2014

REGISTRATION FORM *Continued*

### OPTIONAL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Tickets to these functions are not included in the General Assembly registration fee or accompanying partners registration fee. To purchase tickets to any of the following functions please indicate the number required and the total amount payable.

BUFFET DINNER (Monday 16 June 2014) Number of tickets  @ \$100.00 each . . . . . Total \$

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DINNER, Great Hall, Parliament House (Tuesday 17 June 2014) \*\*NUMBERS STRICTLY LIMITED\*\*  
Number of tickets  @ \$130.00 each . . . . . Total \$

### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(E.G. DIETARY)

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### REGISTRATION AND SOCIAL FUNCTION PAYMENT DETAILS

Enclosed is my cheque made payable to ALGA Conference Account

I'm faxing my requirements, payment follows by mail

I have paid via an Electronic Funds Transfer to the 'ALGA Conference Account'. Transaction reference number \_\_\_\_\_  
ALGA ACCOUNT: Bank: Commonwealth BRANCH: Curtin BSB NO: 062905 ACCOUNT NO: 10097760 **NOTE THIS IS AN ACCOUNT SPECIFICALLY FOR CONFERENCE PAYMENTS ONLY**

Please charge my Credit Card:  Mastercard  Visa  Amex

CREDIT CARD NUMBER                 Grand total \$

CARD HOLDER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE   /   IS THIS A CORPORATE CARD?  YES  NO

### ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

PLEASE indicate your preference from 1 to 5

#### ADINA APARTMENT HOTEL CANBERRA JAMES COURT

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$210  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE  
2 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$260  NUMBER SHARING \_\_\_\_\_

#### CROWNE PLAZA

SUPERIOR ROOM \$295  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE  
DELUXE ROOM \$345  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### CLIFTON SUITES

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$240  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### DIAMANT

STANDARD ROOM \$250  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### HOTEL REALM

STANDARD ROOM \$230  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### MANTRA ON NORTHBORNE

HOTEL ROOM \$209  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE  
1 BEDROOM APARTMENT \$249  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### NOVOTEL

STANDARD ROOM \$280  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### RYDGES LAKESIDE

STANDARD ROOM \$249  SINGLE  TWIN  DOUBLE

#### WALDORF

STUDIO ROOM  \$210 SINGLE  \$225 TWIN/DOUBLE  
1 BEDROOM APARTMENT  \$230 SINGLE  \$245 TWIN/DOUBLE

#### RETURN FORM TO

Conference Co-ordinators, PO Box 139 Calwell ACT 2905  
or Fax (02) 6292 9002

### ACCOMMODATION GUARANTEE

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 a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice in writing of your cancellation. All cancellations will be acknowledged in writing by Conference Co-ordinators. Full payment of your account will be required at the time of your departure. The rates quoted are per room per night.

DATE OF ARRIVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF DEPARTURE \_\_\_\_\_  
SHARING WITH \_\_\_\_\_  
ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL \_\_\_\_\_

I understand my credit card details are given as a guarantee of my arrival and to ensure my room will be held until my nominated arrival time. No charge for accommodation will be made against this card unless I fail to give a minimum of twenty-one (21) days notice of cancellation in writing to Conference Co-ordinators.

Please use the credit card details provided below to guarantee my accommodation booking.

Mastercard  Visa  Amex

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

CARD HOLDER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ IS THIS A CORPORATE CARD?  YES  NO

**(A) REGIONAL TOURISM**

**MOTION**

That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to establish a Regional Australia Tourism program that provides funds to Regional and Rural Councils to develop and grow their tourism sectors.

That the Federal Government recognises that tourism is crucial to Regional Australia and that the establishment of a Regional Australia Tourism Program will provide the leadership and incentive to attract private sector investment and will create local jobs.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

The objectives of Tourism 2020, the Federal Government's plan to support tourism nationally, particularly the need to encourage new investment in tourism assets and to increase the supply of labour, skills and Indigenous participation are key challenges facing local government. These are particular issues which regional and rural councils face, a Federal Government funding initiative would enable councils to drive this development and better support the destination management planning required in the regions.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

Local Government plays a crucial leadership role in attracting tourism and investment for their local communities, through the provision of the necessary infrastructure and services, appropriate planning and development creating a community which actively supports tourism, or through the facilitation of events, attractions and networks. Managing the impacts of tourism on the local community is also a clear role for local government and can be significant.

For local government to support tourism there is limited financial capacity within councils to implement tourism strategies, without the significant financial impact on local communities both in the short and longer term. Tourism can be a strong contributor to the diversification of a local and regional economy as well as social and environment outcomes driven by investment and job creation, but increased funding to support delivery of tangible actions and products is needed.

Tourism provides opportunities for regional development particularly for regional areas undergoing structural change and the economic impacts of both growth and decline. Tourism is a labour intensive industry and has the potential to deliver great employment and training opportunities particularly for young people.

Tourism Australia previously provided grant funding directly to regional areas through the Tourism Industry Regional Development Fund. This is no longer being provided through the Federal Government and funds will be provided funds through the State Governments, which can often limit the impact on regional and rural areas.

**(B) CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL AIRPORT**

**MOTION**

That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to provide resources (key Commonwealth Government staff) to assist in developing and delivering a Regional Airport for the NSW Central Coast. The Central Coast Region believes this project will be a key catalyst to stimulate economic investment and to create local jobs in this region of 330,000 people.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

Infrastructure spending is a key consideration in the national budget debate and is often linked to transport and infrastructure needs for new release areas.

Wyong LGA is forecast by the NSW State Government to accommodate growth from Sydney, with 70,000 new residents expected to move into the region by 2031 (2.3%p.a. growth).

Rarely is there an opportunity to leverage the significant infrastructure investment needed to facilitate this release of new residential suburbs with a key catalyst project (the Central Coast Regional Airport) which has the potential to deliver substantial jobs for the region, with a multiplier of more than 4 times more investment into the region.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

The Central Coast is the ninth largest region in Australia. Of these nine regions it is the only one without a regional airport. This is impacting on the economic and social sustainability of this region. The community in Wyong LGA is disadvantaged with high unemployment at 6.2% (NSW = 5.1%) and very high youth unemployment 16.5% (NSW = 7.4%).

Having a population in excess of 300,000 the Central Coast region is predicted to grow to approximately 400,000 by 2031, which will mean that it will have a population as large as Canberra. This forecast growth in population will require the creation of 35,000 additional local jobs. Currently, over 38,000 residents travel daily to either Sydney or the Hunter for work.

The economic contribution of airport activities in Australia has been estimated at more than 4 times the operational cost of runway infrastructure and terminals (Deloitte Access Economics 2012). Regional airports contribute substantial economic benefit to regional communities, through local development and job creation as demonstrated in the following instances:

- Gold Coast Airport contributes \$1.8 billion per annum to the region
- Newcastle Airport contributes \$800 million per annum to the region; and
- Sunshine Coast Airport contributes close to \$500 million per annum to the region.

Wyong Shire Council has identified a 476ha airport study area in Wallarah, which would deliver unparalleled transport connectivity for a regional site and Council is targeting a Type 3 Regional Airport with 1 million passenger movements per annum and a forecast for 1,000 direct jobs by 2020, with the following key attributes:

- Ideally located adjacent to the M1 Motorway and the main northern rail line is less than 1km to the east

- Located to the west of the Warnervale growth precinct, adjacent to the 360ha Wyong Employment Zone and the 455ha proposed Wyong Education and Business Precinct
- Located less than an hour from the Newcastle Port and 1.5 hours from Botany (even less when the NorthConnex M1 to M2 tunnel is completed in 2019) the Central Coast Regional Airport has the capacity to create a regional freight hub
- The site has no major conflicting land uses and is not fragmented with only 13 owners
- The proposal has significant support from Local, State and Federal members and significant landowner and community engagement is underway

**(C) REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA****MOTION**

That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to review the structure, operation and funding arrangements to Regional Development Australia to ensure its strategies and outcomes align to the strategic directions that the Local Governments in the regions are taking on delivering essential infrastructure to support economic growth and to create local jobs.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

- Regional Development Australia currently provides funding through its Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) which supports economic growth through funding regionally significant projects.
- This is an essential funding source for local government and the local RDA offices are well placed to make recommendations and administer the funds however, there is a need for more funding to be made available to the regions so that the benefits of the RDAF are maximised.
- The Commonwealth Government is requested to increase its level of support to the regions by increasing the level of funds it allocates through the RDAF.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

Since its establishment, the Regional Development Australia programme has had some success within various regions of Australia in coordinating and contributing to economic growth and administering the local Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). One of the impediments to the RDAs achieving greater benefits for the regions is the limited amount of funds allocated to the regions through the RDAF.

There are many examples of councils proposing worthy projects for funding through the RDAF only to see the funding application being unsuccessful due to there being insufficient funds available to the programme. This has resulted in a number of regions (including the Central Coast of NSW) being greatly disadvantaged and unable to facilitate much needed economic growth primarily in the area of infrastructure provision required to meet the needs of these growing areas.

The concept of allocating funds to the regions through local RDAs has merit and it is not suggested that this current model be reviewed. However, a greater allocation of funding is needed so that the local RDAs can provide a more balanced approach to distributing these funds so that more areas benefit.

Local Government is well positioned to deliver the essential infrastructure that is funded by the programme. In the majority of cases, councils have undertaken the necessary planning (designs and approvals) for these projects yet they are unable to secure the funding required to see the projects come to fruition.

It is therefore recommended that the Australian Local Government Association call upon the Commonwealth Government to provide additional funding to Regional Development Australia to assist Local Government in delivering essential infrastructure to the regions.



**(D) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS****MOTION**

That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to remove the minimum payment within Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) methodology and replace it with a methodology which gives greater recognition to population growth and the associated infrastructure requirements and secondly to Councils that have infrastructure backlogs. This would support Councils that have Communities with the greatest growth pressure/need and with the focus placed on infrastructure backlogs and infrastructure for future growth will ensure that our existing and new communities are planned and established with an adequate standard of service.

**NATIONAL OBJECTIVE**

Under current Federal law, all councils receive a minimum "safety net" payment FAG. 30% (or \$470m) of the total general-purpose component is set aside for this purpose and distributed on a per capita basis. The minimum per capita grant should be removed and distributed to councils of greatest need.

To bring about this substantial change in grant distribution, there is a need for changes to both the current formula used by the NSW Local Government Grants Commission and to the federal legislation that stipulates the amount of money to be set aside for minimum per capita grants.

**SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS**

The FAG is a general purpose grants that are paid to local councils under the provisions of the Commonwealth Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. This legislation also details how the total amount of grant funds is determined and how the funds are to be distributed between the States.

WSC seeks support to amend the legislation in respect of eligibility and distribution to ensure that it goes to those councils with the greatest need. A more appropriate mechanism should give greater weighting to those councils:

- In growth areas where the costs of large capital items such as roads, sporting facilities, community buildings and water & sewer services can take many years to collect via developer contributions
- That have the most significant infrastructure backlogs per capita
- That have significant areas of natural assets. In recent times the focus has been on infrastructure backlog, but there are other asset classes, such as natural assets where there are also significant expenditure required to maintain them for future generations

**Summary:**

Legislation governing the distribution of FAG should remove the minimum per capita payment methodology and redistribute those funds to support those councils and communities with the greatest needs.



The Regional Capitals Australia Executive Board invites you to attend the annual  
**Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast**

Guest Speaker:

**The Hon. Jamie Briggs MP**

Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development

**Wednesday 18 June 7.00am – 8.45am**

Fitzroy Room - National Convention Centre, Canberra (ALGA National General Assembly)

Cost: \$110 (inc GST) per person

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

This event marks the two-year anniversary of the launch of Regional Capitals Australia and we invite you to join us to hear about the successes we have had, and our focus for the future.

Hear from our guest speaker The Hon. Jamie Briggs MP, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development. You will also hear from our Chair, Mayor Ian Carpenter about RCA's 2014-2015 agenda, including research and advocacy activities, and our Regionalism 2.0 Forum to be held later this year.

This promises to be a very valuable morning and a great opportunity for you to network with your regional capitals colleagues.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Register now and secure your spot – please see the below registration form. RSVP's must be received by Friday 6 June.**

**Yes, please register me for the Regional Capitals Australia Networking Breakfast**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements (list): \_\_\_\_\_

**A tax invoice for \$110 (inc GST) will be raised and forwarded to you for payment.**

**Please return this registration form to:**

**Email:** [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)

Please note RSVPs must be received by Friday 6 June.

For more information on Regional Capitals Australia please contact the  
RCA Secretariat at: [secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](mailto:secretariat@regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)  
or via **0422 067 858**,  
or visit our website at  
[www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org](http://www.regionalcapitalsaustralia.org)