BUSINESS PAPERS

NGA 2026

National General Assembly

National Convention Centre, Canberra | June 2026

2026 BUSINESS PAPERS

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National General Assembly Debating Rules – 2026

1- Interpretation

1.1 “Assembly” means: The National General Assembly of Local Government as constituted by the delegates present in person or attending virtually by the approved digital technology.

1.2 “Member” means: any local government council which is a financial member of and recognised by a state or territory local government association within the Commonwealth of Australia.

1.3 “Delegate” means: any person who has paid the registration fee, and is a representative of a Member.

1.4 “Voting Delegate” means: any person nominated as the delegate to speak on the behalf of a Member at the Assembly - each Member to be entitled to appoint one voting delegate only for each debate session.

1.5 “President” means: The current President of the Australian Local Government Association who will act as President of the Assembly, or in their absence the Vice Presidents of the Association or a person appointed by the President to preside over the Assembly.

1.6 “Debate on Motions” means: Plenary or concurrent debating sessions of the Assembly which are held in accordance with these rules.

1.7 “Meeting” means: Plenary or concurrent debating sessions, forums and symposia of the Assembly which are held in accordance with these rules.

2- President to Preside

2.1 The President shall preside over the Assembly.

2.2 A delegate wishing to speak shall direct comments to the President.

2.3 A voting delegate moving or seconding a motion or amendment or delegate taking part in a discussion thereon shall address the President.

3- Resolutions

3.1 Motions will become Resolutions when passed by a majority of voting delegates at the Assembly.

3.2 Resolutions shall be permanently recorded and forwarded to the Australian Local Government Association for consideration and action as deemed to be appropriate.

3.3 Resolutions will be recorded and will be considered by the ALGA Board and used by the President for any purpose in the interest of local government. NGA resolutions are not binding on ALGA.

4- Priority of Speakers

If two or more delegates wish to speak at the same time the President shall decide who is entitled to priority.

5- President to be Heard

Whenever the President signifies a desire to speak during the Assembly, any delegate speaking or offering to speak is to be silent so that the President may be heard without interruption.

6- President may call to order

The President shall preserve order and may call any delegate to order when necessary.

7- Ruling by President

The President shall decide all questions of order or practice and their decision shall be final and be accepted by the Assembly without argument or comment unless in any particular case the Assembly resolved that a different ruling shall be substituted for the ruling given by the President. Discussion shall be permitted on any motion of dissent from the President's ruling.

8- Point of Order

A delegate who is addressing the President shall not be interrupted except on a point of order, in which event the delegate shall wait until the delegate raising the point of order has been heard and the point of order has been determined after which the delegate so interrupted may, if permitted, continue.

9- Limitation of Debate

9.1 Except for a mover of a motion who may speak for two (2) minutes, a delegate shall not speak upon any motion or amendment or in reply for a period longer than one-and-a-half (1.5) minutes without the consent of the President.

9.2 No delegate shall speak more than once on any motion except for the mover who may exercise a right to speak in closing the debate.

9.3 Any delegate of the Assembly who has not already spoken on the motion or amendment under discussion may formally propose: 'That the question be now put'.

9.4 The President shall not accept the motion 'That the question be now put' until at least one delegate has spoken in favour and one delegate has spoken against the motion or amendment.

9.5 If formally seconded, the proposal shall be put without further discussion and, if carried by a simple majority of the voting delegates of the Assembly present, the mover of the question shall have the Right of Reply, after which the motion must be put to the vote.

9.6 The mover of a motion shall be entitled to a Right of Reply. At the conclusion of the reply, the debate shall be deemed to have closed and the President shall put the question to the vote.

9.7 No delegate of the Assembly, other than the mover of a motion when exercising a Right of Reply, may speak more than once to each motion, amendment, or substantive motion unless with the permission of the Assembly and/or the President. A delegate may be invited to speak by the President to explain a matter of a personal nature, or to explain him/herself in regard to some material part of their speech which has been misquoted or misunderstood but shall not introduce any new matter or interrupt any delegate in possession of the floor.

10 - Resolutions

Except as otherwise provided in these Rules:

10.1 Only voting delegates may move or second a motion or an amendment. (Refer 11: Moving an Amendment). Courtesy is given to the submitting council to move their motion, however any voting delegate may do so.

10.2 Motions concerning the affairs of the Assembly shall be passed by a simple majority of those voting delegates present.

10.3 Motions on which there is an equal division of votes will be declared lost.

11 - Moving an amendment

11.1 Councils are urged to advise the ALGA Secretariat (alga@alga.asn.au) of any proposed amendments at the latest by COB 22nd June 2026. Amendments from the floor during the debate may be considered at the President's discretion. After a motion has been moved and seconded, any voting delegate of the Assembly representing a member may move an amendment. If such amendment is seconded, it shall become the subject of discussion.

11.2 An amendment must be relevant to the motion, and so framed that it forms a sensible alternative proposal. It must not be a direct negation of the original motion.

11.3 No Right of Reply to Amendment
The mover of an amendment shall not have the Right of Reply to the debate on such amendment.

11.4 Substantive Motion
Should the amendment be carried, it then becomes a substantive motion upon which further amendments may be moved, always providing that there shall not be, at one time, more than one amendment before the Assembly.

12 - Debate

Where there is no debate on a motion that has been moved and seconded the President may put the motion to the Assembly.

13 - Permissible motions during debate

13. When a motion is under debate, no further motion shall be moved except the following:
    a. that the motion be amended
    b. that the speaker no longer be heard
    c. that the question now be put, or
    d. that the Debate on Motions proceed with the next business.

14 - Method of taking votes

14.1 The President shall, in taking a vote on any motion or amendment, put the question first in the affirmative, and then in the negative. Voting will be by use of electronic keypads or by the approved technology. In the event of a technical failure of the electronic keypads manual voting cards will be issued to the holders of electronic keypads and a vote will be determined on a show of voting cards.

14.2 At the conclusion of a vote the President must declare the question resolved in the affirmative or the negative.

15 - Division

In the event of the use of voting cards, upon a vote being taken, a voting delegate may call for a division.

16 - Withdrawal of a motion

A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover, with the consent of the Assembly, which shall be determined without debate. No delegate shall speak on a motion after it has been withdrawn.

17 - Quorum

17.1 Determination of a Quorum - A quorum for debate on motion sessions at the 2026 National General Assembly will be set at half the number of voting delegates plus one.

17.2 The quorum (number) will be declared by the President at the commencement of the debate on motions. This quorum will be determined by the ALGA Secretariat based on the number of councils registered by midnight Tuesday immediately prior to the commencement of the NGA. It shall be equal to the number of eligible votes divided by 2 plus 1. For example, if there are X councils registered by midnight Tuesday night immediately prior to the commencement of the NGA, the quorum will be set at x/2 plus one. A majority of the quorum will be required to pass a resolution.

17.3 A Quorum Present at Commencement - At the commencement of each debate on motions session the President will determine if the quorum is present. At the commencement of each debating session, the President will invite all voting delegates to record a ‘test’ vote. A total number of ‘test’ votes will be displayed by the system and the President will determine whether a quorum is present for that session. If the number of ‘test’ votes is equal to or more than x/2 plus one, a quorum will be declared, and voting will proceed.

17.4 Voting to Proceed - If a quorum is not present, a debate on motions will proceed at the discretion of the President. Outcomes of debate on motions when a quorum is not present will be considered as ‘indicative only of the NGA’ rather than a resolution of the NGA when the ALGA Board determine the action to be taken on Resolutions.

18 - President's right to vote

For the purposes of these Rules the President, subject to having been nominated as a voting delegate by a Member, shall have one deliberative vote only.

19 - Rescission of Resolution

The Assembly, by two thirds majority, may rescind or alter an adopted resolution.

20 - Special urgent business

At any time during Debate on Motions a voting delegate may, with the approval of a two-thirds majority of voting delegates present, introduce a motion relating to special urgent business which calls for an expression of opinion from the Assembly. In presenting an item of special urgent business a voting delegate shall have sufficient copies of the motion in writing for distribution to all voting delegates present at the Debate on Motions and give prior notice to the President of such intention.

21 - Suspension or amendment of rules

21.1 In case of urgent necessity any of the Rules may be suspended on a motion duly moved and seconded, but that motion shall not be declared carried unless a two-thirds majority of the delegates of the Assembly voting on the motion have voted in favour.

21.2 Any voting delegate moving the suspension of a Rule shall state the object of the motion, but discussion shall not otherwise take place thereon.

22 - Strategic Motions

22.1 For the purpose of efficient and effective debate, motions that have been submitted for debate by councils that are similar in subject matter have been compiled into composite motions, known as "strategic motions". The strategic motions have either been drafted by ALGA or are based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

22.2 Councils that supported the strategic motion will be listed as co-sponsors.

23 - Business Paper Notes

23.1 At the discretion of ALGA, the Business Papers shall be organised to expedite debate on motions.

23.2 In instances where motions are generally consistent with ALGA current policy these have been grouped in the Business papers for visibility, but are not subject to debate.

Voting Procedures

The first motions voting session will be held on **Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 3.00 pm**.

To participate in voting, councils must nominate one voting delegate for each of the motions sessions. As **only one handset and voting card may be issued per council**, councils are encouraged to determine their voting delegate in advance.

Only councils that are financial members of their respective state or territory local government association are eligible to nominate a voting delegate and participate in voting.

Upon arrival, the nominated voting delegate should attend the ALGA stand located in the National Convention Centre foyer to register the council's secure voting card.

Voting cards may be collected from the ALGA stand during the times listed below.

Tuesday 23 June: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Wednesday 24 June: 8.00 am – 5.00 pm

Thursday 25 June: from 7.30 am

Please ensure your council's voting card has been collected before 3pm on Wednesday 24 June.

To vote, the voting card must be inserted into the voting handset, issued on entry to the auditorium at the commencement of each voting session. **Voting handsets** will be collected at the conclusion of each motion' session for recharging. They will be reissued at the start of the next voting session.

Further instructions on operating the handset, including participation in a test vote, will be provided at the start of each motions session.

Please note a replacement fee of $200 may be charged for any lost handsets.

Notes

Please note:

All motions submitted by Councils have been considered and appear in these papers except for motions that did not meet the criteria.

To assist the Assembly deal with the 243 motions in the time available, these papers have been organised along the following lines:

Section A: includes motions that have been reviewed by the ALGA Board's Motions Sub-Committee and deemed to be consistent with current national policy and/or resolved by recent NGAs and are recommended to be voted en bloc.

Section B: Motions for debate including motions that have been grouped into Strategic Motions (see rule 22 of the NGA Debating Rules).

Thank you for your co-operation.

2026 MOTIONS

SECTION A

MOTIONS CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING ALGA POLICY

Motion Number 1 Nillumbik Shire Council, VIC

That the Australian Local Government Association calls on the Australian Government to collaborate with state and local governments to develop clear guidance, reporting criteria, and implementation timelines to support local governments in meeting forthcoming national climate related reporting obligations.

Motion Number 2 City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide consistent, long-term funding, nationally reliable data, and practical adaptation tools to local governments – who are on the frontline of climate impacts but among the least resourced – to enable effective risk management, community resilience, and climate transition planning through a coordinated, multi-level governance approach.

Motion Number 3 Glen Eira City Council, VIC

That the NGA calls on the Australian Government to significantly increase direct funding and co-investment for local governments to respond to the climate emergency and protect their communities from the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe heatwaves, floods, bushfires and other extreme weather events. This includes:

- Expanding grants for climate resilience infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and adaptation programs.
- Broadening government rebates to help councils and communities retrofit properties and fast-track electrification.
- Providing resources and financial support through partnering with local governments to deliver initiatives that achieve emissions targets and protect communities from climate impacts.

Motion Number 4 Merri-bek City Council, VIC

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Create a new $400 million climate adaptation fund, distributed to all Australia’s councils each year, to deliver ongoing and sustainable place-based climate solutions, including upgrades to buildings and infrastructure to deal with increasing heatwaves.

Motion Number 5 Shire of Campaspe, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with state and territory governments to establish a nationally consistent framework for calculating, administering, and distributing community benefit contributions from renewable energy developments, including wind, solar, battery storage, and transmission projects. The framework should set minimum standards, define eligible benefit types, ensure transparent and equitable distribution, provide long term governance and reporting mechanisms, and support councils to negotiate fair, evidence-based agreements with proponents.

Motion Number 6 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a dedicated, long term funding mechanisms for councils to deliver a place based , community controlled initiative, aligned with Closing the Gap implementation plans
2. Accelerate resolution of the backlog of Aboriginal land claims in partnership with all state bodies
3. Strengthen transparency and independent oversight of progress against the closing the gap targets with formal mechanisms for first nations and local government partnerships.

Motion Number 7 Berri Barmera Council, SA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a National Local Government Closing the Gap Partnership Forum and implement nationally consistent Commonwealth engagement protocols with councils for place-based initiatives, supported by a dedicated, non-competitive capacity fund that enables councils and local government associations to employ funded coordination roles, co-design local initiatives with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners and report outcomes aligned to Closing the Gap targets to strengthen trust, improve delivery and accelerate progress.

Motion Number 8 Maribyrnong City Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to support and fund First Nations Partnership Granting with Councils, including resourcing for culturally safe engagement and reporting against Priority Reforms under Closing the Gap.

Specific First Nations led grants would offer culturally safe engagement and support initiatives, without the need to compete for limited funds.

Motion Number 9 Roper Gulf Regional Council, NT

Council calls upon the National General Assembly to Resolve to call upon the Commonwealth Government to review its planning and funding arrangements for critical logistics infrastructure in regional and remote areas, and especially in Aboriginal Communities.

Motion Number 10 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to resource local governments to delivery place based initiatives under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and formalise protocols for engagement in program design.

Motion Number 11 Darebin City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide information, resources and funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), Traditional Owner Groups and Local Governments to accelerate their ability to commit to the Closing the Gap National Agreement, and progress the priority reforms, with a focus on priority one (formalising partnerships and shared decision making) and two (building the community controlled sector).

Motion Number 12 Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a dedicated Local Closing the Gap Partnership Program that

1. Provides ongoing, flexible funding for councils to co-design and deliver place-based initiatives with First Nations communities and organisations.
2. Require formal local partnerships and governance arrangements, such as a National Local Government Closing the Gap Framework, aligned with the National Agreement's Priority Reforms, clearly defining council roles, expectations, guidance, and consistent monitoring and reporting.
3. Enable regional data-sharing so Aboriginal communities, councils, and governments can jointly track progress and adapt programs over time.

Motion Number 13 Gladstone Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide ongoing recognition, funding and support for Local Governments to develop, implement and maintain cultural and land management plans in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Councils play a critical role in protecting culturally significant sites, managing land and natural assets, and embedding cultural knowledge into local planning and operations. Sustained investment and formalised partnerships will enable locally-led, place-based approaches that strengthen reconciliation, build trust and directly support progress against Closing the Gap targets.

Motion Number 14 Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide national leadership to support Closing the Gap outcomes through a review of Commonwealth biodiversity and environmental legislative and policy settings to ensure they do not unintentionally constrain Aboriginal Land Councils and other Aboriginal landholders from activating their land for housing, economic development and community benefit.

Motion Number 15 Roper Gulf Regional Council, NT

Roper Gulf Regional Council (Council) calls upon the National General Assembly to Resolve to call upon the Commonwealth Government to review its approach to Childcare in regional and remote areas, and especially in Aboriginal Communities.

Motion Number 16 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in partnership with ALGA, to:

1. Provide sustained, dedicated funding to support increased cyber-security capacity across the local-government sector;
2. Develop a whole-of-government approach recognising councils as critical partners within national cyber-security infrastructure and safety-framework;
3. Expand centralised tools and support-programs to assist councils in meeting cyber-security standards and responding to incidents;
4. Ensure regulatory/reporting requirements are proportionate, achievable, and supported by appropriate funding and guidance;
5. Work collaboratively with ALGA and local-government organisations in states and territories to build workforce capability/training pathways, access to specialist cyber-expertise, localised strategies.

Motion Number 17 Mitchell Shire Council, VIC

Provide increased funding to local governments to invest in public infrastructure resilience as a core element of all disaster recovery funding packages.

Motion Number 18 Shire of Kondinin, WA

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise reliable communications as an essential service in regional Australia, comparable to power and water, and reflect this in policy, funding and regulation; acknowledge regional communities are disproportionately affected by outages due to limited infrastructure and single points of failure; and recognise escalating telecommunications disruptions across regional and remote WA.

These outages endanger emergency response, vulnerable residents, businesses, agriculture, mining, transport, community wellbeing and local government operations.

The Assembly urges prioritised resilience, mandated redundancy, multi-layered connectivity, guaranteed critical services access, regulatory reform, outage notification, and coordinated national action.

Motion Number 19 Muswellbrook Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 20 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government in partnership with state and territory-governments, to improve timeliness, clarity and effectiveness of disaster-recovery-funding to local-governments by:

1. Expanding and embedding the use of upfront and tripartite-funding arrangements to ensure councils have rapid-access to disaster-recovery-funding needed for urgent response, remediation and reconstruction works following natural disasters;
2. Explicitly including landslips/geotechnical investigation, remediation/stabilisation works as eligible activities under all disaster-recovery/reconstruction-funding programs; and
3. Providing clear, consistent national guidance on eligibility, assessment and payment processes for landslip-events removing uncertainty and delays for councils responding to disasters; and
4. Ensuring funding arrangements prioritise community safety, asset protection and restoration of essential local infrastructure, particularly where delays in funding place residents and councils at ongoing risk.

Motion Number 21 Cessnock City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 22 Edward River Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reform natural disaster funding arrangements to provide greater flexibility, upfront funding certainty and proportionate reporting requirements for local governments, recognising councils' critical role in delivering disaster recovery, resilience and infrastructure restoration at the local level.

Motion Number 23 Port Stephens Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 24 South Burnett Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to instruct the BOM to conduct an immediate update on progress with the multi-million-dollar Australian Government programme to improve the state's flood warning network and include the bridge flood cameras networks.

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Motion Number 25 Port Stephens Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 26 Dungog Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 27 Lithgow City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently provide the Government's response to the Colvin Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding.

Motion Number 28 Mid Coast Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend its Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to:

1. Include betterment funding for roads and bridges, where:
    a. More improved infrastructure and/or realignments would lead to significantly improved resilience to future disasters and hence future cost savings, and
    b. The additional costs of the improvements do not significantly outweigh those improvements
2. Include provisions for upfront payments to Councils for rebuilding major infrastructure projects to avoid the significant drain on Council’s limited cash reserves and/or borrowing capacity currently being experienced.

Motion Number 29 Murrindindi Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead the development of a nationally consistent legislative and data governance framework establishing a harmonised, integrated system and single source of truth, enabling authorised agencies across all levels of government to securely collect, link and access information on impacts to people and property following natural disasters and major emergencies, across response, relief and recovery phases, to support humane service delivery, while ensuring strong privacy protections.

Motion Number 30 Scenic Rim Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to allocate and institute a component of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to include additional allocations proportioned for betterment of affected assets to which funding is applicable following a natural disaster.

Motion Number 31 Upper Hunter Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 32 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 33 Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 34 Cessnock City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 35 Central Highlands Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure all local governments continue to receive free, real time access to Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) flood and weather data essential for local warning systems and emergency operations and prevent any cost shifting associated with BoM's transition to the OneRain platform or similar systems.

Further, the Australian Government guarantee the reliability of the national flood warning network through timely maintenance, repair, and operational standards for BoM owned gauges, particularly across regional, rural, and remote communities where outages and gaps amplify risk.

Motion Number 36 Lockyer Valley Regional Council, QLD

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to undertake a local government-informed review of the DRFA Category C-funded Community Recovery and Resilience Officer (CRRO) program to ensure Guidelines and funding are made available to councils within two (2) months following a declared disaster, to ensure the goals of immediate and medium recovery and longer-term resilience can be achieved.

Motion Number 37 Shire of Strathbogie, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased and sufficient funding to enable local governments to prioritise resilience.

Motion Number 38 Dungog Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 39 City of Canterbury-Bankstown, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reinstate the Bureau of Meteorology's provision of free, real-time flood monitoring data to local councils and emergency services to ensure community safety and effective emergency management in response to climate change, inclement weather and natural disasters.

Motion Number 40 City of Kingston, VIC

That the NGA:

Calls on the Commonwealth to work with other governments to pursue greater flood resilience across population centres, and ensure through regulation, better planning and improved stormwater infrastructure, that the impact of flooding is minimised and households and businesses can access affordable flood insurance cover.

Noting that urban flooding is caused by increased development and surface cover, reduced ground permeability and inadequate stormwater systems, the Commonwealth should encourage cooperation between state and federal departments, local governments, and water and drainage authorities to identify appropriate strategies to reduce the damage and cost of regular flooding and protect future insurability.

Motion Number 41 Singleton Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend disaster recovery funding rules to allow repairs to council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 42 Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 43 Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to ensure ongoing and practical financial assistance is provided to local governments following natural disasters, including updating the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to improve timeliness, simplify processes, and expand access to betterment funding so councils can deliver effective, resilient recovery outcomes on the ground.

Motion Number 44 Forbes Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly advocate for a review of federal and state emergency management funding and resourcing models to ensure local councils receive sustainable and adequate funding to support preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

Motion Number 45 Murweh Shire Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to formally include local government as a member of the Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) convened by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) – noting local governments are on the frontline of disaster preparedness, response, recovery and land-use planning. Inclusion of local governments on the HIP will help strengthen Australia's disaster resilience and insurance affordability by embedding local government expertise into national hazard insurance policy development and decision-making.

Motion Number 46 Muswellbrook Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 47 Quilpie Shire Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to, in partnership with State and Territory governments, urgently cut red tape and expedite the announcement of disaster relief and recovery funding packages, including the rapid establishment of program guidelines and opening of applications. This must include streamlined, risk-based and trust-centred assessment processes, reduced duplication, and timely upfront payments that enable councils, primary producers and local businesses to commence recovery immediately following disaster events, particularly in remote, regional and disaster-prone communities.

Motion Number 48 Yarra City Council, VIC

National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide financial assistance to Councils to reduce the impact of flooding on Council owned and managed assets and risks to public safety.

Motion Number 49 Shire of Campaspe, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase its co-contribution ratio for disaster mitigation infrastructure projects to ensure local governments are not financially disadvantaged in delivering nationally significant resilience outcomes. This includes raising the minimum Commonwealth share to at least 75%, enabling 100% funding where hardship or critical risk is demonstrated, updating the Benefit Cost Index methodology, ensuring cost sharing requirements reflect local government capability, and supporting multiyear, multi-hazard mitigation projects.

Motion Number 50 Upper Hunter Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 51 Yass Valley Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls for the inclusion of Local Government access provision to the National Messaging System currently in development through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Motion Number 52 Shire of Dundas, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish equitable and ongoing federal funding arrangements for local government bushfire risk mitigation, emergency management and volunteer support costs, and to review national disaster cost-sharing frameworks to ensure fair allocation of operational, mitigation and volunteer coordination expenses between federal, state and local governments.

Motion Number 53 City of Gold Coast, QLD

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a permanent, pre-disaster funding program for local governments through the State Government to support mitigation, preparedness and resilience works, reducing reliance on post-disaster recovery funding.

Motion Number 54 Singleton Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a non-competitive resilience and betterment funding framework that allows resilience upgrades during the emergency works phase of recovery.

Motion Number 55 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide dedicated, non-competitive funding to uplift local government emergency management capability and fully implement recommendations from national disaster governance and funding reviews.

Motion Number 56 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to amend disaster recovery funding rules to expand eligibility to include repairs to critical council owned water and sewer infrastructure.

Motion Number 57 Blue Mountains City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a permanent, indexed Local Government Disaster Resilience and Response Fund of no less than $900 million per annum, allocated via a non-competitive, formula-based model.
2. Ensure funding supports:
    - Local disaster risk reduction initiatives
    - Emergency management planning and capability uplift
    - Community preparedness
    - Immediate response coordination
3. Provide multi-year funding certainty to enable dedicated emergency management and resilience staff.
4. Implement relevant recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, the Glasser and Colvin Reviews relating to local government capability uplift.

Motion Number 58 Edward River Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to prioritise infrastructure investment, efficiency measures and environmental works to achieve Basin Plan outcomes and to avoid further water buybacks where equivalent environmental outcomes can be achieved without significant social and economic impacts on regional communities.

Motion Number 59 City of Darwin, NT

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to annually fund and deliver the Community Energy Upgrades Fund (CEUF) program to further support emissions reduction, improve energy performance and support the transition to renewable electricity

Motion Number 60 City of Canterbury-Bankstown, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the Productivity Commission recommendation to urgently establish a national product stewardship scheme for small-scale solar PV systems under Commonwealth legislation.

Motion Number 61 Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to work with state and local governments to establish a coordinated, all-of-government framework for PFAS management that provides sustained funding, technical guidance, and regulatory alignment to support councils in delivering effective short-, medium- and long-term monitoring, mitigation and treatment solutions.

Motion Number 62 Gladstone Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce strengthened federal legislation establishing mandatory product stewardship schemes and national packaging reform. This should include extended producer responsibility, nationally consistent standards, removal of “free riders” from voluntary schemes, and accountability for end-of-life product management, including a consistent, staged phase-out of problematic and unnecessary plastics where alternatives exist. The aim is to increase recycling and resource recovery, create markets for recycled materials, reduce landfill impacts on councils, and support circular economy investment. National leadership is essential for consistent regulation, improved product design, and producer-funded solutions reducing costs to communities.

Motion Number 63 Blue Mountains City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a permanent, indexed Local Government Environmental Outcomes Fund to directly support councils in delivering national environmental priorities, including threatened species recovery, biodiversity restoration, climate adaptation, invasive species management and responsibilities arising from reforms to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.
2. Allocate funding on a transparent and formula basis, with simplified reporting requirements.
3. Formally recognise local government as a delivery partner in environmental law reform and national environmental target setting.

Motion Number 64 Balonne Shire Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure comprehensive engagement with the local government sector on:

- The principles of the new Intergovernmental Water Agreement;
- Jurisdictional Action Plans; and
- Joint Actions Roadmap

to prevent any unintended consequences for local communities when implementing the new National Water Agreement.

Motion Number 65 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund councils to deliver national environmental outcomes and implement mandatory product stewardship schemes effective in regional and remote areas.

Motion Number 66 Byron Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to implement a mandatory, nationally consistent solar PV product stewardship scheme covering design, installation, reuse and end of life management, without cost shifting to councils, to:

1. Build on the 16 January 2026 national solar panel recycling pilot by scaling it into a permanent, nationally consistent program.
2. Recognise and fund local government as key delivery partners in collection, education and circular solutions;
3. Develop national standards for safe handling, transport, storage and recycling; and
4. Ensure shared responsibility across the supply chain, avoiding unfunded liabilities for councils.

Motion Number 67 City of Melville, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide $200M support for Local Government and the Resource Recovery Industry to implement new, and improve existing, FOGO systems including by investing in infrastructure, market development and community education and behaviour change.

Motion Number 68 Redland City Council, QLD

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a dedicated funding mechanism to support local governments with valid costs incurred by meeting Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) offset obligations.
2. Introduce a transitional provision for changes to species listings for community infrastructure projects undertaken by local governments.

Motion Number 69 Knox City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide dedicated funding and capability-building support to local governments to implement the 2025 reforms to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Motion Number 70 Port Stephens Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Make changes to the current Packaging and Plastics Policy that will see a shift in some of the end of life costs for all types of packaging from consumers to manufacturers.

Motion Number 71 Blue Mountains City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to:

1. Introduce nationwide mandatory product stewardship schemes for priority waste streams including batteries, soft plastics, solar panels, textiles and mattresses.
2. Require all schemes to include direct financial contributions to local governments for collection, processing and residual management.
3. Ensure product stewardship schemes operate equitably in regional, rural and remote areas.
4. Introduce a mandatory “Local Government Impact Assessment” for all national waste and recycling reforms.

Motion Number 72 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

Motion Number 73 Singleton Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead comprehensive systems reform across all levels of government to:

- Establish consistency in governance frameworks, systems, and documentation required across funding programs and agencies, reducing administrative burden
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils to ensure equity, certainty, and sustainability for effective long-term strategic planning.
- Ensure equitable allocation of grant funding by linking funding levels to each Local Government Area's demonstrated capacity to raise revenue through rates, while upholding the principles of the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 and maintaining horizontal fiscal equalisation.

Motion Number 74 Cabonne Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure that where Federal programs require State involvement, such as the National Water Grid Fund, the funding agreements ensure the State Government provides meaningful financial contribution to projects rather than shifting matching-funding obligations entirely to councils.

Motion Number 75 Maribyrnong City Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to:

- Restore Financial Assistance Grants to a minimum of 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue over the forward estimates;
- Re-Index both components to population growth and inflation, and
- Create a Cost-Shocks Supplement to offset extraordinary cost escalations in construction, insurance and compliance impacting council service delivery.

Motion Number 76 Glen Innes Severn Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a national, place-based and outcomes-driven funding framework for local government that reflects the full and expanding scope of services councils deliver, particularly in rural, regional and remote communities.

The framework should:

- reform Commonwealth funding allocation settings so distribution reflects actual service delivery costs, population dispersion, infrastructure burden, workforce constraints and market failure, rather than predominantly per-capita formulas;
- provide greater flexibility and longer term funding certainty; and,
- be undertaken in partnership with local government to reduce cost shifting and align national funding settings with contemporary service delivery.

Motion Number 77 Goulburn Mulwaree Council, NSW

The National General Assembly calls on the Federal and State Governments to work together to address the financial uncertainties that are impacting an increasing amount of local governments, particularly those in regional and rural areas of Australia.

Motion Number 78 Murrindindi Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to acknowledge that current funding arrangements are not sustainable for Local Government and commit to delivering meaningful reform informed by the findings and final recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability, once finalised.

Motion Number 79 Singleton Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Community Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden
- on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity.

Motion Number 80 Murray River Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the Financial Assistant Grant to local government to 1% of federal taxation, to support sustainability and equality.

Motion Number 81 Scenic Rim Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore the taxation revenue of Federal Assistant Grants to a full 1% and that this adjustment occurs over a five-year period.

Motion Number 82 South Burnett Regional Council, QLD

This National Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore the Financial Assistance Grants to 1% equivalent of the Commonwealth Taxation revenue.

Motion Number 83 Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

Motion Number 84 Glen Innes Severn Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in partnership with State and Territory governments, to establish a place-based and outcomes-driven funding framework recognising the distinct essential service delivery, workforce and cost-pressures facing regional, rural and remote councils, including childcare, aged-care, disability support, health access, community transport and wellbeing.

The framework should:

- provide direct, recurrent, untied funding for essential services and related infrastructure;
- enable councils to partner with community organisations, social enterprises/not-for-profits;
- reflect structurally higher service delivery costs due to remoteness/scale;
- support locally coordinated delivery models; and,
- avoid further cost shifting to local government.

Motion Number 85 Port Stephens Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

Motion Number 86 Hume City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit to the Financial Assistance Grants being at least 1% of Federal tax revenue.

Motion Number 87 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue and establish formula based, untied funding streams for enabling infrastructure, community assets, safer local roads, emergency management and climate adaptation.

Motion Number 88 Lithgow City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore Financial Assistance Grants to at least one per cent of taxation revenue and expedite the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.

Motion Number 89 City of Charles Sturt, SA

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise artificial intelligence and high-quality local government data as critical productivity infrastructure, and to partner with local government to invest in the systems, standards and capability required to safely leverage council-held data to improve service delivery, regulatory efficiency and long-term financial sustainability.

Motion Number 90 Upper Hunter Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

Motion Number 91 Tweed Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue, noting the current allocation of around 0.55% significantly restricts councils' capacity to plan, maintain, and renew essential infrastructure.

Strengthening Financial Assistance Grants will address vertical fiscal imbalance, reduce reliance on rate revenue subject to caps, and help prevent growing infrastructure backlogs affecting communities nationwide.

Motion Number 92 City of Sydney, NSW

The NGA calls on the Federal Government to:

1. acknowledge that the increasing costs of climate change—including disaster recovery from storms, floods, and bushfires, and community resilience building for heatwaves and sea-level rise—place an unsustainable financial burden on local government.
2. recognise the inequity where local governments and communities bear these costs despite not being responsible for the 75% of climate pollution generated by major coal, oil, and gas corporations.
3. establish a Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the 2025 National Adaptation Plan, specifically addressing the lack of additional funding for local governments to deliver mandated adaptation responses.
4. ensure this Inquiry identifies concrete revenue sources to meet investment needs, including the implementation of taxes or levies on the coal, oil, and gas industries aligned with the climate damage their products cause.
5. establish a National Climate Compensation Fund with a dedicated funding stream for local governments, commensurate with the scale of the financial risks identified in the 2025 National Climate Risk Assessment.

Motion Number 93 Mitchell Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise the financial constraints upon councils outside and on the fringe of our major cities, and provide increased funding to support these councils and communities.

Motion Number 94 Muswellbrook Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.

Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.

Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

Motion Number 95 Dungog Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

Motion Number 96 Shire of Strathbogie, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase the Financial Assistance Grant to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue indexed annually to ensure predictable, untied funding to support long-term planning and service delivery.

Motion Number 97 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish national enabling infrastructure fund to unlock housing supply and ensure local governments are full participants in housing policy reforms.

Motion Number 98 Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase available funding under future HAFF rounds to support and expedite the provision of more affordable housing noting the strong take-up of HAFF Round 3 funding, and the work of local governments in partnering with state and community partners to house their local communities.

Motion Number 99 Penrith City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, at this time of great urgency to increase housing, to recognise housing supply is a shared responsibility and that it has a leading role to play, by:

- Preparing a National Housing Strategy
- Clarifying what the national housing strategy is for the nation
- Clarifying the role the Australian Government will take in contributing to strategy implementation
- Supporting and backing the implementation of a National Housing Strategy with Federal infrastructure funding provided in a strategic and timely way - linking housing accord targets with long term funding commitments.

Motion Number 100 City of Kingston, VIC

That the NGA:

Calls on the Commonwealth Government to support investment in community infrastructure in the suburbs where dwelling growth is outpacing the supply of open space, playing fields and courts, pavilions, active transport options, recycled water, and other community facilities.

This should be delivered through a combination of regulation, tax incentives and direct investment. Liveability is proven to be highest in areas where these facilities are accessible to all. The burden of delivering it cannot be met by local government alone.

Motion Number 101 Maribyrnong City Council, VIC

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to take action to support community-led housing tenure innovation across Australia by:

- Providing funding for project feasibility and land purchase;
- Establishing a dedicated funding stream for innovative housing that supports community wealth building, such as cooperative housing, co-housing and community land trusts, reinstated into Housing Australia funding programs;
- Preferencing genuinely affordable, community-driven developments on surplus government land holdings;
- Setting financial regulation to enable financial mutuals to invest in innovative affordable housing; and
- Working with councils to enable and unlock opportunities for community-led housing tenure innovation.

Motion Number 102 Yarra City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding available to Councils through the Thriving Suburbs, Urban Precincts and Partnerships, Regional Precincts and Partnerships, Growing Regions Programs.

Motion Number 103 Murray River Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase investment to councils for the construction of local enabling transport and community infrastructure and utilities critical to supporting national housing targets.

Motion Number 104 Shire of Campaspe, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to significantly increase public housing investment in rural and regional Australia through the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) and related programs. This should include a dedicated regional funding allocation, prioritisation of high need areas, support for partnerships between councils, Housing Australia, and community housing providers, investment in innovative regional housing models, and streamlined access for small or resource limited councils.

Motion Number 105 South Burnett Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to coordinate a national response to the housing crisis with particular focus on removing restrictive legislation.

Motion Number 106 Berri Barmera Council, SA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a National Local Government Housing Enabling Infrastructure Partnership Forum and a five-year, non-competitive, formula-based co-funding program to support councils to deliver enabling infrastructure required for additional well-located housing supply, including roads, drainage, water and power connections, with a specific stream for regional, rural and remote councils and with reporting designed to align with councils' long-term financial planning and asset management planning cycles

Motion Number 107 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore local government representation in National Cabinet and key ministerial councils to strengthen national policy coordination.

Motion Number 108 Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to formalise a strengthened framework for intergovernmental cooperation that:

1. Recognises local government as an equal and essential partner in national policy design, funding, and implementation;
2. Improves coordination between the Commonwealth, States/Territories, and local government to ensure clear, consistent roles, responsibilities, and resourcing;
3. Reduces cost-shifting and unfunded mandates through transparent mechanisms for joint planning, shared accountability, and equitable funding allocation; and
4. Advances constitutional recognition of local government as a critical reform to address growing fragmentation within Australia's federation.

Motion Number 109 Roper Gulf Regional Council, NT

Council calls upon the National General Assembly to Resolve to call upon the Commonwealth and State (Territory) Governments to review its approaches to Community consultation on planning and policy matters, especially in regional and remote areas, including Aboriginal Communities.

Motion Number 110 Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise local government as a priority employer in the National Skills Plan and fund regional training pathways for critical professions.

Motion Number 111 Brimbank City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to increase road infrastructure funding to adequately support a large and ongoing pipeline of road projects. This includes upgrades, renewals and maintenance, and to ensure funding levels allow State Governments to deliver and maintain minimum safety and maintenance standards on major road corridors, in partnership with local governments.

Motion Number 112 Orange City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop national active transport design guidelines, informed by best-practice international standards, that:

1. Prioritise safety, accessibility, and network continuity.
2. Apply consistently across federally funded transport projects.
3. Replace discretionary or minimum-compliance approaches with clear, outcome-focused standards.

Motion Number 113 Victoria Daly Regional Council, NT

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish dedicated national funding to support local governments without a requirement of co-contribution to:

1. Maintain and repair existing street lighting infrastructure transferred from state and territory utilities to councils without accompanying recurrent operational funding;
2. Replace ageing luminaires with energy-efficient LED street lighting across all Australian local government areas; and
3. Access targeted grants that recognise the substantial infrastructure, sustainability, and public-safety benefits of upgraded lighting networks, particularly for regional and remote councils.

SECTION B

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Motion Number 114 | Strategic Motion
Byron Shire Council, NSW | Maribyrnong City Council, NSW | Golden Plains Shire Council, VIC | Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a nationally coordinated, independently governed, long-term funding mechanism to support climate change adaptation, disaster resilience and emissions reduction, including a dedicated, accessible funding stream and data support for Local Government to strengthen community, asset and infrastructure resilience in the national interest and for current and future generations. The Australian Government should look at innovative funding models including revenue from non-renewable resources.

Motion Number 115 | Strategic Motion
City of Greater Geelong, VIC | Moyne Shire Council, VIC | North Sydney Council, NSW | Bass Coast Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support a nationally coordinated, long-term approach to coastal hazards by working with State and Local Governments to deliver appropriate frameworks, strategies and funding that strengthen local government capacity to plan for, mitigate and manage increasing coastal risks associated with climate change, including sea level rise and extreme weather.

Motion Number 116
Gunnedah Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government, when considering applications for new water storage projects, to consider the potential for flood and drought mitigation as a result of increased water storage, and the risk of increased incidences of floods and droughts due to climate change.

OBJECTIVE

To advocate for the Australian Government to incorporate comprehensive climate risk assessment into decision-making for new water storage projects, recognising their potential to mitigate both floods and droughts. This includes ensuring that project evaluations consider long-term climate projections, regional resilience, community safety, water security and economic sustainability, so that nationally significant infrastructure delivers maximum public benefit in the face of increasing climate variability and extreme weather events.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of both floods and droughts across Australia, placing significant pressure on communities, agriculture and infrastructure. New water storage projects can play a critical role in capturing excess water during extreme rainfall events and providing supply during prolonged dry periods, improving disaster resilience and water security. However, current assessment processes may not fully account for future climate risks or the broader mitigation benefits of increased storage capacity. Considering these factors will support smarter infrastructure investment, reduce long-term recovery costs, protect regional economies and enhance community safety. A nationally consistent approach will ensure water storage projects contribute to climate adaptation objectives while delivering sustainable social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Motion Number 117
Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to hold a Parliamentary Inquiry into the adequacy of the National Adaptation Plan and its support for local government, given the risks identified in the National Climate Risk Assessment released in 2025 and the costs that local governments are already facing.

This Inquiry should hear from local governments and communities in climate-impacted regions to identify concrete ways to increase funding available to local government to address climate impacts, including a consideration of taxes and levies on the industries responsible for causing climate change and the establishment of a Climate Compensation Fund.

OBJECTIVE

The costs of climate change are increasing on local government, including the costs of disaster recovery from storms, floods, and bushfires as well as the costs of working with local communities to build resilience to these and other events such as heatwaves and rising sea levels. Some communities are increasingly being deemed ‘uninsurable’ which places increasingly heavy costs upon local government. We note the unfairness of this situation, where the big coal, oil and gas corporations are responsible for 75% of climate pollution, yet the costs of climate change are falling upon local government and local communities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The National Adaptation Plan (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/national-adaptation-plan) released in 2025, recognised the important role that local governments play in addressing climate change adaptation and working with local communities to build resilience. The National Adaptation Plan invited ALGA to develop frameworks, and local governments to develop adaptation plans and deliver adaptation responses, but it did not identify additional funding for local governments to deal with the significantly increasing costs of climate change.

Motion Number 118
Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide a climate adaptation fund and data tools for councils and co-fund regional emissions reduction plans that address agriculture, transport and asset resilience priorities identified by councils.

OBJECTIVE

Support climate adaptation by resourcing place based actions such as heat management, stormwater upgrades, shade and cooling and resilient road, while enabling councils to plan emissions cuts across high emitting sectors using nationally harmonised tools.

KEY ARGUMENTS

North Queensland faces intensifying extremes. Most rural and remote councils emissions profiles are dominated by agriculture and transport, requiring tailored strategies. Councils deliver strong benefit-cost results for adaptation, but lack accessible tools and funding for consistent climate risk management. Federal investment in voluntary risk frameworks, regional plans and aligned reporting will accelerate resilience and decarbonisation without burdening ratepayers.

Motion Number 119
Nillumbik Shire Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen the national emissions reduction framework by introducing an economy wide carbon pricing mechanism and to dedicate a transparent share of carbon pricing revenue to a Local Government Net Zero Fund.

OBJECTIVE

Local governments in Australia must comply with federal emissions-related legislation.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Building on last year's ALGA motions for national fund to support local government to reach carbon neutrality, a carbon pricing mechanism would impose a levy on the nation's big carbon producing businesses to help fund the cost of reducing carbon emissions at a local level.

The fund would provide formula-based funding for Council led emissions reductions projects such as pool electrification, fleet electrification, energy efficient buildings and street lighting and support moves for the community to electrify homes including heating, cooling and cooking.

Motion Number 120
South Burnett Regional Council, QLD

This National Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider a consistent National approach and legislation that ensures decommissioning of renewable energy sites is funded by the energy proponent and that greater setbacks are put in place to protect the health and amenity of residential properties adjacent to the renewable energy site.

OBJECTIVE

Too often our communities have suffered from well intentioned frameworks that have no real possibility of being enforced. Setbacks need to be mandated and enforceable to allow for the residential amenity of neighbouring properties to continue with peach and security.

KEY ARGUMENTS

It is noted that the Clean Energy Council (CEC) and Queensland Renewable Energy Council (QREC) have introduced a national Decommissioning Security Framework to ensure renewable energy projects are safely removed and sites rehabilitated. This framework mandates financial security (bonds, escrow) and transfers liabilities with project ownership to protect landholders and communities.

Whilst this framework is a positive step the requirements for decommission and setbacks need to be enforceable and absolute with no ability to ignore them. Too often our communities have suffered from well intentioned frameworks that have no real possibility of being enforced. Setbacks need to be mandated and enforceable to allow for the residential amenity of neighbouring properties to continue with peach and security.

CLOSING THE GAP

Motion Number 121 | Strategic Motion
Walgett Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen rural crime prevention and youth justice outcomes in regional and remote communities by providing sustained investment in community-led, culturally informed and place-based approaches that prioritise early intervention, youth diversion and wellbeing, particularly in remote Aboriginal communities. This includes sustained investment in community-controlled services, prevention partnerships and community infrastructure that addresses disadvantage, strengthens social cohesion and reduces justice system contact.

Motion Number 122
Roper Gulf Regional Council, NT

Roper Gulf Regional Council (Council) calls upon the National General Assembly to Resolve to call upon the Commonwealth Government, particularly the National Disability Insurance Agency (NIAA) to urgently review its regulatory oversight of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service providers noting the unconscionable exploitation of vulnerable participants, in particular, vulnerable Indigenous participants in regional and remote areas.

OBJECTIVE

NDIS is critical to providing essential support to vulnerable persons, plays a key role in 'Closing the Gap'.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Council notes with concern numerous unscrupulous and criminal practices occurring within the NDIS, with certain providers essentially preying on vulnerable recipients, with examples making national headlines.

In February 2026, the ABC reported on vulnerable Aboriginal NDIS recipients in remote Aboriginal Communities being targeted by unscrupulous providers to change their NIDIS plans over from their current providers, with high-pressure tactics, complete lack of information, and the offer of immediate inducements including tobacco and alcohol.

Recipients reported feeling pressured and confused, and taken advantage of, and signed over their plans under duress.

Recipients reported that upon doing so, their services essentially ceased, with the new providers ignoring them and their needs.

Council is aware of many such practices occurring within its Region, with vulnerabilities, especially language barriers, exploited to sign up vulnerable persons to schemes purely for profit, with little to no services being delivered to those persons who need it most.

Motion Number 123
Yass Valley Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to restore federal funding for the Green Army or similar grassroots program that supports environmental action in collaboration with First Nations people and Councils, potentially amplifying the work of Caring for Country indigenous rangers, and bringing associated regional social, economic, and environmental benefits.

OBJECTIVE

The sustained management of remnant areas of biodiversity within council-controlled bush land and the issue of noxious weed infiltration into state and local government areas of significance such as critically endangered natural temperate grassland, of which there is 1% left in Australia should be of concern to us all.

These grasslands and woodlands provide vital migratory corridors and breeding locations from Kosciusko to the Coast. As example The Yass Gorge saw significant removal of willows, blackberry, prickly pear, protection of significant aboriginal landmarks, native plantings, and trail creation as a result of the Green Army.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Green Army Indigenous Environmental program was a successful, hands-on, practical environmental action program that supported local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia from willow removal and track creation to fox baiting. The Green Army program was beloved across regional Australia and saw First Nations youth engaged with important work and making connections with caring senior volunteers, creating resilience and understanding in both socio- cultural groups while helping to achieve local councils' environmental goals and get youth job ready. The Green Army program was terminated by the former federal government in 2016/17, although existing contracts were honoured.

Minister, will you consider re-establishing the Green Army or similar grassroots programs which support environmental action by Indigenous people and associated regional economic benefits?

CYBER SECURITY AND AI

Motion Number 124 | Strategic Motion
Leeton Shire Council, NSW | Moyne Shire Council, VIC | Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD | Knox City Council, VIC | Noosa Council, QLD | Newcastle City Council, NSW | Narrabri Shire Council, NSW | Maribyrnong City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide sustained national leadership by delivering a consistent, adequately funded approach to local government cyber security, fraud resilience and the safe use of artificial intelligence. This includes a shared and scalable cyber defence capability, minimum assurance standards aligned to national frameworks, workforce and governance uplift, protection of critical infrastructure and sensitive community data, and targeted support for small, rural and regional councils.

Motion Number 125 | Strategic Motion
Hume City Council, VIC | Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a nationally consistent, performance-based policy and regulatory framework for data centres that recognises the national importance of artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure, promotes best-practice siting, design and operation, ensures efficient and transparent management of energy and water use including renewable energy integration and low-water cooling technologies, and formally recognises local government as a key partner in planning, sustainability and community impact management.

Motion Number 126
Whitsunday Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a nationally coordinated licensing and procurement framework for enterprise software and cybersecurity solutions used by local governments, in consultation with state and territory associations.

OBJECTIVE

To enhance financial sustainability and cybersecurity in local government through a nationally coordinated procurement model. This approach reduces duplication, lowers costs, and ensures consistent access to secure, modern software platforms. By standardizing licensing and security requirements, councils can maintain service delivery, protect data integrity, and comply with regulatory obligations. A unified framework supports innovation, efficiency, and resilience, enabling councils to focus resources on community outcomes rather than complex software management.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments rely on enterprise software for finance, planning, and service delivery, yet individual licensing arrangements are costly and inconsistent. This fragmentation creates cybersecurity vulnerabilities and administrative inefficiencies. A national licensing and procurement framework would deliver economies of scale, reduce compliance risks, and establish uniform security standards. Councils would benefit from simplified processes, shared best practices, and equitable access to critical digital tools regardless of size or location. By supporting modernization and resilience, the Australian Government can strengthen local government productivity and safeguard essential services. This initiative aligns with national priorities for financial sustainability, cyber protection, and digital innovation, ensuring councils remain resilient and united in delivering secure, efficient services to communities.

Motion Number 127
Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to establish a dedicated Local Government AI Readiness Program, aligned with the 2025 National AI Plan, to ensure councils have the funding, tools, digital infrastructure, and skills necessary to safely and effectively adopt artificial intelligence in community service delivery, infrastructure management, and local decision-making.

OBJECTIVE

To secure a national funding and capability-building program that equips local government with the resources, frameworks, and workforce skills required to implement AI technologies responsibly, enhance service efficiency, and support data-driven decision-making in line with the Commonwealth's AI policy direction.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments are increasingly expected to deliver modern, efficient, digitally enabled services, yet most councils, particularly in regional areas, lack the funding, skills, governance frameworks, and digital infrastructure required to safely adopt artificial intelligence. While the Australian Government has released the 2025 National AI Plan, there is currently no dedicated program supporting councils to meet these expectations or to ensure consistent, ethical, and secure AI use across the sector. Without targeted investment, councils risk widening the digital capability gap, limiting their ability to improve service delivery, asset management, regulatory functions, and community engagement. A Local Government AI Readiness Program would provide the essential funding, tools, training, and standards needed for councils to adopt AI responsibly and effectively, strengthening national productivity, improving community outcomes, and ensuring local government can contribute meaningfully to the Commonwealth's policy goals.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Motion Number 128 | Strategic Motion
Surf Coast Shire Council, VIC | Newcastle City Council, NSW | City of Mitcham, SA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide national leadership on disaster-resilient infrastructure by investing in and regulating resilient electricity and telecommunications networks, including funding the strategic undergrounding of powerlines to reduce disaster risk and recovery cost. In addition mobile and data network operators should be required to meet minimum reliability and peak-load standards comparable to other critical infrastructure, to ensure communities receive emergency warnings, maintain essential services and are protected from the escalating impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters.

Motion Number 129
Noosa Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support local governments to strengthen emergency management and bushfire response by enabling the safe use of recycled wastewater for firefighting in high-risk areas. Including targeted funding, national guidance, regulatory support for recycled wastewater infrastructure - storage, hydrants, fill points and non-potable reticulation - designed to meet fire authority water quality requirements (e.g., Class A+ for hydrants/hose reels) and hydrant location/coverage standards, with materials and burial depths appropriate for fire exposed corridors at the urban–bushland interface. The Australian Government should recognise such systems as critical emergency management and climate adaptation infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE

To improve national bushfire preparedness by diversifying secure firefighting water supplies while safeguarding firefighter health. A consistent framework will enable councils to plan and deliver safe, cost effective recycled wastewater systems with fire authorities and water utilities, ensuring water quality (e.g., Class A+) and hydrant access/coverage standards are met, and providing funding models that reflect low frequency utilisation but high consequence. This will reduce pressure on potable supplies during disasters and strengthen resilience in high risk communities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Climate change and expanding urban–bushland interfaces heighten bushfire risk and stress potable networks. Recycled wastewater offers a reliable, drought resilient non potable supply for firefighting when treated to appropriate standards (e.g., Class A+ in Queensland). Safe deployment requires (i) adherence to fire authority water quality positions; (ii) hydrant/fill point spacing consistent with AS 2419.1 and local guidance, to keep access within practical hose lay distances; and (iii) infrastructure suited to fire exposed corridors (e.g., heat resistant materials and deeper burial), which increases costs and may necessitate new reticulation near risk areas. Given infrequent use, federal co funding, regulatory clarity and national best practice guidance are needed to ensure safety, interoperability and value for money, building on emerging guidance and case studies for recycled water in firefighting.

Motion Number 130
Lithgow City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to retain five-minute flood warnings rather than the 15 minute intervals being proposed by the Bureau of Meteorology and, if required, source a different computer software solution.

OBJECTIVE

Flood warnings are a critical public safety function. Timely and reliable access to this information is essential. Media reports indicate that the current free flood warning tool will be phased out as it no longer meets cyber security, stability and resilience standards. Also, that rainfall and river level data can still be accessed via the BoM website but these occur in 15-minute intervals rather than 5 minute intervals currently.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Flood warnings are a critical public safety function. Timely and reliable access to this information is essential if public authorities are to protect lives, property, agriculture and vital infrastructure.

Media reports indicate that:

- The current free flood warning tool will be phased out as it no longer meets cyber security, stability and resilience standards.
- The current system (Enviromon) has been in place for nearly 30 years.
- The Bureau of Meteorology will be ending ongoing support and maintenance for this serviceby no later than July.
- It will be replaced with a US-developed software system called ‘OneRain’. This system cannot be sub-licensed so access to it cannot be provided for free to Councils or other public authorities.
- Rainfall and river level data can still be accessed via the BoM website and Council can signup for updates, but these occur in 15-minute intervals rather than 5 minute intervals currently provided.

Motion Number 131
Yarra Ranges Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to assign the relevant federal regulatory body (ASIC/ACCC) explicit mandates to monitor insurance affordability, require pricing transparency and identify market failures.

OBJECTIVE

The current regulatory framework does not adequately address the affordability and transparency of insurance pricing. A strengthened national regulatory approach is therefore needed. Assigning the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) explicit mandates to monitor insurance affordability, require pricing transparency, and identify market failures would align with ALGA's strategic calls for national frameworks that support fair, place-based climate resilience solutions. Elevating regulatory oversight of insurance affordability would directly support ALGA's climate resilience agenda by ensuring that communities, especially those facing escalating climate risks, retain access to essential insurance protections.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Climate change is driving more frequent and severe natural disasters across Australia, placing unprecedented pressure on households, businesses, and community infrastructure. As risks increase, insurance premiums in many regions have escalated sharply or become unaffordable, leaving communities exposed and undermining national resilience objectives. ALGA has consistently highlighted that councils are on the frontline of climate impacts and that effective climate adaptation requires strong governance, equitable access to resources, and coordinated national action.

ALGA's Adapting Together research suggests councils are expected to invest more than $2 billion over five years to prepare communities for climate impacts, delivering up to $4.7 billion in avoided costs by 2030. However, these local resilience investments rely on communities being able to recover, and recovery is significantly hindered when insurance becomes inaccessible or prohibitively expensive. Without intervention, rising premiums risk creating "uninsurable" areas, undermining the long-term viability of communities, and diminishing the return on climate-resilience investments.

Motion Number 132
Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to establish a proactive national funding program enabling local governments to implement voluntary home-purchase and house-raising initiatives for dwellings located in high-risk flood areas that cannot be adequately protected from future events.

OBJECTIVE

To secure ongoing federal funding that allows councils to reduce long-term disaster risk in high-risk flood areas by offering voluntary buy-back or house-raising options, shifting resilience planning from reactive post-disaster recovery to proactive risk mitigation.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Some homes in flood-prone areas cannot be feasibly protected through levees or land-use changes. Without financial support, these residents remain repeatedly exposed to dangerous and traumatising flood events. Recently, federal support for voluntary buybacks or house-raising was available after catastrophic floods, however a proactive approach would be beneficial to reduce known risks before lives and property are threatened. Voluntary buy-back or house-lifting programs are internationally recognised risk-reduction strategies but are unaffordable for most councils. Federal support would allow councils to relocate or protect at-risk households, reduce ongoing disaster recovery costs, and promote safer long-term land-use patterns. These programs deliver strong social, environmental, and economic benefits by removing people from harm’s way, reducing future emergency response needs, and supporting community resilience as extreme weather events intensify.

Motion Number 133
Quilpie Shire Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to substantially increase and sustain funding for flood warning infrastructure across Australia, and to immediately resolve governance and ownership arrangements for this infrastructure in partnership with states, territories and local government. Reliable flood warning systems are vital to community safety and disaster resilience, yet fragmented ownership and inconsistent governance arrangements continue to undermine its effectiveness. An improved nationally coordinated and timely response to resolving these issues will enhance performance, data access and ensure systems meet local needs, particularly in high-risk flood-prone regions.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen Australia's flood preparedness, resilience and community safety by ensuring flood warning infrastructure and systems are modern, well-maintained, interoperable and under clear governance and ownership arrangements. Increased funding and clarified responsibilities will support national consistency, improve data quality and accessibility, and enhance mitigation and emergency response capabilities. This national investment will reduce disaster costs and better protect people, property and local economies.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Recent National General Assembly (NGA) motions have called for national action to develop flood resilience strategies, increase funding for early warning systems, and enhance integration with emergency management frameworks. Flood warning infrastructure, including river and rainfall gauges, telemetry, and data networks is critical for timely and accurate warnings that save lives and reduce economic loss. However, governance and ownership arrangements still remain fragmented across jurisdictions, creating gaps in maintenance responsibility, data standards, and system interoperability. An improved nationally coordinated investment approach, coupled with clear governance frameworks, will improve system reliability, enable local co-location of sensors and tools, and support consistent national data access. Strengthening these systems aligns with NGA's broader calls for proactive infrastructure funding, harmonisation of governance, and enhanced disaster resilience, ensuring local governments can deliver effective warnings tailored to community risk profiles.

Motion Number 134
North Sydney Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish and fund a national program to:

1. Support councils to increase access to publicly accessible automated external defibrillators through grants to purchase, installation, maintenance and replacement of AEDs in high-use community locations, council-managed facilities and at community events.
2. Fund evidence-based community education and awareness sessions that are scalable and delivered in partnership with community-based health organisations with expertise in this area.
3. Establish a simple monitoring and evaluation framework to track AED coverage, registration rates, community capability uplift, and improvements in bystander intervention and survival outcomes over time.

OBJECTIVE

To encourage more Australians to leave important first aid skills.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Council is a supporter of the Heart Foundation's "Heart of the Nation" program, which is focused on a clear goal to help improve sudden cardiac arrest survival rates to 30 percent by 2050. The program delivers practical, one hour confidence for life sessions that teach people what to do in an emergency. Call. Push. Shock. Anyone can do it.

The establishment and funding of a national program will help to reduce deaths from out of hospital cardiac arrests by empowering bystanders to respond in an emergency and potentially free up medical resources for other needs.

Motion Number 135
Shire of Strathbogie, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to form a national fund and agency for disaster response urgently and recognise the growing role of rural and regional local governments as emergency responders amid increasing disaster frequency and the impacts that has on Councils to perform their day to day and legislated services and responsibilities.

OBJECTIVE

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and Australian's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience provide the overarching frameworks guiding the National Disaster Response. Multiple national reviews and frameworks recognise that rising disaster frequency demands better preparedness, clearer governance, and stronger capacity for disaster response, including addressing the frontline role of local government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

A broader national fund and agency for disaster response is urgently needed at the federal level, as local governments, particularly in rural and regional Australia continue to act as emergency responders while facing an escalating frequency of disasters. Councils are often still recovering from the last event when the next one strikes, leaving no capacity to plan ahead, rebuild resilience, or stabilise finances. This constant state of catch-up creates serious risks, including financial insolvency, workforce burnout and resignations, and long-term service failure, highlighting the unsustainability of managing disasters under increasingly severe climate conditions without stronger federal leadership and support.

Despite national frameworks acknowledging the need for coordinated and resilient systems, councils remain trapped in a cycle of response and recovery, with increasing disaster frequency undermining financial stability, workforce capacity and long-term resilience.

Stronger federal leadership and support are essential to ensure disaster response arrangements are sustainable in a changing climate.

ENVIRONMENT

Motion Number 136 | Strategic Motion
Gunnedah Shire Council, NSW | Griffith City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in partnership with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, to ensure the 2026 Murray-Darling Basin Plan Review and associated legislation appropriately models and considers the impacts of population growth, drinking water demand and climate-related reductions in flows on consumptive water requirements and water allocations for communities, irrigators, industry and the environment including water buy backs.

Motion Number 137 | Strategic Motion
Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW | Blacktown City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support a nationally consistent right-to-repair framework that improves the repairability and durability of consumer products, incentivises repair, reduces barriers to affordable repair, and supports waste reduction, circular-economy outcomes and cost-of-living relief for communities.

Motion Number 138 | Strategic Motion
Northern Beaches Council, NSW | Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase investment in modern, effective and evidence-based approaches to reducing shark-bite risk, including technologies such as drone surveillance, shark listening stations, tagging and research programs, and non-lethal deterrents, while phasing out obsolete and ineffective measures, to improve public safety, support coastal communities and protect marine ecosystems.

Motion Number 139 | Strategic Motion
Sunshine Coast Regional Council, QLD | Lockyer Valley Regional Council, QLD | Tweed Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fully commit to the long-term eradication of red imported fire ants by providing sustained funding for the National Fire Ant Eradication Program beyond 2027, including urgent support for suppression activities, and by expanding assistance to Local Governments in eradication and suppression zones to cover the resourcing of general biosecurity obligations, to ensure eradication is achieved by 2032 and communities, economies and the environment are protected.

Motion Number 140 | Strategic Motion
Byron Shire Council, NSW | Woollahra Municipal Council, NSW | Walgett Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in partnership with Local Government, states and territories and First Nations, to deliver a long-term, funded and nationally coordinated approach to water security and inland and coastal waterway health through investment in resilient water infrastructure, wastewater treatment, and catchment restoration that ensures safe, reliable water supplies and healthy river and coastal systems.

Motion Number 141 | Strategic Motion
Narrabri Shire Council, NSW | Tweed Shire Council, NSW | City of Melville, WA | Blue Mountains City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise and clarify the roles and costs borne by local governments in environmental biosecurity, weed and pest management; and for national funding agreements and operational arrangements to be reformed to reflect these roles and costs, to ensure a strong, sustainable and consistent approach across Australia.

Motion Number 142 City of Melbourne, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Recognise that artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure are critical to Australia's future productivity, research excellence, sovereign capability and global competitiveness, and that local government is a key partner in delivering sustainable digital infrastructure.
2. Establish a nationally consistent, performance-based policy and regulatory framework for data centres that supports best-practice siting and design, mandatory renewable energy integration, fit-for-purpose water use, innovation in low-water and non-water cooling technologies, measurable community benefits, and transparent reporting of energy, water and emissions.

OBJECTIVE

Strengthened national coordination of data centres support outcomes in advanced manufacturing, medical research, climate modelling, defence capability, smart cities and small business productivity, while protecting community amenity, supporting emissions reduction and water security, enabling innovation, attracting investment, strengthening sovereign compute capability and high-value job creation across Australia.

Local governments lack regulatory tools to manage cumulative impacts or secure community benefit of data centres, particularly as approvals are increasingly removed from local decision making. Ensuring councils retain a meaningful voice is essential to safeguarding environmental standards and community interests, while federal leadership ensures data centres contribute sustainably to national growth.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Data centres and AI infrastructure are expanding rapidly across Australia, increasing demand for electricity, water and land while pressuring local communities. Councils are increasingly required to manage cumulative planning, environmental and amenity impacts, often with limited involvement in approval processes. A nationally led framework should set clear expectations for renewable energy uptake, water efficiency (including recycled water), emissions reduction and best practice design across the facility lifecycle. Transparent reporting of energy, water use and emissions would strengthen accountability and support progress toward climate targets.

National coordination with energy and water authorities would help manage long term grid reliability, water scarcity and systemic risks. A consistent federal approach ensures data centre investment delivers community benefits through improved infrastructure, reduced environmental impacts, enhanced resilience and clearer pathways for councils to advocate effectively. Federal leadership is essential to enable responsible growth while supporting community wellbeing and Australia's broader climate and digital economy objectives.

Motion Number 143
Glen Innes Severn Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to resource and implement the Australian Biochar Industry 2030 Roadmap in partnership with states/territories /local government, and to act on Productivity Commission recommendations to enable nationally consistent regulation and markets for organic waste-derived circular-carbon products.

This includes:

- establishing consistent regulatory definitions;
- distinguishing circular-carbon production from energy-from-waste incineration;
- enabling organic waste streams to become saleable materials;
- developing technical/procurement guidance;
- progressing an ACCU method pathway for carbon-negative biochar;
- supporting time-limited funding aligned with local waste strategies; and,
- embedding biochar within national circular-economy and waste policy frameworks.

OBJECTIVE

To reduce landfill and methane emissions, support durable carbon sequestration and grow regional circular economy jobs by scaling council led organics to biochar and circular carbon projects under nationally consistent regulatory, funding and market frameworks aligned with circular economy, climate and waste reduction objectives.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments face rising waste management costs, declining landfill capacity and increasing pressure to reduce emissions while supporting regional economic resilience.

Organic waste remains a major source of landfill methane, particularly in regional and rural areas.

The Australian Biochar Industry 2030 Roadmap provides an evidence-based pathway to convert organic waste into high-value circular carbon products that deliver durable carbon storage, improved soil health and regional employment benefits through controlled thermal processes such as pyrolysis. These processes must be distinguished from incineration-based energy-from-waste, which combusts waste for one-off energy recovery and raises different environmental/community concerns.

The Productivity Commission has identified fragmented regulation and unclear approvals as barriers to scaling circular economy solutions nationally. Commonwealth leadership is required to harmonise regulation, clarify markets and provide confidence in governance settings. Supporting partnerships aligned with Local Government Waste and Recycling Strategies enables emissions reduction and value recovery without prescribing technologies or creating cost-shifting pressures.

Motion Number 144
Nillumbik Shire Council, VIC

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase grant funding and investment of infrastructure to support the delivery of their National Feral Deer Action Plan 2023 which aims to limit the spread of feral deer into new areas and reduce their negative impacts on agriculture, communities and the environment.

OBJECTIVE

A Commonwealth feral deer control grant program would support the delivery of the National Feral Deer Action Plan 2023. Further investment into the infrastructure upgrades and procurement chains could turn feral deer carcases into a commodity with sufficient commercial value to fund widespread control.

Deer are rapidly increasing in population and extent across Australia. Deer destroy ground and mid-story vegetation, habitat for native fauna, saplings and damage mature trees, and damage waterways, causing erosion and reducing water quality. They also cause agricultural, indigenous heritage and road safety impacts.

Intensive and ongoing deer control is necessary to protect Australia's native biodiversity.

KEY ARGUMENTS

There is an opportunity to for the Australian Government to partner with local government to increase on-ground control efforts; and should explore opportunities to make deer control commercially viable and self-sustaining in the long-term.

Motion Number 145
Yarra Ranges Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a local government focused net-zero initiative the supports the transition of petrol-based small plant and equipment to electrically powered products to achieve significant emissions reductions.

OBJECTIVE

Local governments as a national collective offer a strong opportunity for Australia's net-zero transition, with every council delivering daily landscaping, park management and open-space maintenance services that rely heavily on small plant such as mowers, blowers, hedge-trimmers, and related equipment. Transitioning this extensive operational fleet away from petrol-based machinery to electric alternatives presents a high-impact, immediately achievable emissions-reduction opportunity across all 537 Australian councils.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Given the scale of local government operations nationwide, even modest decarbonisation efforts at the council level accumulate into substantial national impact. Based on a single council, electrifying the light plant alone results in a substantial reduction in emissions, producing an estimated 35 CO_2e between 2025 and 2030, compared with 212 CO_2e if it remains fossil-fuel powered. This represents an 83% decrease in projected emissions, demonstrating that electrification offers a significantly cleaner and more sustainable option over the same period. Supporting councils to electrify small plant and equipment directly aligns with the national targets by reducing reliance on fossil fuels, lowering operational emissions, and demonstrating visible leadership in climate action. A dedicated federal fund for electrifying small plant would accelerate this momentum, remove financial barriers, and help councils upgrade equipment fleets at pace, delivering measurable progress toward Australia's national net-zero goals.

Motion Number 146
Noosa Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce a mandatory, nationally consistent requirement for builders and construction companies to separate construction and demolition (C&D) waste at the source, supported by a mandatory product stewardship framework and payments to local governments for residual resource recovery services. This reform would reduce landfill pressures, improve recycling rates, cut illegal dumping and align with national waste and circular economy goals. It would also ensure industry, not councils, bears the cost of C&D waste management, easing the $3.5billion annual burden on local governments.

OBJECTIVE

This motion advances national objectives to reduce waste generation, improve recycling rates and strengthen Australia's circular economy. Waste generation has increased by 20% over the past 15 years, yet Australia remains one of the lowest recyclers in the OECD. Construction waste is a major contributor to landfill volumes and resource loss. A national requirement for source separation, backed by product stewardship obligations, directly supports federal goals to improve resource recovery, reduce harmful contaminants, promote design for recycling, and ensure waste systems are effective in metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments spend $3.5 billion annually collecting, treating and disposing of waste, yet they are not the primary creators of construction waste. Waste generation continues to rise nationally, while Australia lags behind other OECD nations in recycling performance. Mandatory source separation of C&D waste -combined with product stewardship obligations - ensures industry, not councils, bears responsibility for the waste it creates. This approach reduces contamination, increases recycling yield, and lowers illegal dumping and landfill costs borne by councils. A national framework also ensures consistent rules across jurisdictions, supporting efficient industry compliance and enabling better outcomes for regional and remote LGAs. These reforms would strengthen Australia's circular economy, reduce environmental impacts, and relieve significant financial and operational pressures on local governments.

Motion Number 147
Yass Valley Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls for the introduction of a national standard for tree management practices conducted by energy infrastructure maintenance bodies and their contractors.

OBJECTIVE

The standard must mandate a holistic approach to tree management, ensuring community values including shade, heritage, and aesthetic character are protected during power infrastructure maintenance. Infrastructure costs should not be the primary driver.

Maintenance must aim to maintain or extend a tree's lifespan, rather than diminish it. If removal is necessary, the standard should require mandatory consultation with local councils to coordinate appropriate replacements. This ensures environmental amenity and urban canopy goals are upheld alongside essential utility works.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Councils across Australia are reporting ongoing concerns with the approach taken by energy providers and maintenance contractors in pruning and managing trees in the vicinity of their assets. The current relevant standards (AS 4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees and AS 5577: Electricity Network Safety Management System) and guideline (ISSC3: Guide for the Management of Vegetation in the Vicinity of Electricity Assets) are focussed on protecting infrastructure from the impacts of vegetation rather than how the impacts on vegetation can be minimised.

Developing a national standard to ensure an appropriate, consistent and considered approach to vegetation management in proximity to electricity infrastructure will assist in protecting the environment, tree health, community values as well as the amenity of areas impacted.

Motion Number 148
Blue Mountains City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a Circular Economy Acceleration Fund targeted at regional, rural and peri-urban local governments.
2. Provide capital and operational funding for organics processing infrastructure, construction and demolition material recovery, local re-manufacturing and repair hubs, and regional waste aggregation partnerships.
3. Support local government procurement frameworks that prioritise recycled content and circular design.

OBJECTIVE

Waste generation has increased significantly over the past 15 years and landfill capacity is declining. Regional councils face scale and capital barriers to developing local resource recovery infrastructure. Investment in distributed circular economy systems will improve environmental outcomes and create regional employment opportunities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Waste generation has increased significantly over the past 15 years and landfill capacity is declining. Regional councils face scale and capital barriers to developing local resource recovery infrastructure. Investment in distributed circular economy systems will improve environmental outcomes and create regional employment opportunities.

Motion Number 149
Snowy Valleys Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to conduct an inquiry into rooftop solar curtailment powers and the social and financial impacts on local communities.

OBJECTIVE

Rooftop solar powers millions of Australian homes and is central to the energy transition, yet proposed emergency curtailment powers for the Australian Energy Market Operator could allow remote shutdown of household systems during grid instability. This creates significant economic, regulatory, and social impacts, including reduced financial returns for households, lower confidence in renewable investment, and unclear consumer protections. It should be debated at the National General Assembly because councils play a key role in climate planning, community energy programs, and advocacy, and need a unified national policy position to ensure fair consultation, consistent rules, and protections for solar-owning households.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Australian Government has heavily incentivised rooftop solar, encouraging households to invest with expectations of lower energy bills and income from exporting electricity. Solar is installed on about four million homes and businesses and can at times supply more than half of electricity demand across the National Electricity Market, even exceeding demand in some regions. However, as the grid transitions to distributed renewables, high solar exports can reduce system stability traditionally provided by large generators.

To manage this risk, the Australian Energy Market Operator is seeking expanded emergency backstop powers to allow networks to remotely reduce or switch off household solar exports during certain conditions. This raises economic, regulatory, and social concerns, including reduced financial returns for households, weakened confidence in renewable investment, and the need for consistent national policy, meaningful council consultation, and safeguards to ensure solar owners are not financially disadvantaged by grid management actions beyond their control.

Motion Number 150
Brisbane City Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to create a centralised national regulated dog database that records ownership, registration and relevant behavioural or compliance history.

OBJECTIVE

Australia would benefit from a national regulated dog database to support legislative outcomes and improve public safety. A centralised system would enable accurate tracking of regulated dogs and assist in managing dog incidents. The database should also allow local governments to flag non-regulated dogs for if further incidents arise in another jurisdiction.

A unified database would reduce administrative burden, improve service delivery, and generate economic benefits through better resource allocation and industry support. This initiative would strengthen collaboration across all levels of government and provide long-term value to communities nationwide.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Current regulated dog databases are fragmented across State and Territory jurisdictions, creating significant challenges in traceability and enforcement for local governments, particularly when dogs are relocated interstate to avoid regulatory action. Lack of national consistency undermines efforts to manage re-offenders, enforce compliance, and protect community safety.

Establishing a centralised, nationally recognised regulated dog database would:

- Enable uniform enforcement of repeat offences, where dogs are moved to avoid detection.
- Enhance response capabilities to dog-related incidents and emergencies.
- Support targeted education and responsible ownership campaigns in high-risk areas.
- Improve community safety outcomes through better oversight and intervention.
- Provide reliable, comprehensive data to inform policy development and infrastructure planning.
- Deliver economic efficiencies through streamlined administration and improved resource allocation.

There is a clear opportunity for the Australian Government to lead this initiative with State, Territory, and Local Governments, ensuring national consistency and long-term benefits for communities nationwide.

Motion Number 151
City of Canterbury-Bankstown, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish national standards to ensure that local governments have sufficient resources and funding to implement and administer FOGO recycling.

OBJECTIVE

That the Australian Government provide more comprehensive national guidelines to state and local governments with recommendations about the establishment of different FOGO recycling process options and the applications of their respective end products.

That the Australian Standard AS 4454-2012 be strengthened to more effectively safeguard the quality of the various end products manufactured by FOGO recycling processes. The products should be more stringently assessed to guarantee quality and the assurance that the product can be more widely applied.

That the implementation of FOGO recycling and all associated OPEX and CAPEX costs be financed by the Australian Government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

There is a general lack of understanding about the various technologies and decontamination processes for FOGO waste, what products will be eventually generated by these processes, and the value provided by those end products and their applications. FOGO recycling is a free market in Australia and end products may comply with Australian Standard AS 4454-2012, however, that doesn't guarantee consistency and quality. More stringent standards, more expansive resources and additional funding for state and local governments will ensure that the roll-out of FOGO across Australia will be done in a best practice manner and with improved outcomes that contribute towards the circular economy.

Responsibility for dealing with FOGO waste has is left to local government. There is a lack of consistency in the way different states approach the disposal and recycling of this waste. Policies differ by state and guidance provided by the Australian Government to date is insufficient.

Motion Number 152
Noosa Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with local governments and wastewater service providers to reduce microplastics and emerging contaminants in waterways. This should include action to prevent pollution at its source (for example, microfibres from clothing and banned microplastics in products), support for upgrading wastewater treatment systems, consistent national standards and guidance, and a national monitoring and reporting framework to track progress and outcomes, aligned with the National Waste Policy and Action Plan.

OBJECTIVE

To prevent plastic waste and microplastics from entering waterways by addressing pollution both at the source and through improved wastewater treatment. Federal leadership, guidance and investment will support local governments and wastewater service providers, enable consistent standards, strengthen monitoring, and deliver measurable improvements in water quality, ecosystem health and marine protection while advancing Australia's transition to a circular economy.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Microplastics are an increasing environmental and public health concern and are recognised as a priority under the National Waste Policy. Wastewater treatment plants, managed by water service providers in collaboration with local governments, are a major pathway for microplastics entering rivers, estuaries and coastal waters. Many pollutants also originate upstream, including synthetic clothing fibres and products containing microplastics. Local governments and water utilities face significant financial and technical barriers to upgrading plants. National measures such as washing machine microfibre filters and bans on microplastics in products demonstrate that prevention at source is effective. A coordinated national program that combines source reduction, treatment upgrades, funding support for local governments and wastewater providers, consistent standards and a shared monitoring framework will deliver measurable reductions in pollution, improve waterway health, and ensure consistent outcomes across jurisdictions. Federal action is essential to shift from downstream clean-up to prevention at source.

Motion Number 153
Roper Gulf Regional Council, NT

The National General Assembly to Resolve to call upon the Commonwealth Government to review its water planning with the State and Territories, noting with concern, that regional and remote areas across the country face water security issues with minimal local input.

OBJECTIVE

Water Security as a whole is critical to Local Government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

As with most regional and remote areas, residents of localities across Council's area have ongoing concerns about water security and quality, exacerbated by legacy infrastructure that is in a poor state of repair and degrading.

Council is concerned that there is minimal consideration given to the deteriorating water infrastructure and water security, with planning done at the Territory (or State), and Commonwealth levels, with minimal input at the local level – from Local Government, or general community consultation.

Council notes that throughout its region, as well as regional and remote areas in general, water planning and water security is seen by planners as a mere formality (if that), and local concerns are simply dismissed to prioritise the interests of large industries and the larger urban areas.

Motion Number 154
Sunshine Coast Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding to local governments for litter management programs to address the environmental, amenity, and financial impacts of roadside litter by targeting products or services which generate common roadside waste such as plastics, wrappers, cigarettes and vapes.

OBJECTIVE

Effective litter management aligns with national priorities such as environmental sustainability, public health, and community well-being. It supports the circular economy by promoting recycling and waste reduction, reducing the burden on landfills.

Councils, which manage a significant portion of Australia's road network, lack the necessary resources to address this issue adequately. Increased funding and support are essential to councils to implement effective roadside litter management programs, ensuring cleaner, safer, more attractive communities nationwide.

By addressing roadside litter as a national priority, the Australian Government can enhance environmental protection, boost local economies, and improve the quality of life for all Australians.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The ongoing costs of managing litter poses a significant and continuous impact on local governments. Providing financial support to local governments to address roadside litter can improve environmental and community outcomes.

The costs of proactively managing litter along roadsides, in addition to current local programs, are cost and resource prohibitive.

The impacts of items made of plastic and cigarette butts are well understood, with the materials taking tens to hundreds of years to degrade, being ingested by wildlife or marine life, affecting the overall health of environments which fall under the responsibility of local government.

Enabling local governments to address litter consistently addresses environmental impacts while encouraging the community to change their behaviours by creating a sense of community pride and social expectation.

Funding for litter programs could be provided by targeting products or services which generate common roadside waste such as plastics, wrappers, cigarettes and vapes.

Motion Number 155
Campbelltown City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

- Investigate the social, environmental and economic impact of light pollution in Australia.
- Establish a national light pollution reduction policy which addresses artificial light at night (ALAN).
- Encourage all local councils to investigate what steps they can take to reduce light pollution within their own LGAs.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this motion is to establish a coordinated national approach to reducing light pollution across Australia. By investigating the social, environmental and economic impacts of artificial light at night (ALAN), the Australian Government can develop evidence-based policies that protect ecosystems, improve community wellbeing, and reduce energy waste. A national light pollution reduction policy will provide consistent standards and guidance for all jurisdictions. Local government also has a role in examining mitigation measures within their own local government areas.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Artificial light at night provides important benefits for safety, recreation and economic activity. However, there is increasing recognition that poorly managed or excessive lighting can result in a range of unintended consequences.

Research has identified links between light pollution and negative impacts on human health, disruption of ecological systems, and loss of natural night sky visibility.

Light pollution also contributes to unnecessary energy consumption, with associated financial and environmental costs.

There is currently no national policy that addresses reducing light pollution including, lighting standards, shielding requirements, permitted light spectrum or limits on light intensity. Establishing a consistent national framework would assist councils, businesses and communities to balance the benefits of artificial lighting with the need to reduce adverse impacts.

Local government also has a role in examining measures within their own local government areas, such as reviewing planning controls, street lighting practices and community awareness, to help minimise light pollution.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Motion Number 156 | Stragetic Motion
South Burnett Regional Council, QLD | Snowy Valleys Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to undertake a national inquiry into the affordability, availability and practices of insurance markets, including public liability insurance, to assess impacts on communities, small businesses and local economies, ensure pricing and coverage arrangements are fair and proportionate to risk, and identify any consumer protection concerns.

Motion Number 157
City of Melbourne, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government's Productivity Commission to investigate the current and future productivity of Australia's major economic activity centres, capital cities and regional communities, and their competitiveness compared to global peers. Specifically, this should include the efficiency and appropriateness of current finance and governance arrangements as it relates to infrastructure and service delivery.

OBJECTIVE

This is a national issue because:

- The productivity of Australia's major economic centres, capital cities and regional communities underpins national prosperity, social equity, and long term sustainability.
- Economic growth and innovation are increasingly concentrated in key activity centres that connect people, industries and global markets.
- Nearly 90 per cent of Australia's GDP is produced in capital cities, but regional communities also contribute critical resources and emerging industries essential to national resilience.
- Current funding and governance arrangements may limit both urban and regional areas from achieving full economic potential due to fragmented responsibilities and inconsistent infrastructure investment.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Productivity Commission has an opportunity to examine the productivity performance, competitiveness and governance frameworks of Australia's major economic centres, capital cities and regional communities.

The Commission could assess:

- Efficiency and equity of finance and governance arrangements for infrastructure and service delivery
- Benefits of stronger metropolitan and regional planning coordination
- Opportunities for increased economic competitiveness and innovation across regions
- Improved transparency and accountability in infrastructure funding processes
- Models of integrated governance, including metropolitan or regional authorities managing cross jurisdictional services
- Strategies to enhance productivity through alignment of transport, housing, population and economic policy.

A review may identify inefficiencies that impact infrastructure priorities, productivity growth, and regional disparities in access to services and jobs.

Australia's network of economic activity centres, from major cities to regional hubs, forms the backbone of the national economy. A comprehensive review would deliver evidence based reforms to strengthen Australia's competitiveness.

Motion Number 158
Mid Coast Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase financial assistance to Australian pensioners.

OBJECTIVE

Australian pensioners are continuing to have their rates, fees and charges increased to cover cost shifting to local Councils without any financial assistance in their pensions to absorb these increases.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Noting that:

- a significant component of the cost of living in Australia comes from the property rates, fees and charges levied by Australian Councils
- Australian pension rates have not increased for a long time
- many LGAs, particularly those with low average incomes and low SIEFA scores, have relatively high percentages of residents on Government pensions
- with relentless (and increasing) cost shifting from State and Federal government to local Councils, many Councils have no options available except increasing their rates and fees and charges

Motion Number 159
Shire of Dundas, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reform the Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) regime to expand housing, relocation and travel concessions for workers in regional, rural and remote Australia, modernise outdated “remote area” definitions, and introduce equitable incentives that support permanent regional residency, workforce attraction, housing uptake and national decentralisation objectives.

OBJECTIVE

Workforce shortages, housing pressures and population imbalance between capital cities and regional Australia are national economic challenges. Current FBT settings unintentionally incentivise FIFO and metropolitan concentration rather than permanent regional settlement. Reforming FBT is a federal taxation matter requiring legislative change and has implications for productivity, housing affordability, infrastructure demand and decentralisation across all states and territories. As these impacts extend beyond individual councils and affect national workforce distribution and economic resilience, the issue is appropriately debated at the NGA.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Regional councils face chronic workforce shortages and severe housing constraints while relying heavily on FIFO models. Under current FBT rules, employer-provided housing concessions apply only to narrowly defined “remote” areas based on outdated population thresholds. Many regional centres experiencing housing stress and workforce shortages do not qualify. This discourages permanent relocation, concentrates housing demand in capital cities and undermines decentralisation policy. Expanding and modernising FBT concessions would incentivise long-term regional residency, strengthen local economies, support housing supply, improve productivity and reduce infrastructure pressure in metropolitan areas. FBT reform is a structural policy lever that aligns taxation settings with contemporary regional development and national housing objectives.

Motion Number 160
Scenic Rim Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider a percentage of Gross Regional Product collected as tax revenue from tourism industries to be distributed back to Local Government for the purposes of addressing asset management and maintenance impacted by tourist populations.

OBJECTIVE

Changes to the methodology for the calculation of the Financial Assistance Grants have been made that do not necessarily reflect this issue in the general calculation as it was done historically. Where significant tourist visitations impact local communities the assets needed do not always reflect the usage of service. Where a public amenities facility normally services a local population, this can be maintained, but when significant tourist visitations are added each day, the facility is not adequate to service that increased population, e.g. tour buses. This needs to be recognised that local impacts are currently carried by local communities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

In areas impacted by significant numbers of daily tourists, there are flow on effects that impact local infrastructure, which are not necessarily built to accommodate the tourist population but only the resident and local community. An example exists with local public amenities, which may service a local population in the hundreds of people daily but due to tourist visitation are servicing thousands of people instead.

One of impacts in this instance is additional cleaning and maintenance of the assets which is a cost covered by the local community. This is not reflected as a consideration in known grant funding to local government. The motion seeks to create a funding mechanism for local communities to recover the additional costs of infrastructure maintenance. This additional asset cost is passed onto ratepayers at present, where tax collected from tourism related activities could be apportioned to maintaining assets and ensuring tourism supports local communities.

Motion Number 161
Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to work with states and territories to reduce financial barriers and provide incentives to downsizing for older Australians. This may be achieved through measures such as targeted grants, tax incentives, or inclusion in the National Housing Accord, to improve housing availability for families and support downsizers to age in place. This includes undertaking a national review of financial barriers to housing mobility.

OBJECTIVE

Downsizing for older Australians is an issue that requires federal leadership and coordination. Housing supply and affordability are national priorities, and the Federal Government can provide incentives (eg. grants, tax offsets, moving cost subsidies) and integrate downsizing into housing and ageing policy frameworks. Collaboration with states and territories is essential to address stamp duty and other costs.

KEY ARGUMENTS

High transaction costs, such as stamp duty, moving expenses and bank fees are major barriers preventing older Australians from downsizing. This locks up larger homes that could meet the needs of growing families and limits housing supply. Addressing these barriers is critical to achieving the National Housing Accord's goals of affordability and improving housing supply. Targeted incentives, including grants, tax relief, streamlined processes and support for suitable housing options, would unlock underutilised stock, reduce cost-of-living pressures, and improve seniors' quality of life. Federal leadership ensures consistency across jurisdictions and amplifies state reforms, delivering social and economic benefits while aligning with national ageing strategies. Downsizing incentives are not just a housing measure, they are a strategic lever to improve equity, efficiency, and sustainability in Australia's housing system.

Motion Number 162
Baw Baw Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a funding stream to support local councils who are experiencing or preparing for significant growth due to government policy such as housing targets, in order to facilitate strategic planning and preparedness for the implications of rapid population growth.

OBJECTIVE

In addressing the fact that the costs associated with rapid growth brought about by government policies disproportionately falls on the local councils experiencing or set to experience this growth, this proposal covers the NGA 2026 key issues of Financial Sustainability, Housing and Planning, Roads and Infrastructure, Environment, and Climate Change. It also supports ALGA's proposal for new untied funding streams, particularly those for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply and for community infrastructure, and directly ties into federal government targets around housing supply, infrastructure, and the environment.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Over the past few decades, federal and state governments have been steadily shifting costs onto local councils, negatively impacting councils' financial sustainability. This cost shifting is especially apparent in the costs to high growth councils to plan and deliver the infrastructure required to support federal government housing and population targets, and to all councils to meet government environment and climate change targets, without adequate financial support from the federal government.

Insufficient funding has already led to a significant number of councils reducing or delaying infrastructure development and renewal as they struggle to balance budgets and cover the costs of other government policies, such as emissions reduction and waste management. Councils have the most limited funding pool of all levels of government and require additional financial support from federal government to adequately support government's policies and targets, and to plan and deliver suitable services and infrastructure for their populations.

HOUSING AND PLANNING

Motion Number 163 | Strategic Motion
Penrith City Council, NSW | Mosman Council, NSW | Woollahra Municipal Council, NSW | North Sydney Council, NSW

his National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure that decisions on the divestment, disposal or reuse of Defence Estate land are guided by a national framework, that includes a transparent and place-based approach, developed in genuine partnership with Local Governments and communities, that balances national interests with public benefit and delivers enduring environmental, heritage, social and economic outcomes.

Motion Number 164 | Strategic Motion
Port Phillip City Council, VIC | Glen Innes Severn Council, NSW | Hume City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in partnership with Local Government, to deliver a nationally coordinated, place-based investment framework that delivers outcomes for communities including housing delivery, sustainable renewal, regional jobs and local economic development.

Motion Number 165 | Strategic Motion
City of Greater Dandenong, VIC | Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to modernise and strengthen the National Construction Code, in partnership with State and Local Governments, to support the timely delivery of safe, inclusive, affordable and diverse housing, including enabling innovative construction methods and consistent adoption of minimum liveable housing design standards across all jurisdictions.

Motion Number 166 | Strategic Motion
Glen Eira City Council, VIC | City of Greater Dandenong, VIC | Port Phillip City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide sustained, new investment through a nationally coordinated framework that strengthens community-led, place-based responses to prevent and reduce homelessness. This includes funding for early intervention, assertive outreach, local coordination and crisis resilience infrastructure, to support councils and community organisations to respond effectively to rising housing stress and homelessness.

Motion Number 167 | Strategic Motion
Walgett Shire Council, NSW | City of Greater Dandenong, VIC | Mount Alexander Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide national co-ordinated funding for Local Government that supports the delivery of social and affordable housing and its enabling infrastructure, particularly in rural, remote and high-need communities, through place-based approaches that respond to local housing shortages, overcrowding and infrastructure constraints.

Motion Number 168
City of Stirling, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ESTABLISH and MAINTAIN a dedicated Local Government Land Asset Strategy Funding Program and with it a clear framework for the management, development, retention, disposal or acquisition of real property.

OBJECTIVE

Local Government land assets and their underlying value and revenue opportunity have the unique ability to deliver economic and financial sustainability, whilst assisting in the national housing targets, affordability and supply models. With increasing pressure on budgets and the need for Local Governments to reduce reliance on rates, and to deliver long term financially sustainable plans, there is a need to unlock overlooked land assets.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local Governments own or manage potentially one of the largest land asset portfolios across government agencies, yet many may not be leveraging the strategic revenue potential of this asset class.

While most asset classes are provided resources to strategically plan, manage and deliver on a range of outcomes, land is often overlooked, despite its significant underlying value and capacity to generate ongoing income. As rates become increasingly constrained, land presents one of the strongest opportunities for new, sustainable revenue streams.

A dedicated funding program would support Local Governments to assess their owned or managed land assets and identify alternative revenue opportunities, improving financial sustainability and reducing reliance on rates.

Such a program would generate inter-generational income through ongoing returns and capital growth. It would also contribute to the nation’s productivity agenda, unlock land for housing and assist in creating thriving communities.

Motion Number 169
Scenic Rim Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce a national framework to support local communities to manage the impact of short-term accommodation (e.g. Air BNB) on local communities in the context of growing housing pressures.

OBJECTIVE

In Queensland the proliferation of Short-Term Accommodation providers continues to place increased pressure on local communities, through impacts on service delivery by additional visitation or in managing nuisance complaints through regulatory staff, placing additional impacts on local communities, who in turn are funding these impacts through increased rates and charges. Councils are looking to manage local solutions but there is no consistent framework or approach, and the additional expense is not easily offset, so Council is often out of pocket. With housing and homelessness, a growing issue in local communities, more needs to be done to address housing stock.

KEY ARGUMENTS

In growth areas and those impacted by tourists and visitors, any accommodation either short term or long term is being impacted where housing is not available.

Potentially one of the un-intended consequences is creating an impact on housing supply where these properties are also being taken from the rental market, reducing supply and continuing the pressure on local housing solutions, especially when trying to address accommodation for employees who move into the region for employment. In rural and regional areas, the impact is also being realised when attracting new employees to a region, there is often nowhere for them to live and on occasions those employees end up withdrawing and the organisation and region is suffering as a result.

Motion Number 170
Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide national leadership to support the use of “tiny homes” and other small, affordable dwellings by working with state and territory governments to address planning, regulatory and policy barriers that currently limit their approval and deployment. (NCC)

OBJECTIVE

To expand affordable housing options across Australia by enabling greater use of “tiny homes” and smaller dwellings through coordinated national leadership and intergovernmental action.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia is experiencing a nationwide housing crisis affecting metropolitan, regional and remote communities. “Tiny homes” and other small, lower-cost dwellings offer a practical and flexible housing option that can support affordability, ageing in place, workforce accommodation and rapid housing delivery. However, inconsistent and restrictive planning and regulatory frameworks across states and territories make it difficult for councils and communities to approve and implement “tiny home” solutions. While planning is primarily a state government responsibility, Federal leadership is needed to drive national coordination, share best practice and encourage reform across jurisdictions. A nationally supported approach would help unlock smaller and more affordable housing options without undermining local planning controls, and support broader housing supply and affordability objectives.

Motion Number 171
City of Greater Dandenong, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with state, territory and local governments to establish a nationally consistent and enforceable definition of “social housing” and “affordable housing” to be applied across legislation, planning schemes, funding programs, and reporting frameworks.

A national definition should reflect income based affordability, community need, and eligibility criteria, and be aligned with the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness.

Consistent definitions will strengthen accountability, improve measurement of housing targets, reduce confusion across jurisdictions, and support more effective planning and delivery of non-market housing.

OBJECTIVE

This motion supports the NGA priority area of Housing and Planning by addressing the lack of nationally consistent definitions for social housing and affordable housing across planning, funding and reporting systems.

These housing types are distinct yet defined differently across states, creating confusion and inconsistent application. National research identifies this variation as a barrier to coordinated policy and investment.

While the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness defines social housing, it does not define affordable housing or provide a national planning definition. A unified national approach is needed to support clarity, targets and consistent reporting.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Definitions of social housing and affordable housing vary widely across Australian states and territories, creating confusion for councils, developers and community housing providers, and undermining consistent planning, delivery and reporting.
Social housing and affordable housing are distinct forms of non-market housing with different eligibility rules, rent setting methods and delivery mechanisms, yet the terms are often used inconsistently across jurisdictions.
While the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness provides a definition of social housing for funding and outcomes reporting, it does not define affordable housing, nor does it establish a nationally consistent planning definition that can be applied across development, infrastructure contributions or local housing strategies.
A national definition would therefore clarify planning integration, management and governance standards, and eligibility and allocation criteria. A unified national approach would strengthen accountability, provide planning clarity and measurable housing outcomes.

Motion Number 172
City of Karratha, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to require that major projects of national significance subject to Commonwealth approval, funding or facilitation include a Housing and Community Impact Assessment, including cumulative impacts from concurrent projects, and that Commonwealth decisions be supported by a deliverable plan to address identified housing and essential community infrastructure pressures.

OBJECTIVE

To embed place-based housing and community planning within Commonwealth project approval and funding processes, ensuring nationally significant projects support productivity and economic growth without exacerbating local housing shortages, infrastructure gaps, and workforce constraints.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia's housing supply challenge is well documented, with enabling infrastructure funding gaps constraining new development. Councils are central to zoning, approvals and infrastructure delivery, yet major nationally significant projects can generate sudden workforce demand that places acute pressure on local housing markets and community services.

When multiple large projects occur concurrently, cumulative impacts can significantly affect rental affordability, essential worker availability, transport networks and community infrastructure — particularly in regional and growth areas.

Current Commonwealth approval and funding frameworks do not consistently require formal housing and community impact planning.

Embedding Housing and Community Impact Assessments within national project decision-making would strengthen intergovernmental coordination, improve project sequencing, and reduce unintended social and economic disruption. This approach ensures national productivity initiatives are supported by sustainable local foundations, aligning economic growth with community resilience.

Motion Number 173
Logan City Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a fund in collaboration with local governments to invest in night-economy placemaking initiatives. This will support suburban and regional night-life precincts to drive economic growth and improve community safety.

OBJECTIVE

Activating night-time economies in suburban and regional centres strengthens Australia's overall economic performance by supporting local businesses, creating new jobs and improving safety. With most Australians living outside CBDs, Australian Government investment in targeted night economy placemaking ensures that all suburban and regional centres can benefit from vibrant, well-connected evening precincts.

In 2025, research by the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors revealed that Australia had 133,680 nighttime businesses, employing over 1.1 million people, supported by an annual sales turnover of $188 billion. Benefits are concentrated in capital cities however demand is growing in outlying metropolitan areas.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Community engagement consistently shows that residents want access to more night time economy activities, including night markets, restaurants, retail, events, festivals, movies and family-friendly activities. Vibrant and well-designed night-time destinations attract greater private investment, including short term accommodation and entertainment offerings.

Investment in placemaking supports job growth across hospitality, tourism, creative industries, transport, security, cleaning and small business. Precincts designed for people of all ages and abilities create safer, more connected communities and improve perceptions of public safety.

By activating evening economies in centres, precincts and regional towns, workers engaged in a 24-hour economy gain access to services and safe places to gather before or after shifts. Successful, well-used public places and streets generate foot traffic and spending at local businesses, while strengthening the case for more frequent evening public transport.

Motion Number 174
Yarra Ranges Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly urges the ALGA to facilitate a national conversation about policy change that delivers flexible housing options for older Australians that offer choice, dignity and community-enabled solutions.

OBJECTIVE

Australia's ageing population is growing rapidly, and the current aged care and private housing are struggling to provide older people with options that are affordable, flexible, and aligned with their desire to age in place. Local governments increasingly observe that older residents seek housing models that offer independence, dignity, and community connection, while avoiding the institutional feel, regulatory complexity or financial penalties associated with traditional aged care pathways. This resolution seeks to ensure older Australians can access innovative housing options that reflect their needs, while empowering councils to help deliver communities where people can age well.

KEY ARGUMENTS

A coordinated national conversation, led through ALGA, would help bring together local government experience, community expectations, and federal, state and policy settings. Such a discussion is essential to identify practical reforms that enable flexible aged care housing models without compromising safety, amenity, or financial fairness. By facilitating this work, ALGA can amplify the role of councils as key place-shapers and advocates for ageing that is dignified, connected, and supported through choice. Existing policy and regulatory settings often restrict innovative housing solutions. Converting large family homes into duplexes or small multiunit dwellings can support ageing in place, create more diverse housing stock, and help older adults remain embedded within their communities. Yet planning frameworks, building classifications and inconsistent state regulations can pose barriers or create prohibitive costs. Current policies and regulatory limitations can result in shared living arrangements receiving classification as rooming houses or triggering negative tax implications, disincentivising uptake.

Motion Number 175
City of Canterbury-Bankstown, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a national register of vacant social (public, community and Aboriginal) housing and surplus (state and federal) government land and property for the purpose of policy solutions to the national housing and homelessness crisis.

OBJECTIVE

That the Australian Government establish a national register of vacant social housing and surplus government land and property to inform united policy responses and place-based solutions to the growing problem of homelessness and the lack of affordable and social housing.

That all tiers of government partner to develop policy responses to undesirable outcomes like vacant housing, surplus government land and property, and 'land banking,' amidst a national housing and homelessness crisis. By identifying unoccupied social housing and surplus government land and property, united policy responses and local place-based solutions to the national housing and homelessness crisis can be developed.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Growing homelessness rates, the shortage of social and affordable housing, and the cost-of-living crisis require urgent united action by all tiers of government. The local government sector's capacity to develop and implement place-based solutions to homelessness must be informed by a united and fully-funded national approach to housing, homelessness and planning priorities.

The Australian Government should call on all tiers of government to release details of all vacant and underutilised social housing and surplus government land and property to assist in creating place-based solutions to the national housing and homelessness crisis.

A national register of unoccupied and underutilised social housing and surplus government land and property could assist in boosting Australia's housing supply. It could help prioritise the funding, planning and release of more social and affordable housing, and help expedite place-based solutions to address the homelessness crisis.

Motion Number 176
City of Perth, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Extend mandates under the Commercial Building Disclosure program to residential apartment buildings, making NABERS ratings mandatory for apartment buildings in a manner similar to requirements for commercial properties.
2. Support widespread uptake and reduce barriers for building owners and managers, direct NABERS to waive all submission and assessment fees for apartment building ratings for the next five years.
3. Amend relevant legislation to require NABERS ratings to be disclosed in all rental and sale advertisements for apartments, ensuring prospective tenants and buyers have access to transparent energy efficiency information.

OBJECTIVE

Under the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010, the Commercial Building Disclosure program mandates NABERS energy ratings for commercial office buildings over 1,000 square metres when sold or leased. A proven framework for assessing and improving a building's environmental performance, NABERS ratings target shared services and common areas (e.g., lifts, lobbies, pools, lighting), which can constitute up to 60% of a building's total energy consumption.

Mandating ratings and disclosure requirements in rental and sale advertisements will enhance transparency, incentivise efficiency upgrades and reduce energy costs for residents/tenants, aligning with Australia's sustainability agenda to advance net-zero emissions in the built environment.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The environmental, economic and social benefits of extending mandatory NABERS ratings include:
Establishing baselines for resource usage in apartment buildings providing a benchmark for continuous performance monitoring, facilitating targeted resource reduction strategies and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
Reducing inefficiencies in common areas by up 30-42% where utilities often consume 25% of costs. Waiving of fees enabling immediate cost-effective upgrades (LED lighting, automated systems) based on data collected. Alleviating cost-of-living pressures by reducing shared utility costs passed onto households. Enhancing property appeal and value.
Empowering individuals to make informed choices and to choose energy-efficient homes, lowering personal energy costs and enhancing living standards. Creating a sense of community pride in sustainable living and fostering environmental stewardship.
Local governments' role is: coordinating federal mandates with community needs through their service delivery and providing localised support such as workshops, coordinating fee-waiver period subsidies, data-sharing platforms to track progress and delivering community education campaigns.

Motion Number 177
City of Greater Dandenong, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with state and territory governments to exempt council owned land from increased tax liabilities when rezoning is undertaken to deliver social or affordable housing.

Although Windfall Gains Tax (WGT) is Victorian a state based mechanism, other tax liabilities also occur in other states and territories, and their application to council land creates a major financial barrier to unlocking public land for community benefit.

A federal-state coordinated exemption would remove this disincentive, support councils to activate strategically located land, accelerate social housing delivery and contribute to national housing supply targets.

OBJECTIVE

This motion supports the NGA priority area of Housing and Planning by addressing a structural barrier that prevents councils from contributing to national housing supply. WGT and other state and territory mechanisms are state taxes; their application to council-initiated rezonings undermines national objectives under the National Housing Accord, which depend on councils unlocking land to increase supply. The ALGA Discussion Paper highlights the need for coordinated federal–state–local reforms to accelerate housing delivery and remove barriers to supply. A federal framework encouraging state exemptions for social housing rezonings would enable councils to activate public land and support national housing more effectively.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The impacts of increased tax liabilities on councils undermine national housing objectives by restricting councils' ability to activate land needed to meet Australia’s housing supply targets. A federal-state coordinated exemption for council initiated social or affordable housing rezonings would remove this barrier and support the delivery of more housing nationally.

In Victoria, the WGT imposes substantial costs on land that is rezoned, applying a rate of 62.5% on uplift between $100,000 and $499,999, and 50% on uplift above $500,000, creating significant liabilities that can reach into the millions for councils seeking to rezone public land for housing.

As rezoning is a key mechanism for unlocking land supply, these costs deter councils from repurposing strategically located sites for social housing. Industry assessments warn that the WGT, and similar taxes, may reduce housing supply, as developers avoid affected projects or pass on higher costs, worsening affordability and delaying development outcomes.

Motion Number 178
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the release of additional titled, freehold residential lots and the expansion of regional townsite boundaries to enable continued population growth, and to provide increased funding for essential infrastructure required to facilitate new housing development.

OBJECTIVE

Australia is experiencing housing supply pressures, with regional centres playing a critical role in supporting national population distribution, workforce accommodation, and productivity.

In regional resource and service hub cities, population growth is closely linked to priorities, including critical minerals production, construction, health services, logistics, and emerging clean energy industries. These sectors rely on a stable workforce, which relies on access to diverse and affordable housing.

Increased Commonwealth support for land supply, planning reform, and enabling infrastructure would support a national approach to housing delivery, recognising the role of local governments in delivering place-based solutions and supporting population growth across Australia.

KEY ARGUMENTS

National housing policies increasingly recognise the need to accelerate housing delivery; however, a barrier remains in many regional areas – limited availability of serviced, titled residential land and constraints created by historical townsite boundaries established under earlier growth patterns, which now limit regional centres' ability to respond to current housing and workforce demand.

Local governments play a central role in zoning, approvals, and delivery of enabling infrastructure required to support new housing. However, a barrier to increasing supply nationally is the funding gap for enabling infrastructure, including roads, power, water and wastewater, required to unlock residential development.

National housing supply targets are ambitious and require enabling infrastructure investment. Without targeted Commonwealth investment and coordinated policy settings supporting regional land supply and enabling infrastructure delivery, local governments face barriers in bringing development-ready land to market, constraining housing availability, increasing costs, and limiting regional centres' ability to support workforce and productivity outcomes.

Motion Number 179
Maribyrnong City Council, VIC

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to renew ageing social housing stock through the development of a Retrofit Program by:

- Funding a targeted of housing retention and renewal through a second round of the $2 Billion Social Housing Accelerator funding to States and Territories;
- Focussing on retrofit and refurbishment of older public housing dwellings; and
- Driving innovation and value for money by investing in Modern Methods of Construction.

OBJECTIVE

This motion supports the Australian Government to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 as well as increase the liveability of social housing by extending the life of the social housing stock with a targeted program of retrofit and refurbishment, which contributes to the circular economy.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Decades of underfunding of maintenance and renovation by states and territories has left many social housing residents living in substandard and unhealthy homes.

The majority of the existing 452,000 social homes in Australia are more than 30 years old, and a great number of those built between the late 1940' and 1970s.

An Australian Institute Health and Welfare national survey found four in ten public housing residents dissatisfied with the maintenance of their home, with satisfaction dipping towards half of residents in Victoria and New South Wales which have the highest proportion of older dwellings [1]. *[1] AIHW National Housing Survey 2023*

Extending the life of existing stock acknowledges the embodied carbon in the asset and mitigates the carbon costs of demolition and rebuilding.

Motion Number 180
Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to provide dedicated financial assistance ensuring rural, regional, and remote councils can access, maintain, and effectively utilise modern mapping software and spatial technology consistent with national geospatial data standards.

OBJECTIVE

To secure federal support that enables councils, especially those with limited digital capability, to access contemporary mapping systems required for land-use planning, infrastructure management, emergency preparedness, and compliance with national hazard and spatial data frameworks.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Australian Government is the primary custodian of the nation's geospatial infrastructure. Councils are expected to use these systems for planning, risk assessment, emergency management, and infrastructure delivery, yet many rural and remote councils lack the resources to maintain compatible mapping software or access modern spatial technology. This creates a capability gap that undermines national consistency and limits the effective use of federally funded datasets. By providing financial assistance for mapping tools, licensing, training, and system upgrades, the Commonwealth can ensure all councils, regardless of size or location, can meet national standards, support disaster resilience, and improve service delivery. Strengthening spatial capability in regional Australia enhances productivity, improves public safety, and supports evidence-based decision-making across all levels of government.

Motion Number 181
City of Casey, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to have a greater presence in leading discussions with States and Territories to deliver planning controls that require earlier delivery of cellular telecommunications infrastructure in new residential and commercial estates, particularly in Australia's growth areas.

OBJECTIVE

Digital connectivity underpins productivity, education, health, public safety and economic participation. Rapidly growing communities—particularly on metropolitan fringes—often experience delayed mobile coverage and blackspots, constraining small business growth, remote work and access to essential services. Telecommunications policy, spectrum allocation and major funding programs sit primarily within Commonwealth responsibility. Without coordinated federal planning settings and funding mechanisms, infrastructure lags population growth. Raising this with the Federal Government is essential to align national telecommunications policy with housing supply, resilience, and economic development objectives.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The City of Casey has a growing number of residents living in mobile blackspots. This is primarily due to the lack of cellular telecommunications infrastructure in our growth areas.

The City of Casey believes cellular telecommunication networks and infrastructure should be an 'essential service' in line with existing telecommunications provisions and other services like water and energy etc, for all States and Territories.

Council applauds the Federal Government's most recent version of the TIND policy but believe further action can be taken to encourage guaranteed minimum standards.

Federal Government can lead the discussion with States and Territories to deliver planning controls that require earlier delivery of cellular telecommunications infrastructure in new residential and commercial estates, particularly in Australia's growth areas.

Motion Number 182
Narrabri Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to increase dedicated and broaden ongoing financial assistance to local governments to unlock rural and regional housing supply and support the activation of major strategic precincts. This should include funding for enabling infrastructure design, investigations, and upgrades, such as water, sewer, and road networks, required to service new subdivisions, as well as co-contribution programs that stimulate private development and targeted support for bringing infrastructure-ready projects to market.

OBJECTIVE

To secure a sustained national funding mechanism that supports councils to deliver the essential infrastructure required to expand housing supply, catalyse private investment, and accelerate the development.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Regional councils face significant barriers to unlocking new housing due to ageing infrastructure, high development costs, and low rates of return that deter private investment. Without financial support, essential upgrades to water, sewer, and road networks often exceed the capacity of rural councils, delaying or preventing subdivision and housing development. A dedicated funding program would enable councils to service new land, attract developers through co-contribution incentives, and meet growing demand for affordable, diverse accommodation.

Additionally, major national initiatives, eg. Inland Rail, require infrastructure-ready land to deliver their promised economic and employment benefits. Targeted Commonwealth funding will accelerate these projects, strengthen regional economies, and ensure that government investments in freight, logistics, and industry are fully realised at the local level.

Motion Number 183 Horsham Rural City Council, VIC

That National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address housing impacts in regional and rural communities arising from mining, renewable energy and infrastructure projects by:

1. Providing targeted funding for key worker accommodation in areas facing housing pressure;
2. Supporting flexible, place-based housing solutions to meet construction workforce demand without displacing residents;
3. Working with local governments to prioritise key workers who are often priced out of housing markets;
4. Ensuring national programs recognise the cumulative impacts of multiple major projects; and
5. Strengthening collaboration with LG and project proponents to address workforce accommodation as part of nationally significant projects.

OBJECTIVE

Mining, renewable energy and infrastructure projects are nationally significant priorities supporting energy transition, economic growth and productivity. Workforce accommodation demands are often generated by Commonwealth policy settings and investment decisions, but the impacts are felt locally. Existing national housing and workforce programs do not always account for short-term workforce spikes or cumulative impacts in small housing markets. Without intervention, housing pressure can undermine the delivery of nationally significant projects and essential community services.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Regional and rural communities hosting large-scale mining, renewable energy and major infrastructure projects are experiencing significant pressure on local housing markets. Short-term construction workforces and ongoing operational staff are competing for limited housing supply, often pricing key workers out of local rental markets.

Local governments are then left managing workforce shortages in essential services, despite having limited control over project delivery or housing markets.

This motion does not oppose mining, renewable energy or infrastructure development. Instead, it calls for better alignment between project delivery, workforce needs and housing supply.

Councils are seeking:

- Targeted funding and support for key worker accommodation in regional and rural areas
- Flexible, place-based solutions, including temporary and modular housing to manage construction-phase demand
- Recognition of cumulative impacts, where multiple large-scale projects occur
- Stronger collaboration between the Australian Government, local governments and project proponents to plan workforce accommodation early

Motion Number 184
Central Coast Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to introduce a system to incentivise retirees (with the appropriate safeguards) to rent out vacant rooms in their family home to alleviate the existing rental crisis.

OBJECTIVE

This initiative is intended to increase the volume of suitable rental accommodations across the country, thereby reducing the issue of rental housing shortages and affordability.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Such incentives for example could include exemption of rental income from income tax and pension allowable income and exemption from capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the rental of the family home.

The family home is exempt from capital gains tax this exemption is lost if it's part rented. The rental income received is assessable income and subject to tax and with pensioners will reduce or eliminate their pension.

Accordingly the financial impacts make renting out of a room in the family home unviable removing these impacts for say 1 room for homes owned by retirees and pensioners would do a lot to alleviate the housing and rental crisis with around 200,000 rooms becoming available if just 1 % of housing stock took up the opportunity.

Putting more people into existing housing supports existing communities, more customers for the local businesses and reduces the demand for new infrastructure.

Motion Number 185
Town of Cambridge, WA

That ALGA calls on the Commonwealth Government to:

a) Explicitly recognise local governments as strategic planning authorities within national housing and urban policy frameworks, including in the implementation of the National Housing Accord;
b) Through the portfolio of the Minister for Cities, strengthen national urban policy settings to reflect the legislative responsibilities of local governments in land use planning; and
c) Embed structured and ongoing engagement with local governments within the governance architecture of national housing supply initiatives.

OBJECTIVE

Where national housing targets are implemented without clear recognition of local strategic planning frameworks, community trust in the planning system may be diminished. This risks undermining support for national reform and diminishing confidence in the integrity of Australia's planning system.

Strengthening the formal recognition of local governments within national urban and housing policy would support clearer alignment between national housing objectives and local adopted planning frameworks, and help maintain public confidence in Australia's planning system.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Commonwealth's 2024 National Urban Policy outlines a vision for productive, liveable and sustainable cities, supported by increased housing supply under the National Housing Accord. While local governments are acknowledged as partners in housing delivery, their role as planning authorities is not strongly embedded within national policy settings.

Across Australia local governments are responsible for preparing and implementing local planning schemes, strategic plans and long-term land use frameworks under State legislation. These are developed through extensive community consultation and legislative processes and form the foundation of Australia's planning system.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Motion Number 186 | Strategic Motion
Waverley Council, NSW | Port Phillip City Council, VIC | City of Melbourne, VIC | Glen Eira City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead the development and funding of a national co-ordinated framework including education and partnerships to combat antisemitism and all forms of racism, hatred and bigotry and to strengthen social cohesion. This should be done in partnership with Local Government recognising Local Governments' role in fostering safe, inclusive and connected communities.

Motion Number 187
City of Joondalup, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. ACKNOWLEDGE the increasing vulnerability of local government Elected Members to online bullying, harassment, intimidation, and reputational harm, and associated psychosocial safety risks under the Work Health and Safety Act 2020, particularly where harmful conduct occurs through social media and digital platforms;
2. RECOGNISE that unlike State and Federal Parliamentarians, local government Elected Members do not benefit from absolute parliamentary privilege and only hold limited qualified privilege in the chamber when debating agenda matters. This leaves Elected Members vulnerable to significant personal legal and reputational risk when responding to misinformation, harassment or defamatory claims made outside formal Council proceedings;
3. PROVIDE strengthened legal and procedural guidance for elected members responding to targeted misinformation, digital disinformation, or online harassment arising from the performance of their role.

OBJECTIVE

The City of Joondalup Council has considered and endorsed key principles relating to the safety, integrity and wellbeing of local government elected members, including the increasing impact of online harassment, misinformation and associated psychosocial risks, and the limitations of existing legal protections for Councillors.

The proposed motion aligns with National Objectives related to Community Resilience and Intergovernmental Relations. It also aligns with the WALGA Advocacy Position on Cyber Bullying Protections.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The issues addressed in the proposed motion are of national relevance, affect elected members across all jurisdictions, and align with the NGA 2026 theme. They relate to matters that extend beyond the remit of any single local government and are appropriately considered at a national policy level.

Submission of this motion provides an opportunity for the local government sector to collectively engage with the Australian Government on contemporary challenges arising

from the digital environment, including psychosocial safety obligations under work health and safety legislation, the limitations of qualified privilege for Councillors, and the need for consistent national guidance.

Motion Number 188
Frankston City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider developing a national integrity standards framework that applies to federal, state and local tiers of government. The aim is to ensure a unified approach for the national and state-based integrity commissions and oversight bodies towards handling breaches, investigations and decision outcomes.

OBJECTIVE

The integrity frameworks currently in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and SA vary from the National Anti-Corruption Commission which operates at a commonwealth level.

In Victoria and NSW, key corruption risks identified across local and state governments have highlighted the need for better integrity standards and controls to manage and prevent corruption and increase public confidence and trust in the public sector.

NACC is hosting the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference in September 2026, providing an opportunity to table the notion that standardising integrity systems and frameworks across federal and state levels of government will strengthen integrity in the public sector nationally.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The state and local government public sector is subject to the jurisdictions, powers and procedures carried out by independent anti-corruption commissions which vary from state to state and at a federal level.

There is not one standard integrity framework for public officials to follow, be held to account, or install public confidence in integrity system for the public sector.

The integrity commissions were established at different points over a period of 40 years, and this presents an opportunity to develop a national integrity standard framework that everyone can follow to address and prevent corrupt conduct and strengthen integrity across government.

Motion Number 189
Hepburn Shire Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly strongly advocates to the Federal Minister for Communications to implement the recommendations regarding volumetric attacks as outlined in the Report of the Statutory Review of the Online Safety Act 2021. This will enable the e-Safety Commission to receive the necessary legislative support to effectively address volumetric attacks.

OBJECTIVE

The proposed motion addresses a matter that is impacting Local Government, and in particular Hepburn Shire on an almost daily basis. Implementation of this motion would strengthen both the Local Government sector, and Council.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Volumetric Attacks - In recent years, there has been a significant increase in online abuse, particularly through targeted and coordinated (volumetric) attacks. These incidents have severely impacted staff retention, discouraging talented individuals from public service and causing experienced Councillors to reconsider their roles. This situation threatens both the wellbeing of those involved and the continuity and quality of local government service delivery. Currently, the E-Safety Commission lacks the legislative authority to review and address volumetric attacks. A review, conducted and presented in early 2025, highlighted the urgent need for specific legislative measures to tackle these issues. Recommendations 23 and 24, in particular, emphasise the importance of clearly defining volumetric attacks and empowering the regulator with the necessary tools to respond effectively. This is consistent with advocacy by the Greater Ballarat Alliance of Council, of which Council is a member of.

Motion Number 190
City of Canterbury-Bankstown, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to undertake a national review of councillor workloads and remuneration models in consultation with Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

OBJECTIVE

That the Australian Government and ALGA jointly examine the inequities and inconsistencies of councillor fees and allowances across jurisdictions and advocate for a fair, sustainable and nationally aligned framework for elected officials in local government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The role of councillors in contemporary Australia has evolved into one of substantial responsibility, comparable to that of a Board Director or a State Member of Parliament.

Remuneration frameworks for councillors vary widely across the States and Territories, are provided under individual state and territory statutes and determined by respective remuneration tribunals of each state and territory.

In Queensland the role of councillors is treated and remunerated as a full-time role in larger metropolitan councils, while other states and territories continue to regard the position of an elected Councillor as voluntary or supplementary to other employment.

This inconsistency creates barriers to participation in public office, discouraging broader and more diverse representation from within our communities. Yet every community across Australia deserves dedicated, well-supported representation.

A national approach to determining councillor remuneration would reduce complexities and inequities and provide clear and nationally consistent rules for establishing councillor fees, conditions and allowances.

Motion Number 191
Frankston City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen investment in accessible, affordable and evidence-based alcohol and other drugs (AOD) treatment and support services within communities, by:

1. Working with state and territory governments, Primary Health Networks and local government to increase investment in end-to-end treatment pathways, enabling people to move from early identification and initial contact through to specialist treatment, recovery support and aftercare, with the aim of reducing service gaps and improving continuity of care; and
2. Updating the National Drug Strategy to provide a coordinated national framework that supports prevention of AOD-related harms and promotes evidence-based responses.

OBJECTIVE

Harm from alcohol and other drugs is a growing national challenge affecting community safety, public health, workforce participation and pressure on emergency and justice systems. Although AOD treatment responsibilities are shared across governments, gaps in coordination, funding and service availability leave people facing long waits, service shortages, affordability barriers and poor continuity of care.

Local governments are increasingly addressing visible harms despite limited powers and resources. National leadership is needed to update the National Drug Strategy and deliver coordinated, end-to-end investment so people can access timely, affordable, evidence-based support, reducing long-term social and economic costs and community wellbeing.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments across Australia are experiencing impacts from alcohol and other AOD-related harms, including higher emergency service call-outs, public safety concerns and repeated interactions with the justice system. At the same time, access to timely and affordable AOD treatment remains limited, with many communities facing long waitlists, service gaps or reliance on costly private rehabilitation.

Where integrated, end-to-end treatment pathways are unavailable or unaffordable, people seeking support may encounter gaps between early intervention, specialist treatment and recovery supports. This can lead to repeated crises and preventable harm, placing growing financial and operational pressure on local governments, who are increasingly required to respond through enforcement, outreach and community safety activities.

A renewed National Drug Strategy, supported by strengthened national investment in integrated, accessible and community-based AOD treatment pathways, will improve outcomes for individuals, reduce strain on emergency and justice systems, and help create safer, healthier and more resilient local communities.

Motion Number 192
Leeton Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to formally set up an ongoing Intergovernmental PALM Engagement Forum consisting of, at least, the Department of Employment and WorkPlace Relations (DEWR), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Department of Home Affairs, Australian BorderForce, the Fairwork Ombudsman, Welcoming Australia and Local Government to address issues and opportunities related to the PALM Scheme.

OBJECTIVE

It is in the national interest to have the PALM Scheme working well as it has become the backbone of labour supply in many rural and regional areas across Australia. It is in the national interest to ensure that local Councils and local communities are not being burdened with social and humanitarian obligations due to PALM worker "disengagement". The Mayoral Alliance for the Pacific covers Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia and is requiring more formal ways to engage with government to ensure follow-through and accountability.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The PALM scheme is critical to labour supply in rural and regional Australia, sustaining essential low-wage sectors such as horticulture, agriculture and meat processing. However, its current design is increasingly misaligned with Australia's labour standards and human rights commitments. Restrictive visa conditions, employer dependency, high deductions and limited access to social protections have driven widespread disengagement.

An estimated 7,000 PALM workers have exited the scheme, often falling into precarious, unregulated work on bridging visas or without documentation. The resulting humanitarian, workforce and community impacts fall disproportionately on local Councils, despite their lack of authority over scheme design, regulation or enforcement.

Without reform, the scheme risks undermining workforce stability and community cohesion.

ALGA supports the PALM scheme but calls for reforms including pathways to re-engagement and regularisation, work-initiated portability, reduced financial burdens, subsidised travel, Medicare access, national labour hire regulation, superannuation reform, and dedicated funding for local government support services.

Motion Number 193
Brimbank City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase funding for primary prevention and early intervention mental health and wellbeing programs for young people.

OBJECTIVE

Young people are experiencing increasing rates of psychological distress, anxiety and depression. Investing in primary prevention and early intervention programs delivers better outcomes at a lower cost over time for governments and reduces pressure on acute mental health services, hospitalisations and crisis responses.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Young people experience the highest prevalence of mental illness of any age group in Australia, with onset typically occurring in adolescence, making this a critical window for intervention.

The proportion of people aged 16-24 experiencing a mental disorder within a 12-month period has risen, from 25.8% in 2007 to 38.8% in 2020-22, compared to 18.3% to 18.7% for the rest of the population. At the same time, more young people are delaying or forgoing mental health care due to cost, allowing issues to escalate to crisis point.

Primary prevention and early intervention programs reduce long-term social and economic costs, including homelessness, crime and unemployment. However, workforce shortages and insufficient funding limit the availability and consistency of essential services, including 24/7 crisis assessment teams and early support. Federal funding is critical to expand prevention and early intervention, strengthen workforce capacity, and ensure equitable, sustainable and nationally consistent support for young Australians.

Motion Number 194
Moonee Valley City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. ensure all NDIS reforms are genuinely co-designed with people with disability, families and disability-led organisations, in accessible ways;
2. guarantee that no child or adult exits the NDIS without access to equivalent, rights-based and adequately funded supports;
3. maintain transparent and reviewable decision-making, with robust safeguards, qualified decision-makers and meaningful human oversight where automated systems are used; and
4. recognise and address the downstream impacts of NDIS reform on local governments and community services.

OBJECTIVE

To ensure NDIS reforms remain rights-based, transparent and co-designed, consistent with Australia's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while preventing unintended cost-shifting to local government. The motion aligns with ALGA's priority area # 1 Financial Sustainability - for improvements to be made to existing federal funding programs and arrangements that would support improved local government financial sustainability.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Act 2024 commenced on 3 October 2024 and is now being implemented.

Communities are reporting reduced supports, a potential increased reliance on automated decision-making, and participants exiting the Scheme without clearly funded alternatives. Proposed children's pathways, including Thriving Kids, move away from the NDIS model of individual legal entitlement, individualised funding, choice and control, and reviewable decisions.

These changes impact both children and adults.

Local governments are experiencing increased demand on early years, community wellbeing, and aged and disability services as individuals lose or have reduced NDIS supports. Without safeguards and equivalent alternative supports, reform implementation risks undermining rights-based protections and shifting service pressures to councils.

Motion Number 195
Western Downs Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to incentivise domestic tourism to regional areas by federal tax incentives.

OBJECTIVE

Tourism is a critical economic driver for Australia's regional and remote communities, supporting local jobs, small businesses and economic diversification. In 2024-25, consumption from domestic tourism increased 1.9% to $168.6B, the highest level since data being recorded, compared to a contribution of $42.3B in international consumption.

Domestic visitors are Australia's key tourism market, and small changes in visitor behavior can generate significant local economic benefits, particularly in regional and rural areas.

A suite of tax incentives, targeting domestic tourism to regional areas, is anticipated to unlock significant regional benefits by increasing visitation and expenditure, strengthening regional diversification and resilience.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Commonwealth Government already invests in destination marketing, aviation connectivity and general business support, strengthening Australia's visitor economy. Whilst these are important mechanisms to boost the visitor economy, Australia lacks direct federal tax or incentive mechanisms that actively encourage domestic visitors to travel to regional areas.

Boosting domestic tourism to regional areas is considered a key opportunity to strengthen regional economic diversification and resilience.

Council advocates the Commonwealth Government to consider:

1. Incentives for domestic visitors to travel and visit regional areas;
2. Consideration for tax incentives for regional tourism operators to further invest in regional tourism infrastructure;
3. Consideration for tax incentives to develop housing for workforce supporting the visitor economy.

The above mechanisms are expected to further boost domestic tourism visitation, expenditure and incentivise private investment in tourism infrastructure in regional areas.

Motion Number 196
Liverpool City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to initiate a coordinated strategy across member councils to advocate for the constitutional recognition of local government in Australia, aimed at:

- Strengthening local democracy;
- Enhancing council autonomy; and
- Securing direct and equitable access to federal funding

OBJECTIVE

Local governments are the level of government closest to the community, playing a vital role in service delivery, infrastructure provision, and community engagement. Despite this, local government operates without formal recognition in the Australian Constitution, leaving it subject to the control and potential dissolution by state governments.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Constitutional recognition would provide a stronger foundation for local government autonomy, help secure more consistent and direct federal funding, and enhance democratic accountability by empowering local communities to have a greater say in their governance.

Motion Number 197
City of Stirling, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ESTABLISH and MAINTAIN a Protective Infrastructure & Public Safety Enhancements Fund that will improve the Local Government Sector's capacity to target harden key Activity Centres and Public Places against the risk of terrorism and other hostile activities.

OBJECTIVE

Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism (2023) identifies that many public places, including those provided and managed by Local Government, will continue to be attractive targets for terrorism and other hostile activities.

Upon determining the risk and vulnerability of a place, Local Government has an obligation to implement appropriate infrastructure and management mitigations. Although proactive measures to deter, detect, delay, respond and recover inevitably comes at a significant cost.

Given the recent tragedy at Bondi Beach this issue, aligned with the priority areas of Emergency Management and Infrastructure, is worthy of debate at the National General Assembly.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia's terrorism threat level is PROBABLE meaning there is a greater than fifty percent chance of an onshore attack or attack planning in the next twelve months.

According to the Australian Government, attacks are likely to be low-cost using readily available weapons and simple tactics in a crowded place.

Local Government is responsible for many crowded places including civic spaces, transport infrastructure, sporting facilities, public open spaces, and tourist attractions.

Hardening and improving the resilience of key Activity Centres and Public Places is a shared responsibility across all levels of Government.

There is currently no fit-for-purpose grant program offered by the Australian Government to support Local Government with protective infrastructure and public safety enhancements to target harden public places against the risk of terrorism and other hostile activities.

Investing more in prevention and resilience as well as boosting local emergency response arrangements will better prepare and protect our local communities.

Motion Number 198
Tweed Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure the State Governments engagement with Local Government on reforms and issues impacting the local government sector are genuine and feedback considered before decisions are made.

OBJECTIVE

In Australia, the power of local governments is controlled by Acts of State Parliament. Inconsistent and inadequate State Government engagement affects local governments in every jurisdiction. National leadership that fosters consistent and effective collaboration between all levels of government will help ensure local government views are meaningfully incorporated into major state-led reforms, strengthening outcomes for communities across the country.

KEY ARGUMENTS

State-led reforms across Australia are increasingly introduced without genuine engagement with local government, resulting in ineffective policies, reduced community confidence, and added administrative and financial pressure on councils. Inadequate consultation means councils must implement major legislative and regulatory changes without sufficient input or time to assess local impacts. Recent examples highlight the consequences of this approach. Changes to the Code of Meeting Practice such as banning pre-meeting briefings and restricting audio-visual participation limit councillors' ability to make informed decisions while substantially increasing administrative workload, despite widespread sector concerns. Similarly, the NSW Government's 2025 planning reforms removed councillors from development assessment roles without fully consulting councils, disregarding their community knowledge, strategic insight, and democratic accountability. These instances show how unilateral State action undermines effective service delivery. National leadership is needed to embed consistent, collaborative consultation frameworks that ensure local government perspectives are integral to reforms affecting their operations and communities.

Motion Number 199
Mount Alexander Shire Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to support a national campaign to strengthen volunteering, in line with the findings and recommendations of the National Volunteering Strategy; and that this includes adequate resourcing for local councils to work as part of their local community volunteering ecosystems, to promote capacity building in order for local communities to more effectively attract, support and retain volunteering across priority areas.

OBJECTIVE

Across Australia, many community organisations are suffering a decline in the numbers of people volunteering. The decline in the numbers of volunteers is impacting a wide range of community organisations that deliver important and valued services in our cities, towns and regions.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The decline of volunteerism is impacting a wide range of community organisations that deliver important and valued services in our regions. These include sporting clubs, arts and service organisations as well as environment and faith-based groups. Voluntary organisations are a way people find place and meaning, connect with each other and strengthen community resilience.

Volunteer organisations need to attract members with potential to take on leadership and office bearing roles. There has been a marked decline in succession to these roles, with existing volunteer leadership groups impacted by declining health and capacity associated with aging.

With the findings and recommendations of the National Volunteering Strategy, we call for a nationally coordinated campaign that draws attention to the civic, and health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering, that embeds promotion into public health messaging and social prescribing models, would have a greater positive impact and revitalization than individual or discreet campaigns.

Motion Number 200
Monash City Council, VIC

This NGA calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Reform (or replace) the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) to deliver a fair and timely return to Australians from the extraction and export of non-renewable petroleum resources, including liquefied natural gas (LNG).
2. In the PRRT reform process, accept the ACTU proposal (August 2025) to replace the existing PRRT arrangements for LNG with a flat 25 per cent levy on LNG export revenues.
3. Direct the additional revenue raised to national priorities that directly affect councils and communities, including funding the $400M pa climate adaptation and resilience fund advocated by ALGA.

OBJECTIVE

Local Government bears the practical and financial impacts of national challenges, including climate risk and adaptation, housing stress and homelessness, ageing and disability service gaps, and the rising cost of maintaining regional infrastructure. ALGA has called for additional, sustained Commonwealth support to address these pressures.

The Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT), the primary vehicle for compensating Australia for the extraction and export of vast non-renewable resources, is failing to deliver commensurate revenues. Reforming the PRRT, e.g.by basing it on LNG export revenues, would provide the Commonwealth with the funds it needs to meet many of the demands of local government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

This motion asks the National General Assembly to call on the Australian Government to reform the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT) which currently fails to deliver a fair or reasonable return for the extraction and export of Australia's non-renewable petroleum resources, including liquefied natural gas (LNG). A reform including a tax based on a percentage of LNG export revenues, as suggested by the ACTU, could bring in an additional $12.5 billion pa.

The intent is to strengthen the Commonwealth revenue base and improve the prospects for sustained national investment in areas where Local Government is bearing the practical and financial impact. This includes climate risk and adaptation (including the ALGA supported request for a $400M pa fund), housing stress and homelessness, ageing and disability service gaps, and essential local services and infrastructure, especially in rural settings. The National General Assembly is therefore requested to support the motion.

Motion Number 201
Leeton Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to permanently include Local Government representation on the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

OBJECTIVE

Both water security and food security are in the national interest, along with environmental and economic sustainability. The Murray Darling Basin covers 172 Councils across four States (NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia) and 22 water catchments. Water is a critical human need. Further, significant farming output is generated in the Murray Darling Basin. It is imperative that the review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan (underway in 2026) balances the needs of local, regional and national communities with the needs of the environment.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Many Councils and communities across the Murray–Darling Basin have raised concerns about the implementation of the Basin Plan, particularly where decisions are foisted on them without sufficient local engagement, transparency, or understanding of on-the-ground conditions. This has contributed to frustration and uncertainty in regional and rural communities.

Councils are especially concerned about the social and economic impacts of water policy decisions and believe these must be more carefully balanced alongside environmental objectives. Water policy should be considered within the broader national context, including food security, cost-of-living pressures, financial sustainability, and long-term national resilience.

Local government believes there is a better way forward and is willing to be a constructive partner in shaping future outcomes. Councils seek meaningful and active involvement, both place-based, state-based and federally.

The 2026 Basin Plan Review presents a critical opportunity to reset past approaches and deliver a balanced, equitable and sustainable framework for the next decade.

Motion Number 202
Darebin City Council, VIC

Calls on the Australian Government to work in partnership with local government to develop sustainable funding models and infrastructure support that enable councils to effectively deliver locally based mental health, wellbeing and early intervention services across all communities.

OBJECTIVE

This motion seeks national recognition that Australian councils are increasingly delivering and funding locally based mental health, wellbeing, social connection and early intervention responses without a sustainable or dedicated federal funding framework to support this role.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments are closest to the community and increasingly responding to rising mental distress, social isolation, loneliness, youth disengagement, housing stress, financial hardship, disaster impacts, and complex customer needs linked to psychosocial issues. While responsibility for mental health treatment primarily sits with Commonwealth and State governments, councils are often first contact for residents seeking support, or referral pathways. Councils invest in community development programs, social inclusion initiatives, neighbourhood houses and community centres, youth services, libraries as safe community spaces, and place-based wellbeing strategies. These initiatives are funded through general rate revenue, short-term grants, or internal budget reallocations. Councils don’t receive dedicated structural funding to support preventative mental health, wellbeing, and social connection initiatives. Without sustainable funding reform, councils face growing pressure to absorb additional responsibilities, reduce other services, or rely on short-term funding without continuity, limiting their capacity to maintain consistent, locally based support for community mental health and wellbeing.

Motion Number 203
City of Greater Bendigo, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Formally recognise the role of local governments in planning for food system resilience during both normal conditions and emergencies, including natural disasters such as floods and bushfires.
2. Provide direct funding to local governments, including full reimbursement for costs incurred in activating local relief responses during disasters, to ensure timely, coordinated and dignified access to food for affected communities.
3. Support the development and implementation of regular and comprehensive monitoring against the six dimensions of food security in Australia.

OBJECTIVE

City of Greater Bendigo's Food Security Motion submits to the Australian Government that:

1. Australia is experiencing growing food security challenges, requiring greater national dialogue and coordinated action to deliver sustainable and equitable food security solutions.
2. Local governments are 'local' and are uniquely positioned to lead community informed food system planning, which should be recognised in national planning.
3. Local governments are best placed to improve access to adequate, affordable fresh and healthy food.
4. For a meaningful and lasting impact, we require a supportive national policy environment, structural reform and ongoing resourcing for food security initiatives.

KEY ARGUMENTS

In 2025, 1 in 3 Australian households did not have enough food to eat, reflecting the mainstreaming of food insecurity across the country.

Food insecurity disproportionately affects vulnerable community groups, with significantly higher rates in cohorts such as women, young adults, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, LGBTQIA+ individuals, neurodivergent people and people experiencing financial hardship.

National data shows that nearly 7 in 10 households including a person with disability or health issues, and 68% of single parent households, experience food insecurity.

Rates of food insecurity in Greater Bendigo is higher than the Victorian average.

Across the six local government areas in the Loddon Campaspe region, which includes Greater Bendigo, 18% of respondents to the 2025 Active Living Census reported low or very low food security, compared to 9.2% in 2019. This indicates the rate of food insecurity in the region has virtually doubled in the past six years.

Motion Number 204
City of Perth, WA

This National General Assembly calls on the NBN to deliver an equitable NBN Fibre Upgrade Pathway for Multi-Dwelling Units across Australia.

This includes the formal publication of a nationally funded FTTB-to-FTTP upgrade program by NBN and/or the Australian Government ideally with a clear eligibility criterion and transparent rollout timetable for multi-dwelling buildings

OBJECTIVE

- Formal publication of a nationally funded FTTB-to-FTTP upgrade program by NBN and/or the Australian Government ideally with a clear eligibility criterion and transparent rollout timetable for multi-dwelling buildings.
- Measurable uptake of FTTP services in upgraded apartment buildings.
- Narrowing of the infrastructure gap between older apartment stock and new developments.
- Greater long-term reliability and resilience of digital infrastructure in high-density areas (e.g. Cities).
- Strengthened attractiveness of CBDs as residential location for knowledge workers and remote employees –measured by an increase in homebased business and remote working by City residents.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Reliable high-speed broadband is essential infrastructure in a knowledge-based economy, underpinning economic participation, remote work, education, telehealth and access to government services. While the NBN is transitioning toward a predominantly fibre-based network, a significant cohort of household those living in Multi-Dwelling Units remain reliant on legacy technologies.

NBN's roll-out plan does not appear to include an important cohort, those living in high-density dwellings such as apartments. The NBN does not have a published universal funded pathway to Fibre-To-The-Building (FTTB).

NBN's published Annual Service Improvement Plan (ASIP) indicates that a full-fibre upgrade for the FTTB footprint is not broadly planned. This exclusion disproportionately affects city residents in higher-density locations. Consequently, without a clear upgrade strategy, a growing number of urban households risk being left behind as the rest of the country transitions to world-class fibre connectivity, possibly entrenching a digital divide based not on demand or location, but on dwelling type.

Motion Number 205
Brisbane City Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collect information through the Australian Census about pet ownership. Particularly around domestic animals (dogs, cats, chickens, birds, etc).

OBJECTIVE

A nationally consistent dataset on pet ownership would provide significant value to Local, State, and Territory governments by enabling more targeted and effective approaches to education, regulation, policy development, and program delivery. In addition, a comprehensive pet census would also yield measurable economic benefits. Reliable data on pet populations can inform infrastructure investment (e.g. pet-friendly parks and facilities), guide the development of local pet-related businesses (such as veterinary services, grooming, and retail), and support emergency management planning. Furthermore, it can help identify market opportunities and trends within the companion animal sector, contributing to economic growth and job creation.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia is recognised as having one of the highest rates of pet ownership globally, with approximately two-thirds of households owning at least one pet. According to research conducted by Animal Medicines Australia, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly influenced pet ownership trends. Nationally, the proportion of households with pets increased from 61% in 2019 to 69% in 2021, resulting in a rise in the total pet population from 28.5 million to 30.4 million.

Accurate and comprehensive data, collected through the national Census, would enable all levels of government to better design and deliver programs and services that support pet owners and their communities. Such data would also enhance understanding of pet ownership trends, inform targeted education and policy initiatives, and strengthen support for industries that service companion animals.

While some jurisdictions and private organisations conduct pet ownership surveys, these are often limited in scope and sample size, resulting in extrapolated estimates rather than precise figures. Additionally, the data collected tends to be narrow, lacking the depth needed for robust policy and planning.

Integrating pet ownership questions into the Australian Census would provide a consistent and reliable mechanism for collecting national data every five years. This would offer governments and industry stakeholders a valuable opportunity to gain deeper insights into pet ownership patterns and behaviours.

Beyond social and regulatory benefits, a national pet census would also deliver economic advantages. Accurate data can inform infrastructure planning (e.g., pet-friendly spaces), support the growth and guide investment in veterinary, retail, and service sectors. It would also assist in emergency management planning and contribute to job creation and economic development within the companion animal industry.

There is a clear opportunity for the Australian Government to lead a coordinated approach that supports better data collection and deeper understanding of pet ownership across the country, ultimately benefiting communities, governments, and the economy.

Motion Number 206
Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise and support local government's critical role as land managers and service providers in drowning prevention and water safety, and to partner with councils in implementing the Australian Water Safety Strategy to achieve the 2030 drowning reduction targets.

OBJECTIVE

With more than 500 councils across Australia managing beaches, coastal and inland waterways, and aquatic facilities, local government represents the nation's largest investor in water safety infrastructure and services. Councils are uniquely positioned to lead informed water safety initiatives that directly impact community outcomes and contribute to national drowning prevention targets.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local councils manage the majority of Australia's populous coastal beaches, inland rivers, lakes and waterways, and public aquatic facilities. This places them at the forefront of local water safety delivery, yet their dual role as both land managers and service providers often lacks formal recognition in state and federal policy frameworks.

The 2025 Australian Water Safety Strategy update identifies coordinated action across all levels of government as essential to reducing drowning deaths and calls for equipping local government with resources to lead and respond to local needs. Formal acknowledgment and sustainable funding models are required to match councils' responsibilities.

Opportunities for partnership between all levels of government exist to rebuild vital infrastructure that supports aquatic activation and water safety programs, scale proven innovations across jurisdictions and alignment with national priorities. Opportunities also exist to embed national frameworks into local planning, public health, emergency response and water safety service delivery.

Local government is ready to partner with all stakeholders – state and federal governments, emergency services, volunteer organisations, research institutions and community groups –to address water safety challenges. By acknowledging councils' essential role and providing sustainable funding, Australia can leverage existing investment and innovation to achieve the ambitious 2030 drowning reduction targets and ensure equitable, effective water safety coverage for all communities.

Motion Number 207
Hawkesbury City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide the Australian Local Government Association with the resources or opportunity to:

a) Expand and formalise the involvement of Local Government in the development of Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) research topics and programs, and
b) Develop a streamlined mechanism for Local Government to be informed about relevant research outcomes as they come to light throughout the life of a CRC.

OBJECTIVE

Council's need the Australian Local Government Association to advocate for the expansion and formalisation of the involvement of Local Government in the development of Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) research topics and programs and develop a streamlined mechanism for Local Government to be informed about relevant research outcomes as they come to light throughout the life of a CRC.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program is an Australian Government initiative that was established in the 1990s and funds industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers, governments and end users.

Many of the earlier CRCs were termed 'public good CRCs' as they tackled areas of research that didn't have a clear commercial benefit but nevertheless produced national standards, guidelines and datasets that governments (especially Local Government) still rely on, such as river health indices (AUSRIVAS), drinking-water guidelines, bushfire behaviour models and urban stormwater design methods (WSUD and MUSIC).

Motion Number 208
Shellharbour City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to mandate comprehensive, clear and standardised nutritional labelling across all manufactured food and beverages sold in Australia, including alcoholic products to ensure consumers have access to objective nutritional information such as energy, sugar, salt, carbohydrate, and other nutrient values.

OBJECTIVE

Diet-related diseases including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, dental disease, food-related allergies, and alcohol-related harm are placing a rapidly increasing burden on Australia's health system, workforce participation, and community wellbeing. Improving access to transparent nutritional information empowers healthier decisions and supports national preventative health efforts.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Correspondence from the Hon. Rebecca White MP confirms there is a longstanding prohibition on applying the Health Star Rating (HSR) to alcoholic beverages due to the risk of implying certain alcoholic products may be "healthier choices," conflicting with national dietary guidelines.

However, alcoholic beverages currently provide minimal required information, typically limited to alcohol percentage and standard drink count, while omitting essential nutritional data such as sugar, carbohydrate, and energy content. This creates a significant information gap for consumers, particularly given Australia's escalating rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related disease.

Mandating nutritional labelling across all food and beverages, including alcohol, would close this gap and give consumers the same transparency expected of other manufactured products. It also aligns with broader public health goals and community wellbeing strategies pursued by local governments nationwide.

JOBS AND SKILLS

Motion Number 209 | Strategic Motion
Balonne Shire Council, QLD | Isaac Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide ongoing, equitable support for non-metropolitan University Study Hubs, including Country Universities Centres, through sustainable funding and policy settings that reduce access barriers for regional, rural and remote students, support local skills development, workforce attraction and regional population growth, and enable these centres to appropriately support international students.

Motion Number 210 | Strategic Motion
Glen Innes Severn Council, NSW | Narrabri Shire Council, NSW | Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide greater support for the Early Childhood Education and Care sector, including by recognising the sector as essential workers, supporting sustainable, place-based service and workforce models, improving education and skills pathways, and ensuring regulatory and investment settings prioritise safe, high-quality outcomes for children while meeting the needs of regional, rural and remote communities.

Motion Number 211 | Strategic Motion
Singleton Council, NSW | Dungog Shire Council, NSW | Port Stephens Council, NSW | Cessnock City Council, NSW | Newcastle City Council, NSW | Upper Hunter Shire Council, NSW | Muswellbrook Shire Council, NSW | Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to directly support Council-led, place based strategy and capacity building initiatives that address job losses from large scale industry closure; including future land use and industry options for mining sites, employment and training opportunities in local governments, and de-risking private investment to create new jobs, particularly in regional and rural communities undergoing large-scale industry change toward a net zero future.

Motion Number 212
Horsham Rural City Council, VIC

That the ALGA calls on the Australian Government to recognise and support the vital role of councils in assessing and managing complex mining, energy and renewable infrastructure proposals, particularly in regional and rural communities, by:

- Providing dedicated funding and capacity support to councils facing pressures from large-scale projects;
- Supporting access to specialist planning, environmental, legal and community engagement expertise;
- Ensuring councils are properly resourced and engaged in national energy transition and critical minerals policy frameworks; and
- Recognising the disproportionate cumulative impacts of multiple major proposals on councils with limited rate bases and staffing capacity.

OBJECTIVE

Mining, renewable energy and transmission projects are driven by national policy priorities and investment decisions. Project complexity has increased, requiring specialist expertise in:

- Planning and statutory assessment
- Environmental and heritage impacts
- Legal and governance processes
- Community engagement and social licence

Smaller regional councils often face multiple concurrent proposals, overwhelming limited staffing and budgets. Inadequate local capacity can delay projects, increase community conflict and undermine confidence in national reform agendas.

KEY ARGUMENTS

This motion does not seek to limit or delay development. Instead, it calls for appropriate recognition and resourcing of the local government role in nationally significant project delivery.

Councils are seeking:

- Dedicated funding and capacity-building support for councils managing complex mining and renewable energy proposals
- Access to specialist expertise through funded shared services, expert panels or advisory mechanisms
- Meaningful engagement of local government in national energy transition and critical minerals policy frameworks
- Recognition of cumulative impacts, where multiple major projects occur within a single local government area

Why this matters:

- Supports timely and efficient project assessment
- Improves the quality and consistency of decision-making
- Strengthens community confidence and social licence
- Reduces project delays caused by local capacity constraints
- Ensures national policy objectives are delivered without overburdening local governments

Motion Number 213
Glen Innes Severn Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen healthcare workforce supply, retention and service continuity in regional, rural and remote communities by:

- subsidising locum medical services where permanent supply is insufficient;
- funding programs to transition locums into extended term and permanent rural roles;
- coordinating with states/territories to improve Visiting Medical Officer arrangements for hospitals/emergency services without cost shifting to councils; and,
- requiring Primary Health Networks to facilitate an independent accountability review function to address systemic issues affecting access, continuity and workforce sustainability, without conferring regulatory, legal or financial responsibility on local government.

OBJECTIVE

To improve the stability, continuity and sustainability of healthcare services in regional, rural and remote communities by strengthening medical workforce supply and retention, improving Commonwealth–state coordination for hospitals and VMOs, and establishing accountability mechanisms that protect community access to care without shifting costs or service delivery responsibility to local government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Regional, rural and remote communities experience persistent shortages of medical practitioners and heavy reliance on locums to maintain primary care, hospital and emergency coverage, particularly after hours. While essential in the short term, prolonged locum reliance undermines continuity of care, workforce stability and service sustainability.

Commonwealth and state responsibilities for workforce supply, training, hospitals and VMO contracts are poorly coordinated, contributing to fragmented planning and short term arrangements. In thin healthcare markets, a small number of private practices can materially affect access and continuity, yet there is no independent, place aware mechanism to resolve systemic issues.

As a result, service gaps persist, councils are informally drawn into disputes they lack authority to resolve, and public investment is diluted. A coordinated approach focused on locum transition pathways, improved VMO coordination and an independent PHN facilitated review function would strengthen workforce continuity and accountability without cost shifting to local government.

Motion Number 214
Whitehorse City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with the Australian Local Government Association to establish a National Social Prescribing Framework. This framework must provide sustainable federal funding for a skilled Link Worker workforce embedded within local government community infrastructure, such as libraries and community centres. By formalising non-medical referral pathways between primary care and local social assets, the Government can address the social determinants of health. This structural reform is essential to reduce the burden on the national healthcare system, combat loneliness, and improve health equity across all Australian communities.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to enhance the collaboration and coordination across Australian Government and local government by integrating local government's social infrastructure into a national social model of health. While the Australian Government manages clinical health funding, Local Government provides the essential; spaces, parks, and community programs – where health and social connection occur. By creating a standardised, national system for social and community-based care and funding Link Workers to operate within Council assets, the Federal Government can "unlock" existing local investments to address the non-medical drivers of poor health, reduce pressure on the health system and improve national health outcomes.

KEY ARGUMENTS

1. Systemic Efficiency: Social prescribing addresses the 20% of GP consultations that are for non-medical social issues, allowing clinical resources to be redirected toward medical needs.
2. Structural Equity: Federal funding for Link Workers ensures that access to preventative care is not determined by a resident's postcode, providing a consistent national service standard.
3. Evidence-Based ROI: International and local social prescribing pilot trials show that connecting patients to social support significantly improves mental health outcomes and reduces long-term healthcare expenditure.
4. Leveraging Existing Assets: Councils already manage thousands of community 'health enablers'. A national framework formalizes these assets as part of a recognized, integrated health care neighbourhood.
5. Policy Alignment: This motion delivers on the National Preventive Health Strategy 2021–2030 by focusing on upstream factors, such as social isolation and community resilience, and aligns with the Measuring What Matters (Wellbeing Budget) national agenda.

Motion Number 215
Gladstone Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to formally recognise Local Government as a national priority employment sector and provide dedicated funding for traineeships, apprenticeships and vocational training in critical local government occupations. This should include increased incentives for councils to train and retain staff, expanded support for regional face-to-face delivery of VET qualifications, and targeted funding for low-volume but essential roles—particularly water and wastewater operators. Without federal action, councils will continue to face significant workforce shortages that directly impact essential community services, infrastructure delivery, public health and environmental outcomes.

OBJECTIVE

Local governments deliver essential services relied upon by every Australian community, yet face persistent and nationwide skills shortages. These shortages are most acute in specialised areas such as water and wastewater operations, environmental health and asset management. Current national skills and training priorities do not adequately recognise local government as a critical sector. Addressing these gaps is a matter of national significance, as workforce shortages threaten service continuity, regulatory compliance and community wellbeing. A coordinated federal approach is required to ensure the VET system, skills funding and workforce incentives align with the operational needs of councils across Australia.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Councils across Australia face persistent challenges in attracting and retaining skilled workers essential for delivering community infrastructure and services. Local governments invest heavily in traineeships and apprenticeships, yet Australian Government funding remains insufficient to support and scale these pathways. National skills funding and incentive programs are poorly aligned with local government operations, leaving priority roles under-resourced and difficult to sustain.

The water and wastewater sector exemplifies this challenge, with widespread workforce shortages and limited training pathways. Cuts to funding for low-volume VET qualifications have led Registered Training Organisations to prioritise high-volume courses, restricting access to industry-critical training. Regional councils are disproportionately affected, relying on costlier face-to-face, cohort-based delivery essential for skills development and retention.

Targeted federal investment in water industry qualifications and stronger recognition of local government occupations in national priority settings is urgently needed. Without reform, workforce shortages will continue to undermine essential local services and community resilience.

Motion Number 216
Inverell Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen healthcare workforce supply, retention and service continuity in regional, rural and remote communities by:

- Expanding rural and regional training places in Obstetrics, Anaesthetics, Emergency, Aboriginal medicine, surgery, internal medicine, paediatrics and academic medicine.
- Establishing simulation-based and hybrid “hub and spoke” training models to ensure continuous rural training pathways from university to intern, to junior doctor to Rural Generalist qualification.
- Enhancing financial support for rural clinical placements.
- Partnering across governments to provide accommodation and support programs to grow and retain a local nursing and medical workforce.

OBJECTIVE

To strengthen national workforce priorities and intergovernmental coordination by improving the stability, continuity and long-term sustainability of the rural and regional medical workforce.

This objective supports:

- Sustainable and innovative rural training pathways.
- Increased numbers of Rural GPs with advanced skills in priority specialties.
- Collaboration across all levels of government to grow a well-distributed workforce.
- Accountability mechanisms that ensure publicly funded health systems remain financially viable and responsive to community needs.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Medical practitioners and registrars in regional, rural and remote areas are often required to relocate to metropolitan centres to complete advanced skills training, disrupting workforce continuity and reducing return rates to rural communities.

Rural Generalist Registrars frequently cannot complete advanced skills locally. For example, a registrar trained rurally for several years may be required to undertake a 12-month metropolitan placement in Anaesthetics, after which they are often retained by the larger hospital. While many trainees wish to remain in rural communities, mandatory relocation places professional and personal strain on them.

Hybrid training models—combining virtual learning, simulation and short metropolitan rotations—would enable registrars to remain based in rural communities while maintaining high training standards.

Long-term workforce sustainability depends on structured rural pathways from university through internship and specialty training, supported by targeted investment and coordinated government action.

Motion Number 217
Noosa Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to

1. Advocate for a compulsory national Youth Employment Training Pathways Program requiring councils to provide a minimum number of youth jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships and cadetships proportionate to their population.
2. Fund and co-design this program, establish a Local Government Training Fund and expand access to accredited training for regional and remote councils.
3. Seek a national audit of planning, engineering and building surveying qualifications to improve study pathways, and request that the National Skills Plan formally recognise local government as a key employer and essential partner in national workforce development.

OBJECTIVE

Australia's skills crisis is limiting councils' ability to deliver essential services, infrastructure and national priorities e.g. housing supply. Local governments face severe shortages in planning, engineering, building surveying and digital roles, driven by limited training pathways, wage competition and lack of accredited regional study options. The national objective is to secure federal support for a compulsory youth employment and training program that builds a sustainable pipeline of skilled workers across councils. Including funded apprenticeships, traineeships, cadetships and regional study pathways. A coordinated national approach is essential to strengthen local government capability, support economic productivity and ensure resilient, future ready communities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments employ more than 213,000 people and are essential to national productivity, yet nine in ten councils face critical skills shortages. Planning, engineering and building surveying roles are in highest demand, directly affecting housing supply, infrastructure delivery and community resilience. Many councils struggle to attract young people due to limited training pathways, wage competition and a lack of accredited regional study options. A compulsory national youth employment and training program would create a consistent, reliable pipeline of skilled workers across the country. Federal funding is essential to support apprenticeships, traineeships, cadetships, mentoring and digital training, particularly for regional and remote councils that lack access to training facilities and supervisors. A national audit of qualifications would expand study pathways and address gaps in planning and engineering education. Recognising local government in the National Skills Plan ensures the sector is properly supported to meet future workforce needs and deliver essential services.

Motion Number 218
Isaac Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to

a) Recognise and fund from the National Skills Agreement a National Regional Skills and Training Pilot based in a working resource region.
b) Support coordinated delivery of industry aligned training through partnerships between regional training providers, universities and employers.
c) Establish a scalable national model for regional workforce development based on real operational environments.

OBJECTIVE

To deliver a nationally recognised regional skills and training model that equips workers for current and emerging industries by embedding training in the regions where Australia's resources, manufacturing, construction and energy production operate.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Australia's skills system must adapt to rapid change in automation, digital operations, advanced manufacturing and new energy technologies, shifts occurring first and fastest in regional and industrial communities. Regional Australia trains and supplies a large share of the nation's trades, technical and operational workforce, yet training investment and curriculum development remain centralised and disconnected from real worksites.

A nationally recognised regional training pilot would support apprentices and trainees to remain local, enable upskilling and reskilling of existing workers, align training with real equipment and industry demand, strengthen partnerships between industry, education and research, and create a model capable of replication across multiple regions.

The Isaac region, working through the Resource Centre of Excellence network, has the partnerships, facilities and industry engagement to deliver a national demonstration pilot. Supporting local training strengthens workforce retention, population stability and national productivity during ongoing skills shortages.

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion Number 219 | Strategic Motion
Shoalhaven City Council, NSW | North Burnett Regional Council, QLD | Knox City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide sustained, equitable and untied infrastructure funding that supports councils to renew ageing essential assets including roads, stormwater, water and sewerage infrastructure. This will reduce infrastructure backlogs, whilst recognising evidence-based asset management planning across urban, regional and rural Australia.

Motion Number 220 | Strategic Motion
Port Stephens Council, NSW | Newcastle City Council, NSW | Cessnock City Council, NSW | Muswellbrook Shire Council, NSW | Upper Hunter Shire Council, NSW | City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, WA | Gunnedah Shire Council, NSW | Dungog Shire Council, NSW | Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW | Singleton Council, NSW | Charters Towers Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure federal road and transport funding arrangements are equitable and responsive to regional conditions, including longer road networks, higher freight and heavy-vehicle use, greater exposure to climate and weather impacts, and the limited revenue capacity of councils, through sustained investment that supports safe, reliable and resilient regional road infrastructure.

Motion Number 221 | Strategic Motion
Moyne Shire Council, VIC | Murray River Council, NSW | Edward River Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish an ongoing regional infrastructure funding program that reinstates and builds on the intent of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program by providing flexible capital funding to regional councils for local roads, bridges and community facilities to support sustainable regional growth.

Motion Number 222 | Strategic Motion
Berri Barmera Council, SA | City of Darwin, NT | Narrabri Shire Council, NSW | City of Gold Coast, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide increased, sustained and non-competitive funding that enables councils to renew and improve local road, stormwater and drainage infrastructure, strengthen road safety and freight resilience, recognise evidence-based asset management planning, and address infrastructure backlogs critical to regional connectivity, economic productivity and community safety across urban, regional and rural Australia.

Motion Number 223 | Strategic Motion
Horsham Rural City Council, VIC | Central Highlands Regional Council, QLD | Liverpool City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with State, Territory and Local Governments to increase investment to improve the safety, efficiency and community impacts of heavy vehicle movements through coordinated investment in freight road networks and fit-for-purpose truck parking and rest area infrastructure. This should be supported by national policy and regulatory settings that address fatigue management, road safety and local amenity, particularly in regional and rural communities.

Motion Number 224 | Strategic Motion
Liverpool City Council, NSW | City of Gold Coast, QLD | Penrith City Council, NSW | Cardinia Shire Council, VIC | Port Phillip City Council, VIC | Hume City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish an ongoing funding program for local government that provides support for community and enabling infrastructure in high-growth areas, including roads, drainage, open space, sporting and recreation facilities, libraries and community hubs, to support infrastructure renewals and upgrades, unlock housing supply, and ensure communities are serviced comensurate with growth.

Motion Number 225 | Strategic Motion
Darebin City Council, VIC | Orange City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen national vehicle safety frameworks to better protect pedestrians and cyclists, including through modernising Australian Design Rules and vehicle safety assessment systems in line with international best practice for large vehicles.

Motion Number 226 | Strategic Motion

Yass Valley Council, NSW | Newcastle City Council, NSW | Bass Coast Shire Council, VIC | Shire of Campaspe, VIC | Moyne Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish an ongoing national funding program to support the renewal, replacement and modernisation of council-owned public swimming and aquatic facilities, recognising them as essential community infrastructure and prioritising ageing assets—particularly in regional and remote areas—to improve community health, safety, resilience and long-term asset sustainability.

Motion Number 227 | Strategic Motion

Logan City Council, QLD | Maribyrnong City Council, VIC | Mount Alexander Shire Council, VIC | Baw Baw Shire Council, VIC | City of Tea Tree Gully, SA | Waverley Council, NSW | Darebin City Council, VIC | Moyne Shire Council, VIC | City of Kingston, VIC | Surf Coast Shire Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish an ongoing, nationally coordinated active transport and green infrastructure funding program that enables local councils to plan and deliver safe, accessible and connected walking, wheeling and cycling network, including paths, trails, green infrastructure and supporting amenity, across urban, regional and rural communities, improving safety, accessibility, environmental outcomes, public health and low-emissions transport.

Motion Number 228 | Strategic Motion

South Burnett Regional Council, QLD | City of Wagga Wagga, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure equitable access to essential banking, postal and cash services for regional, rural and remote communities.

Motion Number 229 | Strategic Motion
Narrabri Shire Council, NSW | Balonne Shire Council, QLD | Gunnedah Shire Council, NSW | Murweh Shire Council, QLD | Hobsons Bay City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to strengthen the aged care system by providing adequate funding certainty and transition support for home and community-based care, ensuring essential medication safety supports remain accessible where clinically required, and improving coordination with States, Territories and Local Governments to support timely care delivery, smooth transitions between programs, and better outcomes for older Australians, particularly in regional, rural and remote communities.

Motion Number 230 | Strategic Motion
Shire of Strathbogie, VIC | Narrabri Shire Council, NSW | Walgett Shire Council, NSW | Goondiwindi Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to fund and partner with Local Government to deliver a nationally coordinated, place-based program to improve digital connectivity and telecommunications access, reliability and resilience in rural, regional and remote communities, including investment in mobile, broadband and satellite services and strengthened baseline service standards.

Motion Number 231 | Strategic Motion
Isaac Regional Council, QLD | Edward River Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to recognise early childhood education and care as essential enabling infrastructure in regional, rural and remote communities, and to provide targeted, sustainable funding and support that enables Local Governments to operate, deliver or facilitate childcare services and infrastructure where market failure limits access, supporting workforce participation, community sustainability and regional growth.

Motion Number 232
North Sydney Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding of neighbourhood power sharing schemes in Local Government Areas with a high proportion of medium /high density residential and commercial buildings.

OBJECTIVE

Australia has been at the forefront in the adoption of rooftop solar panels in private dwellings as a valuable component of the worldwide move to renewable energy.

KEY ARGUMENTS

At a previous NGA, ALGA has supported a policy of adoption of neighbourhood power schemes incorporating a network of rooftop solar panels on adjacent buildings interconnected through a community battery as a means of ensuring greater participation of these LGAs in the move to renewable energy.

However, while there has been acceptance of the need for such schemes, there has been little movement towards adopting them. This is perhaps because of a lack of coordination and funding by the Federal and State governments, a necessary first step in getting the schemes underway. Local government does not have the financial resources to provide start up assistance but could provide logistical support. If incorporated in the Federal and State Governments' renewable energy policies, and with adequate funding from both, neighbourhood power sharing schemes would accelerate the move to net zero emissions.

Motion Number 233
Logan City Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to invest in public transport in fast-growing local government areas that are high growth and that consistently meet or exceed housing targets.

OBJECTIVE

The National Urban Policy acknowledges public transport's role in creating liveable suburbs and regions. Through the National Housing Accord, the Commonwealth has to deliver 1.2 million new, well-located homes between mid 2024 and 2029. National projections show Australia must sustain a similar build rate for two decades or more to meet demand and stabilise affordability. Without public transport, new housing risks becoming car-dependent, congested, and less productive, undermining the value of investment. Early delivery of transport improves access to services, lifts workforce participation, and avoids higher future costs associated with road expansion, costly late-stage infrastructure upgrades, health impacts, and emissions.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Cities and regions deliver the greatest social, economy and environmental benefits when housing density and public transport are planned together, as each depends on the other to function effectively. Public transport is most viable, frequent, and accessible where there is sufficient housing density to support it, while well-located higher-density housing relies on strong transport access to connect people to jobs, education, services, and community life.

When this is aligned, cities experience lower transport disadvantage, reduced cost of living pressures, and greater social inclusion, particularly for people without reliable access to cars, including lower income households, young people, older adults, and people with disability. Integrated density and transport reduces car dependence and supports workforce participation. It also improves health and social connection by making it easier to access healthcare, education, cultural activities, and social networks. Aligning housing density with public transport creates more equitable, connected, and liveable cities and regions.

Motion Number 234
Maribyrnong City Council, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to work with states and territories to establish national guidance and incentives for safer default speed limits, including:

- A mandatory 30 km/h speed limit around all schools and childcare centres;
- Application of 30 km/h limits on local roads within major activity centres and high pedestrian areas; and
- Commonwealth funding incentives to support consistent national implementation.

OBJECTIVE

This motion supports the Australian Government's priority to reduce deaths and serious injuries, protect children and vulnerable road users, and create safe, healthy, people focused neighbourhoods.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Speed is the single greatest determinant of road trauma severity. Lower speeds significantly reduce deaths and serious injuries, particularly for children, older people, and people walking or cycling, while also improving neighbourhood amenity and safety.

Motion Number 235
Cessnock City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:

- Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Local Strategic Plans.
- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity and provide funding up front rather than in arrears.

OBJECTIVE

The delivery of essential community infrastructure, facilities and services provided by local councils in communities right across Australia is underpinned by a diversity of government grant programs administered by a plethora of Federal and State Government agencies.

With increasingly scarce government resources to support local councils deliver local projects and services, a national review of the design, delivery and governance arrangements across both state and federal governments for the delivery of grant funds to local government is necessary.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Councils rely on grant funding to deliver up to 60% of assets and services in regional areas, yet the current system creates significant challenges. Short-term, competitive grants are often misaligned with legislated strategic planning cycles, forcing delivery of projects that do not reflect local priorities and reducing efficiency. Application processes and reporting burdens absorb limited staff time, disadvantaging smaller regional councils. Short funding cycles drive workforce turnover, skill loss, service disruption, and inflated contractor costs, while inconsistent governance requirements add further administrative strain. This weakens council capability, frustrates communities, and leads to fragmented outcomes, particularly where councils compete rather than collaborate for funds.

Councils need stable, predictable funding. A shift to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Strategic Plans would enable strategic, place-based delivery; reduce administrative burden; build workforce capability and resilience; encourage regional collaboration; and strengthen community trust through lasting, locally driven outcomes.

Motion Number 236
Brisbane City Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide targeted funding for the upgrade of roads and structures that serve critical distribution functions adjacent to ports.

OBJECTIVE

Increased port productivity

KEY ARGUMENTS

- Moving containers to and from ports is the second biggest cost in the maritime logistics system after blue-water charges (Productivity Commission Inquiry Report no. 99 – 21 Dec 2022)
- Road transport is the major mode in which containers are moved to and from Australian ports.
- Most of this freight has an origin and destination within the immediate urban area.
- The movement of OSOM vehicles is seen to be a solution to future growth, particularly in the context of emerging labour shortages.
- However, the largest barrier to the approval of these vehicles is the damage to pavements with no means of seeking redress.
- As this is a national productivity issue, there is a role for the Australian Government to assist local governments with funding to address pavement and structure damage.

Motion Number 237
Penrith City Council, NSW

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in their development of national data centre principles & approval processes to include:

1. Strategic assessment of:
    1. Suitability of location, ideally where services are available and where other important land uses are not compromised as a result
    2. Local place-based impacts–e.g. potential strain on energy grids, water supply and ecosystems effects, land use trade-offs, clustering issues, impacts on local jobs
2. Meaningful community engagement
3. Transparent public reporting
4. That councils have a central role in decision-making
5. Engaging with councils for feedback into the preparation and finalisation of these documents.

OBJECTIVE

The Australian Government is developing national data centre principles under its new AI plan. Clear consistent guidance is critical–and we need assurance approvals will balance national interest with local impacts. Principles should consider:

- Location suitability – access to infrastructure and balancing the needs of other land uses
- Place-based issues - strain on energy grids from high electricity use, cooling demands and water supply/ecosystems
- Local economic impacts - data centres attract investment and construction jobs, but long-term community benefits are uncertain. Clustering and job number impacts must be addressed.

Councils need a seat at the table to inform this work.

KEY ARGUMENTS

As part of its National AI Plan (Dec 2025) the Australian Government is developing national data centre principles and approvals processes.

Data centres are critical to cloud computing, AI and digital services. Australia's favourable conditions are driving rapid growth. While necessary for our future, policy is still catching up with the significant challenges these projects can present.

Environmental impacts include rising electricity demand, reported by the Australian Energy Market Operator as currently 2% of national supply, projected to reach 6% by 2030. (Australian Energy Market Operator; https://www.aemo.com.au/-/media/files/stakeholder_consultation/consultations/nem-consultations/2024/2025-iasr-scenarios/final-docs/2025-inputs-assumptions-and-scenarios-report.pdf) Sydney Water reports potential heavy water use projecting data centres could consume a quarter of Sydney's drinking water by 2035. (ABC; https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-08-27/ai-to-take-up-one-quarter-of-sydney-water-in-a-decade/105700928). Land use and economic conflicts can arise, as large-scale centres may displace housing or agriculture and other job generating uses.

National principles must balance national interest with local place-based impacts, ensuring transparent reporting and meaningful community engagement. Councils should be empowered as active stakeholders in assessment and decision-making.

Motion Number 238
South Burnett Regional Council, QLD

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to cover all expenses and running costs for BOM weather equipment located at regional airports and aerodromes.

OBJECTIVE

Access to weather data is imperative for our community, for our Council to prepare for disasters, as well as our airport users including the Royal Flying Doctor Service and other medical specialists servicing our area.

KEY ARGUMENTS

South Burnett Regional Council has called for an urgent review of Federal Government charges after being slugged with a 23 per cent rise for hosting the Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) service at Kingaroy Airport. TAF provides weather data for incoming and outgoing aircraft and supplies information for a radius of five nautical miles around the airport. It is run by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and is operated alongside the BOM weather station at the airport which provides data for Kingaroy and the wider South Burnett. Access to weather data is imperative for our community, for our Council to prepare for disasters, as well as our airport users including the Royal Flying Doctor Service and other medical specialists servicing our area.

Motion Number 239
Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a dedicated, ongoing funding program for local governments to plan, upgrade and deliver sports and recreation infrastructure that aligns with locally adopted strategic objectives, community sport plans and inclusion strategies.
2. Prioritise funding for projects that address inequity in access, particularly the persistent shortage of female-friendly sporting facilities in regional, rural and remote communities, including:
   - Safe, fit-for-purpose change rooms and amenities for women and girls
   - Facilities that support participation across all life stages, from grassroots to elite pathways.
3. Leverage major national and international sporting events as legacy funding opportunities, ensuring that the Rugby World Cup 2027, Women's Rugby World Cup 2029 and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games deliver lasting community benefit through:
   - Targeted investment in local government-owned community sporting infrastructure
   - A clear focus on improving female participation outcomes beyond host cities
   - Equitable distribution of legacy funding to regional communities that support training, participation and event-related activity
4. Recognise local governments as the primary providers and custodians of community sporting infrastructure, and reduce co-contribution requirements that disproportionately disadvantage regional councils.
5. Require that funded projects demonstrate alignment with local government strategic planning, including community infrastructure plans, gender equity strategies and participation growth objectives, to ensure long-term sustainability and value for money.

OBJECTIVE

To secure Commonwealth investment in community sport infrastructure to support equitable participation, improve accessibility and ensure national sporting events deliver lasting legacy benefits for communities across Australia.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Local governments own and maintain the majority of Australia's community sporting infrastructure and are central to enabling participation, health, social connection and gender equity. However, much of this infrastructure — particularly in regional areas — was designed decades ago, when women's participation in organised sport was significantly lower.

As participation by women and girls continues to grow, councils are increasingly confronted with facilities that are no longer fit for purpose. The lack of female-friendly amenities remains a major barrier to participation, particularly in regional communities where alternative facilities are limited or non-existent.

Australia is entering an unprecedented decade of major sporting events, including the Rugby World Cup 2027, Women's Rugby World Cup 2029 and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. These events present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in a meaningful, nationwide legacy that extends well beyond host venues and capital cities.

Without deliberate policy settings and dedicated funding streams for local government, the legacy benefits of these events risk being unevenly distributed and failing to address long-standing inequities in community sport infrastructure. Aligning major-event legacy funding with local government strategic priorities will ensure investment delivers enduring participation outcomes, particularly for women and girls in regional Australia.

Motion Number 240
Shire of Strathbogie, VIC

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to call on the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) to reform its Regulatory Investment Test for Distribution (RIT-D) process to better reflect the needs of rural and geographically dispersed communities, not just urban density when assessing distribution network upgrades.

OBJECTIVE

To ensure our power infrastructure is reliable, sustainable, and equitable, supporting economic growth, connecting communities, and enabling housing, industry, and business development across the country.

KEY ARGUMENTS

A reliable modern power supply will transform Australia's rural economy and resilience.

Economically, it supports business investment, housing development, and regional industries, key drivers of jobs and population growth. For communities, it enhances resilience by enabling preparation for, adoption to, and recovery from power outages, minimising disruptions to essential services, wellbeing, and the costs borne by individuals and businesses. From an equity perspective, reliable energy levels the playing field for rural communities, ensuring they are not left behind in national and state energy planning.

Energy reliability underpins a competitive, investable regional economy and is essential for the liveability and safety of growing communities. With rising investment, and the transition to renewable and resilient infrastructure, the time is right to strengthen these foundational systems. Power infrastructure remains one of the most critical and limiting elements for regional development, and strategic investment now will secure Australia's economic and social future.

Motion Number 241
Redland City Council, QLD

The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide targeted funding and policy support to strengthen cemetery and funeral services by:

1. Establishing a national funding stream to enhance cemetery safety infrastructure, including grave shoring systems and protective covers, to ensure compliance with workplace health and safety obligations.
2. Creating a national program to support local governments in adopting digital memorialisation technologies and practices that address land shortages and modernise service delivery.
3. Developing equitable funeral assistance programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, resolving delays and inconsistencies across jurisdictions.

OBJECTIVE

Cemetery and funeral management issues are an emerging national concern due to increasing safety compliance costs, limited burial land, and inequities in funeral assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across jurisdictions. Local governments, which manage most cemeteries, face growing pressure to deliver safe, sustainable, and culturally appropriate services without consistent federal support.

The absence of a coordinated national approach has created safety, funding, and equity gaps that extend beyond council boundaries. Addressing these challenges through a unified national funding and policy response would strengthen workforce safety, promote digital innovation, and advance efforts towards closing the gap.

KEY ARGUMENTS

Cemeteries are vital community assets managed by local governments, yet councils struggle with safety, sustainability, and cultural needs without national support.

Limited funding hinders upgrades to grave safety equipment like shoring systems and covers, essential for protecting workers and visitors from risks such as collapses. While Victoria offers minor aid, no national program addresses true costs or ensures compliance.

Dwindling burial land demands digital memorialisation—virtual platforms, QR memorials - to preserve heritage, cut environmental impact, and ease space pressures.

Federal funding could upgrade systems, create guidelines, and drive community engagement.

First Nations families face funeral assistance delays (e.g., 8+ weeks in Redland), exacerbating distress during Sorry Business. National expansion should boost funding, eligibility, and processing via local/Indigenous collaboration.

A coordinated federal response would modernise cemeteries, ensure safety, and deliver equitable services.

Motion Number 242
Newcastle City Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide funding for increased independence, dignity, and inclusion in communities through the MLAK-Scheme by:

1. Supporting new public toilets to be fitted with the Master-Locksmiths-Access-Key (MLAK) system;
2. Working with the Master Locksmiths Association of Australasia (MLAA) and owners to retrofit publicly-accessible toilets (e.g. at parks, playgrounds, shopping centres, and petrol stations) with the MLAK system where able and appropriate; and
3. As an important provider of MLAK facilities and keys to individuals in our communities, supporting Councils in the cost of promoting and increasing use of the MLAK Scheme.

OBJECTIVE

The MLAK system unlocks doors on public toilets fitted with the MLAK system (for example in council-owned facilities like libraries and parks, and at shopping centres) to ensure dignified and safe access is available for eligible individuals who may need access to public facilities after-hours. By ensuring public toilets are available at any time to eligible individuals with health or disability needs, the MLAK scheme supports the independence, safety, and wellbeing of individuals in our communities.

KEY ARGUMENTS

An MLAK key will open any door or public facility fitted with a lock that uses the special MLAK cylinder. The MLAK system is inconsistently available at public toilets across the country - less than 5% (1000) of the 23,000 Australia's public toilets are fitted with the MLAK system to enable access for individuals to public toilets at night-time and on weekends. An unadopted recommendation of the 2025 State Government Inquiry into Public Toilets was for the MLAK scheme to be investigated to be better utilised and promoted.

The cost and application process varies between local government areas and across the country. Eligibility to obtain a key occurs via written authority from a doctor, community health centre, or disability organisation. MLAK keys are supplied by the MLAA ($64 at July 2025) and issued on application to local governments, approved organisations (e.g. disability service providers, health services, community centres), or directly to the MLAA. Some Councils set the cost of provision in user fees and charges.

30 years after the MLAK scheme was introduced in 1994 launched as a joint initiative between Pittwater Council and the MLAA and with the Australian Disability Parking Scheme, there is an opportunity support councils with the resourcing necessary to ensure the MLAK scheme is available consistency at all public toilets across the country, to provide keys free of charge to any eligible ratepayer, and to ensure indiscriminate access to any individual who needs an MLAK key at any stage of life.

Motion Number 243
Parkes Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Provide clarity on its long-term intentions for Inland Rail beyond Parkes, noting that the current “consolidation” decision does not articulate a pathway for completing the nationally planned Melbourne–Brisbane railway;
2. Recognise Inland Rail as infrastructure of national significance whose productivity, congestion-reduction and resilience benefits depend on full delivery, and that prolonged uncertainty places those benefits at risk;
3. Affirm that commitments made to local governments, landholders and communities as part of Inland Rail planning, acquisition and construction processes form part of the project’s social licence and call on the Australian Government to ensure all genuine and recorded commitments are honoured in full, regardless of staging or sequencing decisions.
4. Commit to progressing Inland Rail beyond Parkes (Narromine) by working through identified cost, scope and delivery challenges, consistent with the treatment of other nationally significant, complex infrastructure projects; and
5. Ensure this approach is underpinned by transparency, including releasing the supporting cost, cost-benefit and productivity analyses and engaging with local governments to advance the project in the national interest.
6. Affirm that, in the national interest, infrastructure deemed nationally significant through an agreed and transparent methodology requires enduring commitment, long-term planning horizons, and perseverance through complexity.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The Australian Government’s recent announcement to “consolidate” the Inland Rail project by completing construction only to Parkes, without clarity on progression beyond that point, represents a significant departure from long-standing national infrastructure policy and raises serious concerns for Australia’s productivity, resilience and investment confidence.

For clarity, Inland Rail infrastructure is already operational north of Parkes to Narromine, while there may be sound rationale in progressing additional sections to optimise what has already been built, there is no articulated commitment or pathway to complete the nationally planned corridor toward Brisbane.

Inland Rail was conceived, assessed and announced as infrastructure of national significance. Its purpose was not regional development in isolation, but the creation of a second inland north–south freight spine to support the nation’s growing freight task, protect metropolitan supply chains, reduce congestion and emissions, and strengthen Australia’s resilience to climate, fuel and network disruptions. These objectives remain valid and increasingly urgent.

While the Government has not explicitly described the project as cancelled, the absence of a clear commitment or pathway to progress Inland Rail beyond Parkes creates uncertainty that has the same practical effect. Without a defined mechanism to advance the remaining sections, the nationally forecast productivity gains, supply-chain efficiencies and congestion-reduction benefits associated with the full Melbourne–Brisbane corridor are placed at risk.

Large, complex infrastructure projects inevitably encounter challenges, including cost escalation, scope refinement and delivery risk. Those challenges do not diminish national significance; rather, they are precisely why such projects require sustained commitment, disciplined governance and long-term problem-solving. Nation-building infrastructure has never been delivered by avoiding difficulty, but by working through it in the national interest.

The current lack of clarity crystallises a deeper and more consequential issue: investment certainty and sovereign risk. Over many years, governments at all levels, businesses, ports, logistics operators and communities made decisions in good faith on the basis of repeated and unequivocal Commonwealth commitments that Inland Rail would be delivered as a Melbourne–Brisbane corridor. Planning systems were aligned, land preserved, capital allocated and private investment mobilised in reliance on those decisions.

When nationally announced infrastructure projects can be left unresolved through ambiguity rather than resolved through governance and planning, it undermines confidence not only in this project, but in the reliability of government decision-making more broadly. If investors, councils and communities cannot rely on formal Commonwealth commitments when making long-term investment decisions, the question arises: on what basis can national infrastructure confidence be sustained at all? This has implications well beyond Inland Rail, affecting Australia's credibility as a place to invest, plan and build for the long term.

This motion does not dismiss the importance of cost discipline or robust governance. Rather, it asserts that projects of genuine national significance must be progressed through complexity, not diminished by it. Preserving corridors may be prudent, but it is not a substitute for delivering outcomes.

The National General Assembly has an obligation to speak collectively on matters that affect Australia's long-term productivity, infrastructure integrity and investment confidence. Inland Rail meets that threshold. Clarity, commitment and a credible pathway forward are now required so the project's national purpose is not quietly diminished by uncertainty.



ALGA

Australian Local Government Association