



Ordinary Meeting of Council

LATE REPORTS

Thursday 27 March 2025

4:00 PM

Yass High School

Grampian Street, Yass

PRAYER:

All Stand:

Mayor: *Let us be still and remember the presence of God. As we commence our meeting let us together pray for guidance and help.*

Join me in the prayer or take this moment to reflect:

Almighty God, we ask your blessing upon this Council.

Direct and prosper our deliberations to the true welfare of Australia and the people of Yass Valley Amen.

FUTURE MEETINGS

April 2025

Thursday 24th

4:00 PM

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Ordinary Meeting of Council

LATE AGENDA

Page No.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Australian Local Government Association4

Julie Costa

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6.1 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Association is the peak national body representing local councils across Australia. The 2025 National General Assembly of ALGA will be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025. The events commence with the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum on 24 June 2025. Council is proposing two motions to be submitted for consideration for inclusion in the Business Paper relating to the National Messaging System and Financial Assistance Grants.

RECOMMENDATION

That the motions on the National Messaging System and Financial Assistance Grants be forwarded to the Australian Local Government Association for consideration to include them as motions in the Business Paper for the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Report relates to proposed motions for the National General Assembly (NGA).

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The NGA is the key national agenda setting forum for local government with hundreds of delegates from across the country connecting to share their united voice to improve outcomes in the sector.

REPORT

1. Introduction

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the peak national body representing local councils across Australia. The 2025 NGA of ALGA will be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025. The events commence with the Regional Cooperation and Development Forum on 24 June 2025. This report details to motions that Council can submit for consideration for inclusion at the NSA.

2. Motions

The theme for the NGA 'National Priorities Need Local Solutions' highlights the unique role Australia's 537 councils can play delivering local, place-based solutions that meet the needs of their communities, while addressing broader national priorities.

This year's call for motions focusses on 12 priority areas:

- Intergovernmental relations
- Financial sustainability
- Roads and infrastructure
- Emergency management
- Housing and homelessness
- Jobs and skills
- Community services
- Close the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation
- Data, digital technology and cyber security
- Climate change and renewable energy
- Environment
- Circular economy

Attachment 1 contains essential information for council considering submitting motions for debate at the NGA. Motions must be submitted by 31 March 2025.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and then debated on the floor of the NGA, Motions must follow these listed principles:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motion 1

Category	Emergency Management
Motion Subject	Granting councils access to the National Messaging System in emergencies.
Motion Wording	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to grant councils access to the National Messaging System being developed by the National Emergency Management Agency to assist councils in managing local emergencies.
<p>National Objective</p> <p>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA? (Max 200 words)</p> <p>Summary of Key Arguments</p> <p>Background information and supporting arguments (Max 500 words)</p>	<p>Councils regularly manage local emergencies and face considerable challenges in rapidly and effectively community risks to residents. Facilitating rapid communications to a community during an emergency assist in protects communities, manages risks and building robust and resilient communities.</p> <p>Councils typically communicate via media releases, social media, opt-in text messaging, electronic roadside displays and limited direct phone calls from council to institutions with known vulnerable users, such healthcare facilities, schools, preschools, aged care facilities. Allowing councils to access the National Messaging System would broaden its ability to inform its communities of emergencies such as boil water alerts, natural disasters affecting infrastructure e.g. floods cutting vehicle access etcetera.</p>

Motion 2

Category	Financial sustainability
Motion Subject	Increase the Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of Federal Taxation Revenue
Motion Wording	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Restore funding of the Financial Assistance Grant program to at least 1% of Federal taxation revenue. b. Reduce the population factor in the general-purpose component of the Federal Assistance Grant allocation from 30% to 10%. c. Restore the Federal Assistance Grant funding lost in the 2014-15 to 2016-17 indexation freeze. d. Review the Financial Assistance Grant National Principles
<p>National Objective</p> <p>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA? (Max 200 words)</p> <p>Summary of Key Arguments</p> <p>Background information and supporting arguments (Max 500 words)</p>	<p>The Interim Report from the Inquiry into local government sustainability outlined that a significant number of submitters to the inquiry called for a review of the Financial Assistance Grants program, and in particular the distribution formula, quantum of the funding pool, indexation methodology, and the national principles. Increasing the Federal Assistance Grant allocation is fundamental to the future financial sustainability of Councils across the country.</p> <p>Financial Assistance Grants have been a fixture of local government funding since 1974. The grant is paid to local governments via their state or territory grants commissions according to an agreed formula set by the Federal Government.</p> <p>In 2023-24, Australian local governments received \$3.1 billion in federal Financial Assistance Grants, which is approximately 0.5 percent of Federal taxation revenue. The last time Federal Assistance Grants were equal to one percent of Federal taxation revenue was 1996. Financial Assistance Grants are untied, meaning that local governments can use this federal funding to address local issues and priorities.</p>

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

CSP Theme	Our Infrastructure
CSP Strategy Objective	IN3: Our existing community infrastructure is maintained, and we plan for and support the development of infrastructure that meets community need
Strategies	IN3.1 - Advocate to State and Federal Government agencies for infrastructure that meets the needs of all people in our communities
Delivery Program Action	Advocate, and support community groups to advocate, for community infrastructure not currently identified in existing programs

ATTACHMENTS: A. 2025 National General Assembly Discussion Paper