

# SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA



Meeting of Council

To be held at the

Civic Centre

511 Burwood Highway

Wantirna South

On

Monday 24 July 2023 at 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a  
hybrid meeting

**Order of Business**

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    9.1 Knox City Council Attendance at the Australian Local Government Association  
        National General Assembly 2023.....3

Bruce Dobson  
Chief Executive Officer

## 9 Supplementary Items

### 9.1 Knox City Council Attendance at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2023

**SUMMARY: Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Dobson**

**The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) was held in Canberra from 13-15 June 2023, followed by the 2023 Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) held on 16 June 2023. Over 1,100 local government leaders from across Australia attended the NGA, including representation from Knox City Council.**

**This report provides an overview to Council of the activities, learnings and outcomes from the 2023 NGA.**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council note and receive this report on the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2023.**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

ALGA is the peak body for local government nationally, representing councils across the country. ALGA operates in structure as a federation of state and territory local government associations, with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) being the relevant Victorian body.

The NGA is convened by ALGA each year in Canberra and is the peak annual event for local government in Australia. The NGA provides the opportunity for representatives from Australia's 537 local governments to come together to meet with and hear from high profile and engaging speakers and Federal Government representatives, advocate on specific issues directly with Federal Ministers and Members, share learnings and industry best practice, and shape the national local government policy and advocacy agenda.

The NGA was held from 13-15 June 2023, with over 1,100 local government leaders attending. Knox City Council was represented by Mayor Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch, Cr Sorina Grasso, Cr Susan Laukens, Cr Darren Pearce, and Bruce Dobson, Chief Executive Officer.

The NGA was followed on 16 June 2023 by the re-established ACLG, bringing together federal and local government leaders in a formal setting to discuss the nation's major policy challenges.

#### **2. DISCUSSION**

##### **Advocacy**

Attendance at the NGA and ACLG provided the opportunity for Knox representatives to advocate for matters relevant to Knox in both formal and informal settings.

An important part of the NGA is the consideration of motions put forward by councils across Australia. Each council attending the NGA is able to vote on the motions submitted. Motions that are adopted by the NGA form part of the national local government advocacy agenda. In essence, this enables the support of ALGA as the national local government peak body in seeking action from the Federal Government on the issues raised.

In advance of the NGA, Council submitted three motions for consideration, having resolved on these motions at the Council meeting held on 27 March 2023. The three motions were as follows:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Motion</b>
Social and affordable housing	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to further address the increasing levels of homelessness through extending programs and funding that will also support social and affordable housing options.
Funding for citizenship ceremonies	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the citizenship ceremony process and provide a dedicated funding program to support the ongoing delivery of ceremonies that are currently conducted by a majority of local government councils on behalf of the Australian Government.
Cyber security for local government	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to practically invest in cyber security for local governments, including an independent fully funded and operationally connected network of Regional Security Operations Centres, a Security Information and Event Management solution, and a shared network of capable cyber experts.

Each of these three motions were strongly supported and carried at the NGA, and so now form part of ALGA's advocacy efforts. Council will continue to follow-up with ALGA regarding progression of actions arising from the motions.

A listing of all the motions resolved at the NGA is available at <https://alga.com.au/app/uploads/2023-Resolutions-from-the-National-General-Assembly-of-Local-Government.pdf>.

In addition to considering motions, ALGA provided the opportunity for Knox representatives to meet formally and informally with Federal parliamentarians to raise and discuss matters particularly relevant to Knox. This included:

- Meeting with Mary Doyle MP, Member for Aston, to discuss local issues including social and affordable housing, citizenship ceremony funding, local government financial challenges, and key Knox infrastructure needs, in particular focussing on the planned Sports Pavilion and Play Hub at Lewis Park;
- Discussions with a number of other Federal members including the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, and the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness. These discussions regarding citizenship funding and housing and homelessness concerns will be followed up with further Ministerial meetings in the coming months.

### **National General Assembly**

Outside of the consideration of motions, the NGA provided a rich and stimulating program of speakers and panel discussions. The program agenda is included in **Attachment 1** and included:

- A Welcome to Country provided by Aunty Violet Sheridan.
- An address by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, Governor-General. Mr Hurley thanked councils for their work as the level of government closest to the community, and encouraged councils to learn from each other and what innovative solutions have already been implemented that could be applied elsewhere.
- A Minister address by the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. Minister King noted the desire for a strong working relationship between the Federal Government and Local Government. She highlighted some of the key challenges facing communities, recognised the important role councils are playing, and noted some of the Federal funding streams made available to local governments.
- The ALGA President, Cr Linda Scott, highlighted the importance of local government speaking with one voice in advocating to the Federal Government. Cr Scott noted the importance of Federal financial assistance grants being restored to 1% of Federal tax revenue, and the advocacy ALGA has been undertaking on behalf of councils.
- The Ambassador of Ukraine, His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko, noted the extraordinary resilience of the Ukrainian people and the importance of continuing international assistance.
- An address by the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Leader of the Opposition. Mr Dutton noted the importance he and the former government placed on partnerships with local government and encouraged councils to maintain their advocacy efforts.
- Jennifer Michelmores, CEO at Studio THI, presented on the important role of local government in leading communities through urban change, in the context of urban consolidation and growth.
- Saul Griffith, Co-Founder of Rewiring Australia, presented on the importance of electrification in achieving net zero emissions. He highlighted the economic argument for doing so and roles that local government can play.
- A number of panel discussions were held throughout the NGA, providing the opportunity to hear from experts and raise questions and discussion on a range of topics. The panel participants are noted in the attached program agenda and the topics included:
  - The future of local government
  - Building a stronger workforce
  - A conversation about the Voice
  - Emergency management - cyclones, fires and floods
  - Australia's affordable housing crisis
  - Cyber security and local government

A high-level summary of the NGA in the form of a communique is included in **Attachment 2**.

### **Australian Council of Local Government**

The ACLG was held on 16 June 2023, following the conclusion of the NGA. The ACLG brought together federal and local government leaders in a formal setting to discuss the nation's major policy challenges. The ACLG was first established as a formal meeting between senior leaders of the local government and the Australian Government in 2008. The ACLG held on 16 June 2023 was the first held in more than a decade.

Key elements of the ACLG meeting included:

- A Welcome to Country provided by Paul Girrawah House.
- The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, welcomed people to the ACLG.
- The Hon Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister, addressed the ACLG. The Prime Minister talked about the importance of Federal / Local government relationships and highlighted the value achieved in delivering infrastructure projects through local governments. He noted opportunities to prepare better for national disasters, and discussed some local government funding streams including announcing a new \$100m community energy upgrades fund.
- A number of panel discussions were held including:
  - The future of local government (Panel: The Hon Catherine King MP, the Hon Stephen Jones MP (Assistant Treasurer) and Mayor Cr Matt Burnett (Vice President, ALGA))
  - Our industries and economies – achieving economic and industry growth (Panel: The Hon Chris Bowen MP (Minister for Climate Change and Energy), Senator the Hon Don Farrell (Minister for Trade and Tourism), The Hon Ed Husic MP (Minister for Industry and Science))
  - Our people – local government as a trusted delivery partner (Panel: The Hon Jason Clare MP (Minister for Education), The Hon Julie Collins MP (Minister for Housing, Homelessness, Small Business), The Hon Patrick Gorman (Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and for the Public Service))
  - Our places – resilience and our regions (Panel: The Hon Emma McBride (Assistant Minister for Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, and for Rural & Regional Health), The Hon Bill Shorten MP (Minister for the NDIS and for Government Services), Senator the Hon Murray Watt (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, and for Emergency Management))

The panel discussions provided an opportunity to hear from panelists and to discuss and provide input into policy solutions for each of these areas.

### **Other benefits**

In addition to the benefits derived from the NGA agenda, hearing from speakers and panel discussions, Knox representatives also reported the following benefits from attending the NGA and ACLG:

- The opportunity to meet with Councillors and CEO's from around Australia, gain intelligence on what their key issues and challenges are, and to discuss how they are dealing with them and ideas more broadly.
- A better understanding of Federal Government strategies and grant opportunities.
- Understanding the importance of *highlighting* how advocacy requests align with both Federal and State policy objectives.
- The importance of a collective voice driving the same message to the Federal Government.
- Understanding the breadth of issues across local government represented in the motions considered by the NGA.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

Councillors who attended the NGA provided input to the key outcomes and learnings reflected in this report.

#### **4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation.

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no specific environmental or amenity issues in relation to this report.

#### **6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

The total cost of Council's attendance at the NGA and ACLG was approximately \$14,000, inclusive of travel, accommodation, meals and conference registration. Costs for conference attendance, professional development and associated costs are allowed for within Council's budget.

#### **7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct social implications in relation to this report.

#### **8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025**

Advocacy is key to many of the strategies and outcomes noted in the Council Plan. Specific strategies relevant to Council's governance role include:

##### **Civic Engagement & Integrity**

Strategy 5.2 - Manage our resources effectively to ensure financial sustainability and *improved* customer experience.

Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.

#### **9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

#### **10. CONFIDENTIALITY**

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

**Report Prepared By:** Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Dobson

**Report Authorised By:** Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Dobson

#### **Attachments**

1. Attachment 1 - NGA program [9.1.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Communique NGA 2023 [9.1.2 - 3 pages]




# Program

## TUESDAY 13 JUNE

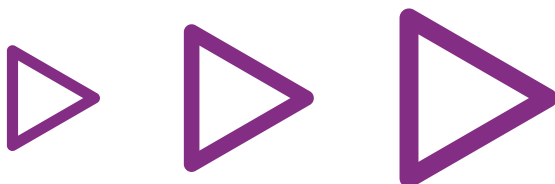
8.30am	Registrations Open
9.30am - 5.00pm	<b>Regional Forum</b> National Convention Centre
5.00pm - 7.00pm	<b>Welcome Reception &amp; Exhibition Opening</b> National Convention Centre

## WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

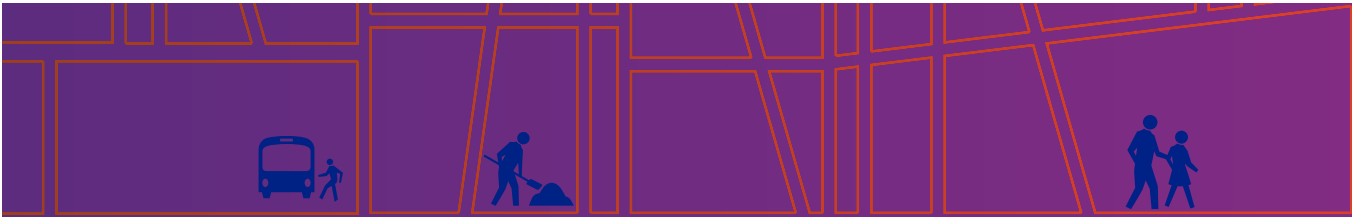
8.00am	Registrations Open
9.00am	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Welcome to Country - Aunty Violet Sheridan Includes an address from His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
9.40am	<b>Minister Address</b> The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
10.00am	<b>President's Address</b> Cr Linda Scott, ALGA President
10.30am	<b>MORNING TEA</b> 

## WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE CONT.

11.00am	<b>Guest Speaker</b> His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ambassador of Ukraine
11.15am	<b>Address</b> The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Leader of the Opposition
11.45am	<b>Keynote Address</b> Jimmy Rees
12.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b> 
1.30pm	<b>Panel: The Future of Local Government</b> Dr Jonathan Carr-West, CEO, Local Government Information Unit, UK Tahlia Azaria, Director, Young Mayors Program, Foundation for Young Australians
2.15pm	<b>Panel: Building a Stronger Workforce</b> Lord Mayor Sally Capp, City of Melbourne Mayor Heather Holmes-Ross, City of Mitcham Mayor Karen Vernon, Town of Victoria Park
3.00pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
3.30pm	<b>PLENARY: Debate on Motions</b>
	<b>BREAKOUT: Panel: Developing and Delivering Policy with Local Government</b> Hosted by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
7.00pm - 11.00pm	<b>General Assembly Dinner</b> QT Canberra
	<b>Buffet Dinner</b> National Convention Centre





**THURSDAY 15 JUNE**

9.00am	<b>Panel: A Conversation About the Voice</b> Mayor Ross Andrews, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Matthew Ryan, West Arnhem Regional Council Cr Esmá Livermore, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Mayor Phillemon Mosby, Torres Strait Island Regional Council
9.45am	<b>Keynote: Leading Communities Through Change</b> Jennifer Michelmore, Chief Executive, Studio THI
10.30am	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
11.00am	<b>Panel: Cyclones, Fires and Floods</b> Brendan Moon AM, Coordinator-General, National Emergency Management Agency Mayor Peter Freshney, Latrobe Council Mayor Samantha O'Toole, Balonne Shire Council
11.45am	<b>Keynote Address</b> Saul Griffith, Rewiring Australia
12.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1.30pm	<b>Panel: Australia's Affordable Housing Crisis</b> Nathan Dal Bon, CEO, National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation Wendy Hayhurst, CEO, Community Housing Industry Association
2.15pm	<b>Panel: Cyber Security and Local Government</b> Clive Reeves, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, Telstra Stephanie Crowe, First Assistant Director-General Cyber Security Resilience, Australian Cyber Security Centre Gary Okely, Head of JLT Public Sector – Pacific
3.00pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>
3.30pm	<b>PLENARY: Debate on Motions</b>  <b>BREAKOUT: Building More Resilient Infrastructure Workshop</b> Presented by National Transport Research Organisation (formerly ARRB)

**FRIDAY 16 JUNE**

7.30am	Registrations Open
8.00am – 3.00pm	<b>2023 Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG)</b>





## Communique

### National General Assembly 2023

Over 1,100 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 13 – 15 June for the 29th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to share innovations to support the public good and to speak to the Federal Government with one voice.

We acknowledged the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognised any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. The Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Opening the NGA, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley thanked and acknowledged local governments for their dedication and work for local communities especially responding to natural disasters. His words, noting councils were the level of government that looked communities in the eye, resonated with delegates.

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to work in partnership with the Federal Government for the public good, while at the same time addressing the local and regional challenges faced by communities across the nation.

We welcomed and thanked the many federal members of parliament who attended and spoke at the NGA or associated events, including the Hon



Catherine King, the Hon Kristy McBain, the Hon Peter Dutton and the Hon Darren Chester.

Councils also welcomed His Excellency, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ukraine Ambassador, who provided an update on the Ukrainian people's progress to protect their national sovereignty; and welcomed and encouraged sister city arrangements between Australian and Ukrainian regions.

In response to ALGA's advocacy, councils thanked the Federal Government for its re-establishment of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) which will be held on Friday 16 June 2023. The ACLG was first established in 2008 as a physical and symbolic acknowledgment of the respect and mutual interest of both levels of government and need to work together.

This year's Assembly program included consideration of 260 notices of motions submitted by councils. These motions identify opportunities where a strong partnership between the Federal Government and local government can progress our mutual policy interests, and the ALGA Board will now consider these in forming its policy positions and federal advocacy.

These motions included solutions to address the financial sustainability of councils, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, improved transport and communications, improved natural disaster preparedness and management, Closing the Gap and the Voice, enhancing the circular economy and improving housing and homelessness outcomes through partnerships.



On behalf of Australia's 537 local governments, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will continue to work with the Federal Government to deliver better outcomes for all Australian communities.