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Council Meeting

16 March 2022

9.1 National General Assembly – Motions for Consideration

Report by: Chief Executive Officer, Karina Ewer

Strategic Outcome: 2. Good government

Strategic Objective: 2.2 Strengthen strategic relationships and partnerships with community, business and government

**Recommendation:** that Council adopt the following motions for submission to the National General Assembly call for Motions:

1. that regional and rural Councils are engaged with decisions regarding the provision of utility infrastructure (including electricity and digital connectivity) to support access to alternate systems and enable adoption of advancing technologies more readily and in larger numbers, thus keeping delivery costs to a minimum.
2. that further funding be allocated to allow regional and rural Councils to address upgrade requirements for aerodrome facilities to support linkages between these areas and larger domestic and international ports.
3. that Federal and State Governments work with Local Councils to assist with the identification of existing skills and the types of on the job training in Local Government that might meet micro-credentialling requirements and assist Local Councils to take up these options at the leading edge.
4. that Federal and State Governments work more closely with Local Councils to support their efforts to reduce emissions through the reduction of costs related directly to climate change management (such as landfill fees) where Councils can demonstrate progress across an agreed framework of climate policy, emissions reduction, climate mitigation management and adaptation responses.
5. that Federal and State Governments work with rural and regional Council's and community housing providers on the place-based supply, including financing, and construction of medium to long-term secure tenure rental housing designed for key workers otherwise excluded from home ownership due to their economic circumstances.
6. that Council endorse the attendance of the Mayor, CEO, and XXX to attend the National General Assembly to be held in Canberra on 19-22 June 2022 to represent the interests of the Berrigan Shire.

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## Report:

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) advocates on behalf of Australia's 537 Local Councils for funding and policy outcomes that support local government to deliver better results for their communities. One recent successful advocacy outcome from ALGA and NSWLGA has been the reconsideration of the effect of the 0.7% rate cap applied to most Councils in NSW (0.9% for Berrigan Shire due to our growth factor).

Each year ALGA hosts the National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra where Councils discuss current and emergency issues and set the advocacy framework for ALGA for the coming year.

Council have indicated an intention to attend future NGAs. Active participation in that process is therefore relevant through responding to the call for Motions.

Next year's NGA will be held in Canberra from 19-22 June 2022, which means it will take place almost immediately following the Federal Election.

The theme of this year's event is *Partners in Progress* and will focus on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Federal and local governments, can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities to prepare for their future. A copy of the discussion paper is attached as "**Appendix 9.1-A**".

Motions must be:

1. relevant to the work of local government nationally;
2. consistent with the themes of the NGA;
3. complimentary or build the policy objectives of NSW;
4. from a Council which is a financial member of their State LGA;
5. propose a clear action and outcome; and

Motions cannot be advanced on behalf of external third parties who may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to the Board members or gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

At Council's January Ordinary meeting Council moved as follows:

### 7.4 Call for Motions – National General Assembly

- 13        **Resolved** Crs Taylor and Paine that a workshop be held at the March SPW to discuss the relevant motions for the NGA.

At the March Strategic and Policy workshop, Council requested I develop some possible motions aligned with our strategic policy directions and with our Advocacy document. To that

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end I have used previous reports to Council, such as our Homelessness Report, and some of the outcomes of our recent Corporate Workshop, to consider the issues facing this Council and other Local Councils nationally due to policy change such as 'zero net emissions by 2050' and how those affect our communities.

Motions are due Friday 25 March 2022 and must be submitted online.

Attached as "Appendix 9.1-B" is a copy of Berrigan Shire Council's proposed submission.

### Further information

Should Council wish to consider further motions for the NGA, the following documents will be of value to consider and can be provided separately.

- [Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements Report 28 October 2020](#)
- [Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030](#)
- [National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019](#)
- [Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan](#)

### Financial Impacts

Attendance at the National General Assembly has been included in the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy being considered at this meeting. Budget for that attendance will therefore be included for the 2022-2023 financial year however as this has not traditionally been attended by Council, it is not included in the current budget.

Council did however send both the Mayor and I to the 2021 National General Assembly when I first arrived, which cost \$4,000 that year.

Should Council choose to send a delegation this year the costs will be as follows:

- \$989 per person for actual attendance
- \$425 per person for attendance at the regional forum (optional)
- Approximately \$200-\$300 per night per person

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### Resolution:

<To be completed after the meeting by CEOPA>

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Council Meeting

16 March 2022

9.2 Engagement Strategy: Town Beach

Report by: Director Strategic Planning & Development, Joanne Ruffin

Strategic Outcome: 3. Supported and engaged communities

Strategic Objective: 3.2 Support community engagement through life-long learning, culture and recreation

**Recommendation:** that the Council adopt the Tocumwal Town Beach Engagement Strategy attached as “Appendix 9.2-A”

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**Report:**

The Council and the Tocumwal Foreshore Committee have in the past three months been briefed by Council Officers’ about a range of issues impacting the continued approval as a primitive campsite and the operation of camping at Town Beach. Change in community expectations, concerns about safety, and environmental regulation has prompted a review at this time.

Proposed is a brief community survey to gauge the Tocumwal community’s interest in the ongoing management of Town Beach. The appended Community Engagement Strategy outlines the extent of community engagement at this time, the key messages and information to be conveyed to the community. Also, included is a copy of a brief online poll to be conducted with Tocumwal residents.

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**Resolution:**

<To be completed after the meeting by CEOPA>