

CATEGORY 2 MOTIONS – RATIONALE

Motions in this section are not proposed for debate because they are already:

- existing LGNSW policy;
- supported by Conference resolutions from recent years; and/or
- the subject of recent or ongoing representations by LGNSW.

LGNSW will use the content of these motions to strengthen our position on these issues.

1. ECONOMIC POLICY

X1 Bellingen Shire Council **Local government funding**

That Local Government NSW seeks a review of the principles that define the distribution of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) to local government with a view to including consideration of horizontal fiscal equalisation in the calculation of the FAG funding.

Note from LGNSW

The intent of this motion is similar to previous resolutions from conferences which LGNSW is currently pursuing. The FAGs distribution is heavily influenced by the horizontal principle. Currently 70% of the General Purpose FAGs distribution is distributed on a horizontal equalisation basis.

Following previous LGNSW advocacy on this issue, a response was received from Kevin Wilde, Chief of Staff to the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP on 25 June 2018 which states:

“that changes to the grants distribution methodologies present particular challenges for the local government sector, as there will be inevitably winners and losers. Councils with larger populations are often facing challenges of high growth and infrastructure demands while those with smaller populations may find it difficult to sustain basic levels of service. Both would argue that they require additional support from the Financial Assistance grants program.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel considered this matter in 2013 and its proposal for revised FAGs distribution methodologies drew a mixed response from councils. Based on the Panel’s recommendations, OLG has been working with the NSW Grants Commission to ensure optimal allocation of grants, consistent with the Commonwealth Government principles, and where possible, to provide funding for councils with higher relative need.”

LGNSW understands that ALGA is continuing to advocate for a review of FAGs methodology and for the quantum of FAGs to return to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.

X2 Bourke Shire Council **Limitation of increases in costs by government agencies**

That:

- All NSW Government Departments be made aware of the rate increase allowed for councils each year and to take that figure into consideration when looking to set any fees and charges impacting on local government.
- Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government that where a new fee/charge or an increase to an existing fee/charge is proposed, the rate of increase is to be no greater than the IPART determined rate page increase for that year. Where such an increase above the rate peg is proposed, the secretary/head of agency is to write to the Council, setting out the reasons for the proposed increase, including any costings that justify the increase.

Note from LGNSW

This is longstanding LGNSW policy for which LGNSW will continue to advocate.

X3 City of Parramatta Council **Financial reporting for local government**

That Local Government NSW advocates that the NSW Government work with NSW councils on reducing the complexity and associated cost in preparing and auditing General Purpose Financial Statements of local councils, with a focus on:

- reducing disclosure requirements for non-financial non-current assets;
- eliminating the requirement to fair value non-financial non-current assets at each reporting date;
- developing a consistent cost effective approach across the councils; and
- eliminating other extensive disclosures outside user needs.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW continues to advocate for reduced complexity and this motion will be perused as part of ongoing work.

X4 Greater Hume Shire Council**Grant funding guidelines**

That Local Government NSW makes strong representations to State and Federal Governments and departmental heads, to ensure that grant guidelines acknowledge and consider the important role that rural councils and the myriad of country towns and communities contribute to the social and economic fabric of NSW.

Note from LGNSW

This motion is covered by [LGNSW's Services in Rural Communities Position Statement](#) which reads: *As the only sphere of government embedded in rural and small communities, councils have a responsibility for facilitating the effective delivery of infrastructure and services provided directly or funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments.*

This motion is also similar to Kyogle's resolution 28 from the 2017 conference for which LGNSW can continue to advocate which states: *That LGNSW calls on the State Government to increase grant funding to create a rural, remote and isolated community grants category.*

X5 Gunnedah Shire Council**Changes to FAGs allocations**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Federal Government to review and provide options for a more sophisticated allocation of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) funding that increases the allocation of funds to rural and remote areas of need.

Note from LGNSW

The intent of this motion is similar to previous resolutions from conferences which LGNSW is currently pursuing. Following previous LGNSW advocacy on this issue, a response was received from Kevin Wilde, Chief of Staff to the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP on 25 June 2018 which states:

"that changes to the grants distribution methodologies present particular challenges for the local government sector, as there will be inevitably winners and losers. Councils with larger populations are often facing challenges of high growth and infrastructure demands while those with smaller populations may find it difficult to sustain basis levels of service. Both would argue that they require additional support from the Financial Assistance grants program.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel considered this matter in 2013 and its proposal for revised FAGs distribution methodologies drew a mixed response from councils. Based on the Panel's recommendations, OLG has been working with the NSW Grants Commission to ensure optimal allocation of grants, consistent with the Commonwealth Government principles, and where possible, to provide funding for councils with higher relative need."

LGNSW understands that ALGA is continuing to advocate for a review of FAGs methodology and for the quantum of FAGs to return to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.

X6 Gunnedah Shire Council**Abolish rate pegging**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to abolish rate pegging.

Note from LGNSW

The abolishment of rate pegging is a long standing policy position of LGNSW for which we will continue to advocate.

X7 Kyogle Council**Forestry rates payments**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to require Forests NSW to pay rates on native forest and plantation timber production land.

Note from LGNSW

This has long been part of LGNSW's advocacy on rate reform and was given specific attention in the [LGNSW submission to the IPART Review](#) of the rating system.

LGNSW hosts the Unrateable Land Working Party. The group has developed an action plan on this issue, which has included progress in the following areas:

- Compilation of more detailed information from affected councils on forgone rating revenue from unrateable forestry land
- Seeking progress on the IPART Rating Review and progress on previous LGNSW representations on rating exemptions, including highlighting this issue in our recent media release in response to the Auditor-General's report on local government.
- Research into previous or existing forestry-related infrastructure agreements in NSW and interstate through discussions with other state and territory local government associations
- Collaboration has been initiated with the National Timber Councils Association - a local government body which provides a national voice on issues affecting communities, industry and the environment in timber regions.

We will include Council in the Unrateable Land Working Party.

X8 Murray River Council**Cross border issues**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to press for the urgent appointment of a Cross Border Commissioner in Victoria to facilitate effective and comprehensive resolution of the multitude of cross border anomalies that exist between our two States.

Specifically Local Government NSW should advocate for:

1. The early appointment of the Victorian Commissioner to permit the urgent addressing of these issues.
2. That the Victorian Commissioner be based in Echuca, given its central position along the Victorian NSW border.
3. That the NSW Commissioner assign the highest priority to the engagement with the appointed Commissioner for Victoria.
4. That the NSW Commissioner consult urgently with NSW border councils to create a comprehensive list of issues needing resolution.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW has made representations calling on the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate for the Victorian Government to appoint a Cross Border Commissioner. On 26 September 2018, the Victorian Government appointed a Cross Border Commissioner, Luke Wilson.

X9 Orange City Council**Electricity prices**

That the NSW and Federal Governments take immediate action to reduce unsustainable and excessive electricity prices on local government, business, industry and individual consumers including, that:

- a) the NSW Government outlines the specific actions it plans to take to reduce the impact of excessive electricity prices for local government, businesses and residents;
- b) the Australian Government develop an urgent and extensive response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's report on its Electricity Supply and Prices Inquiry, with the aim of addressing the major factors leading to high prices identified in the report.

Note from LGNSW

This motion is supported by 2017 conference resolution 25 from Griffith for which LGNSW will continue to advocate. The resolution reads: *That all options be explored by State Governments and Federal Governments to put downward pressure on electricity and gas charges.*

Following advocacy made in 2017, LGNSW understands that in April 2018 the NSW Government announced that the full suite of the Energy Affordability Package is available, including:

- Energy efficient lighting upgrades – Households and small businesses can access a discounted lighting upgrade offer, NSW Government will be subsidising the new lighting systems installations and bulb costs, through approved suppliers.
- Appliance replacement offer – Discounts on new energy efficient fridges and televisions. When householders replace their old, inefficient model, they can receive 40% off the cost of a fridge and 50% off the cost of a television. To receive this offer householders must be a NSW resident and hold a concession card.
- Training services – Small businesses can participate now in online training courses and webinars that are tailored to their unique needs. All learning opportunities are flexible, easy to access and free of charge for small businesses in NSW.
- Rebates for householders – Energy rebates that help eligible families, concession card holders and people using approved medical equipment to pay their energy bills. There is also assistance for people in a short term financial crisis or emergency.

The full list of programs and how to access offers is available on the [Power to Save website](#).

A new package of measures was announced on 21 August 2018 by the Australian Government. This is proposed to put further downward pressure on electricity prices. More information can be found at: www.energy.gov.au/government-priorities/better-energy-future-australia

X10 Tamworth Regional Council**Pensioner subsidies**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to increase the level of rebate offered to councils for the pensioner subsidy applicable for the payment of rates and charges.

Note from LGNSW

This is long established LGNSW policy for which LGNSW will continue to advocate. LGNSW advocates that pensioner rate rebates should be increased and that the rebates should be fully funded by the State or Federal Governments.

LGNSW issued a [media release on 4 April 2018](#) where we called for pensioner concessions on council rates to be simultaneously increased to more realistic levels and fully funded by the NSW Government.

This issue was also included as recommendation to the LGNSW State Budget Submission which called on the NSW Government to reimburse councils for the full cost of pensioner rate rebates or, at a minimum, maintain the current percentage share.

X11 Tweed Shire Council Pensioner rebates – review of limits and level of subsidy

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to fund an increase in the Concessions for pensioners legislated under section 575 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW).

Note from LGNSW

This is the current policy position of LGNSW for which we will continue to advocate. LGNSW issued a [media release on 4 April 2018](#) where we called for pensioner concessions on council rates to be simultaneously increased to more realistic levels and fully funded by the NSW Government.

This issue was also included as recommendation to the LGNSW State Budget Submission which called on the NSW Government to reimburse councils for the full cost of pensioner rate rebates or, at a minimum, maintain the current percentage share.

X12 Wagga Wagga City Council Payroll tax for businesses in regional NSW

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to advocate for a reduction in payroll tax for businesses in regional NSW to be comparable to the rate offered to regional Victorian employers (2.425%)

Note from LGNSW

This is consistent with LGNSW policy for which we will continue to advocate. LGNSW advocates for the use of economic incentives to promote jobs and growth in regional NSW.

X13 Wagga Wagga City Council FAGs program

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Federal Government to increase the funding allocated to local government through the FAGs program to reflect 1% of total tax income received by the Federal Government as per the figure in 1996.

Note from LGNSW

The intent of this motion is similar to previous resolutions from conferences which LGNSW is currently pursuing. Following previous LGNSW advocacy on this issue, a response was received from Kevin Wilde, Chief of Staff to the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP on 25 June 2018 which states:

“that changes to the grants distribution methodologies present particular challenges for the local government sector, as there will be inevitably winners and losers. Councils with larger populations are often facing challenges of high growth and infrastructure demands while those with smaller populations may find it difficult to sustain basic levels of service. Both would argue that they require additional support from the Financial Assistance grants program.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel considered this matter in 2013 and its proposal for revised FAGs distribution methodologies drew a mixed response from councils. Based on the Panel’s recommendations, OLG has been working with the NSW Grants Commission to ensure optimal allocation of grants, consistent with the Commonwealth Government principles, and where possible, to provide funding for councils with higher relative need.”

LGNSW understands that ALGA is continuing to advocate for a review of FAGs methodology and for the quantum of FAGs to return to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth tax revenue.

X14 City of Newcastle Status of the City of Newcastle

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes the continued uncertainty surrounding the status of cities of local government areas (LGAs) commonly classified as either 'regional' or 'metropolitan' councils (for example Newcastle and Wollongong councils)
2. Writes to the NSW Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, seeking clarification about regional and metropolitan boundaries in NSW.
3. Calls on the NSW Government to provide certainty to these local government areas regarding eligibility for grant funding opportunities.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW notes the considerable uncertainty for funding of councils in these metro/regional border areas and this is an issue for which we are advocating. Most recently we raised the issue in relation to Wollongong City Council in an August meeting with the Federal Department of Regional Development.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING POLICY

X15 Moree Plains Shire Council

Natural Disasters

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the NSW State and the Federal Treasurer regarding concerns over both the current and potential future natural disaster funding arrangements. In particular, that:

- The definition of a Natural Disaster should be linked to the capacity of a community to recover from an event, rather than a definition of "serious disruption";
- Funding be directed to outcomes that are more resilient to future natural disasters so that community betterment is achieved;
- No further cost shifting occur to local government, noting proposals to increase the level of contribution that councils are required to make;
- Relief funding recognise the needs of business, in particular small business, which require support to recover from a range of natural disasters; and
- Support be provided post-disaster to improve community social and economic resilience to future events.

Note from LGNSW

This is an issue for which LGNSW will continue to advocate and it is largely consistent with existing policy positions. Most recently it was resolved at the 2017 conference by resolution 16 from Tweed: *That Local Government NSW requests that the NSW Government, specifically the Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Local Government, pursues with urgency a review of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) with the Commonwealth Government.*

The review process should include consultation between the state, Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) and all NSW local government councils which have endured Natural Disaster Declarations since the 2012 NDRRA determination, to ensure NSW NDRRA guidelines maximise councils' ability to support community recovery from natural disasters.

LGNSW has been in regular discussion with the NSW Office of Emergency Management (OEM) around the introduction of the revised NDRRA arrangements in NSW and representations on matters raised in 2017 conference resolution 16 such as betterment and day-labour.

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (announced April 2018) includes progress on some of these issues, including the removal of restrictions on the use of normal-hours salary and wages staff ('day labour') and internal plant/equipment hire to those local councils that agree to revised co-contribution arrangements, and the availability of disaster mitigation funding under certain conditions. Further information on these announcements is available at the [OEM website](#).

X16 Warren Shire Council

Natural disaster (flooding) preparation

That the NSW Government allow for the betterment of destroyed infrastructure that has occurred as the result of a natural disaster, rather than just its replacement, in that such a move may reduce the possibility of further future damage.

Note from LGNSW

This is an issue for which LGNSW will continue to advocate and it is largely consistent with existing policy positions. Most recently it was resolved at the 2017 conference by resolution 16 from Tweed: *That Local Government NSW requests that the NSW Government, specifically the Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Local Government, pursues with urgency a review of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) with the Commonwealth Government.*

The review process should include consultation between the state, Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) and all NSW local government councils which have endured Natural Disaster Declarations since the 2012 NDRRA determination, to ensure NSW NDRRA guidelines maximise councils' ability to support community recovery from natural disasters.

LGNSW has been in regular discussion with the NSW Office of Emergency Management (OEM) around the introduction of the revised NDRRA arrangements in NSW and representations on matters raised in 2017 conference resolution 16 such as betterment and day-labour.

The new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (announced April 2018) includes progress on some of these issues, including the removal of restrictions on the use of normal-hours salary and wages staff ('day labour') and internal plant/equipment hire to those local councils that agree to revised co-contribution arrangements, and the availability of disaster mitigation funding under certain conditions. Further information on these announcements is available at the [OEM website](#).

X17 Blue Mountains City Council

State transport infrastructure planning

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to improve its processes around the engagement and announcement on significant projects affecting local councils and their communities.

Note from LGNSW

This is a long held policy position for which LGNSW will continue to advocate. LGNSW advocates that the State Government should engage and consult with councils and communities on all significant developments and projects that may affect them.

[LGNSW's Infrastructure Position Statement](#) provides that: *LGNSW advocates for mandatory upfront engagement by State and Commonwealth governments with local government about specific local priorities.*

X18 Murrumbidgee Council**Telecommunication services**

That the Annual Conference support Murrumbidgee Council's efforts to address the telecommunications blackspots which exist in its local government area (LGA).

Note from LGNSW

This motion adheres to LGNSW's current policy for which we continue to advocate. This issue aligns with resolution 31 of the 2016 conference from Forbes: *That Local Government NSW lobbies for increased funding to rural and regional areas for more reliable mobile and internet services.*

Following advocacy in 2017, LGNSW was informed that the Australian Government has invested \$220 million through the Mobile Black Spots Program to improve mobile coverage and competition in regional and remote areas. More information about the program is available at the [Mobile Black Spot Program website](#).

Additionally, on 13 September 2018 the Government re-opened the National Mobile Black Spot Database for a four week period to support Round 4. Local and state governments, and Federal representative have been invited to nominate black spot locations. Members of the public are encouraged to make their coverage issues known to their local council and Federal representatives.

X19 Albury City Council**Rural Fire Service assets**

That Local Government NSW continues to advocate on behalf of councils for all Rural Fire Service (RFS) equipment to be removed from council asset registers, by progressing discussions with relevant state agencies such as the NSW Treasury, RFS and the Office of Local Government (OLG) to ensure there is a whole-of-government approach to this issue.

Note from LGNSW

This is similar to Bega's resolution 32 from the 2017 conference which LGNSW is currently pursuing: *That Local Government NSW lobbies on behalf of councils for all Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and Surf Life Saving Clubs assets to be removed from Council asset registers (sheds, equipment etc.) and the responsibility be taken back by the RFS, SES and Surf Life Saving Club.*

That this process not be used to increase local government contributions and further that the NSW Government investigate a model for RFS funding based on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) model in Victoria.

The Auditor General supported LGNSW's position on this issue in her [April 2018 report on local government](#). Her audit recommended "*The Office of Local Government should address the different practices across the local government sector in accounting for rural fire-fighting equipment before 30 June 2018. In doing so the Office of Local Government should work with NSW Treasury to ensure there is a whole-of-government approach*".

LGNSW meets regularly with the Auditor General and we consistently highlight this issue on behalf of councils. As a result, the Office of Local Government has commissioned a consultant to assess the current status and treatment of assets in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and propose options for moving forward. In addition, and importantly, LGNSW will continue to monitor progress on the recommendation in the Auditor General's April 2018 report and the consultant's findings through the Office of Local Government's Technical Accounting Advisory Group.

LGNSW raised this matter at the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Planning Day (6 June 2018). NSW Treasury was in attendance. OLG advised it is currently working with Treasury on this matter. LGNSW will continue to raise with OLG and seek updates.

X20 Tamworth Regional Council**Rural Fire Service assets**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government for all Rural Fire Service (RFS), assets to be removed from Council asset registers and accounts and the responsibility undertaken by the RFS.

Note from LGNSW

This is similar to Bega's resolution 32 from the 2017 conference which LGNSW is currently pursuing: *That Local Government NSW lobbies on behalf of councils for all Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and Surf Life Saving Clubs assets to be removed from Council asset registers (sheds, equipment etc.) and the responsibility be taken back by the RFS, SES and Surf Life Saving Club.*

That this process not be used to increase local government contributions and further that the NSW Government investigate a model for RFS funding based on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) model in Victoria.

The Auditor General recently supported LGNSW's position on this issue in her recently released [\(April 2018\) report on local government](#). Her audit recommended "*The Office of Local Government should address the different practices across the local government sector in accounting for rural fire-fighting equipment before 30 June 2018. In doing so the Office of Local Government should work with NSW Treasury to ensure there is a whole-of-government approach*".

LGNSW meets regularly with the Auditor General and we consistently highlight this issue on behalf of councils. As a result, the Office of Local Government has commissioned a consultant to assess the current status and treatment of assets in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and propose options for moving forward. In addition, and importantly, LGNSW will continue to monitor progress on the recommendation in the Auditor General's April 2018 report and the consultant's findings through the Office of Local Government's Technical Accounting Advisory Group.

LGNSW raised this matter at the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Planning Day (6 June 2018). NSW Treasury was in attendance. OLG advised it is currently working with Treasury on this matter.

X21 Uralla Shire Council

Transfer RFS and SES assets to RFS and SES

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to enable councils to transfer fire-fighting and emergency services assets currently managed by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the State Emergency Services (SES) to the RFS and the SES respectively, thereby removing the requirement for councils to account for RFS and SES assets.

Note from LGNSW

This is similar to Bega's resolution 32 from the 2017 conference which LGNSW is currently pursuing: *That Local Government NSW lobbies on behalf of councils for all Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and Surf Life Saving Clubs assets to be removed from Council asset registers (sheds, equipment etc.) and the responsibility be taken back by the RFS, SES and Surf Life Saving Club.*

That this process not be used to increase local government contributions and further that the NSW Government investigate a model for RFS funding based on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) model in Victoria.

The Auditor General recently supported LGNSW's position on this issue in her recently released ([April 2018](#)) [report on local government](#). Her audit recommended "The Office of Local Government should address the different practices across the local government sector in accounting for rural fire-fighting equipment before 30 June 2018. In doing so the Office of Local Government should work with NSW Treasury to ensure there is a whole-of-government approach".

LGNSW meets regularly with the Auditor General and we consistently highlight this issue on behalf of councils. As a result, the Office of Local Government has commissioned a consultant to assess the current status and treatment of assets in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and propose options for moving forward. In addition, and importantly, LGNSW will continue to monitor progress on the recommendation in the Auditor General's April 2018 report and the consultant's findings through the Office of Local Government's Technical Accounting Advisory Group.

LGNSW raised this matter at the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Planning Day (6 June 2018). NSW Treasury was in attendance. OLG advised it is currently working with Treasury on this matter.

X22 Coolamon Shire Council

Recognition of RFS assets in local government financial statements

That Local Government NSW advocates that only those assets where council has both control and receives the future economic benefits of the asset, as defined by SAC4, AASB116 and the 'Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements', be recognised as assets in Council's financial statements.

Note from LGNSW

This is similar to Bega's resolution 32 from the 2017 conference which LGNSW is currently pursuing: *That Local Government NSW lobbies on behalf of councils for all Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and Surf Life Saving Clubs assets to be removed from Council asset registers (sheds, equipment etc.) and the responsibility be taken back by the RFS, SES and Surf Life Saving Club.*

That this process not be used to increase local government contributions and further that the NSW Government investigate a model for RFS funding based on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) model in Victoria.

The Auditor General recently supported LGNSW's position on this issue in her recently released ([April 2018](#)) [report on local government](#). Her audit recommended "The Office of Local Government should address the different practices across the local government sector in accounting for rural fire-fighting equipment before 30 June 2018. In doing so the Office of Local Government should work with NSW Treasury to ensure there is a whole-of-government approach".

LGNSW meets regularly with the Auditor General and we consistently highlight this issue on behalf of councils. As a result, the Office of Local Government has commissioned a consultant to assess the current status and treatment of assets in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and propose options for moving forward. In addition, and importantly, LGNSW will continue to monitor progress on the recommendation in the Auditor General's April 2018 report and the consultant's findings through the Office of Local Government's Technical Accounting Advisory Group.

LGNSW raised this matter at the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Planning Day (6 June 2018). NSW Treasury was in attendance. OLG advised it is currently working with Treasury on this matter.

X23 Moree Plains Shire Council

DA Plans and use for planning purposes

That Local Government NSW requests that the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, clarify the relationship of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (EPA Act) and the *Commonwealth Australian Copyright Act 1968* (by way of legislation if necessary) to provide that any person having the benefit of a development approval under the EPA Act is entitled to a physical or electronic copy of the approved plans, notwithstanding copyright in those plans being held by another party.

Note from LGNSW

Section 10.14 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which was inserted in March, has gone some way to addressing Council's concerns. LGNSW will work to ensure that the incoming regulations to support the Act adequately address these concerns.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

X25 Blue Mountains City Council

NSW Waste Levy charge for asbestos containing materials

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to review its position on the NSW Waste Levy charge for asbestos containing materials (ACM) and to develop a state-wide strategy that supports and recognises the increasing costs in receiving and managing ACM plus the environmental and social costs associated with the disposal and illegal dumping of asbestos waste from local government areas.

Note from LGNSW

This is similar to Blacktown's resolution 68 from the 2017 conference which LGNSW is currently pursuing: *That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to remove the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 s. 88 (waste) levy from asbestos containing material, provided the material is transported to a licensed facility in accordance with SafeWork NSW requirements and/or delivered by a licensed asbestos contractor with EPA authorisation.*

The issue of the waste levy on asbestos waste has been discussed at the Heads of Asbestos Co-ordination Authorities (EPA) Working Group of which LGNSW is a member. This issue is also expected to be addressed in the next State Wide Asbestos plan currently in development. The EPA is also developing a new asbestos waste strategy that will address the cost of asbestos waste disposal and illegal dumping, LGNSW is part of the consultation process for this and is conveying the resolutions of councils to remove the waste levy from asbestos waste in the regulated area.

X26 Moree Plains Shire Council

Insurance and burned out houses

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the Insurance Council of Australia to request that their membership provide, as a standard, building insurance policies that cover site clearance in the absence of proposed reconstruction of a building.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW has requested and received an itemised list of properties from Moree to demonstrate the extent and estimated cost involved. As there is asbestos involved in at least half of the burnt-out buildings, LGNSW tabled this issue at the Heads of Asbestos Co-ordination Authorities (HACA) Work Group monthly meetings in March & April 2018. HACA responded by acknowledging the problem and offering advice to make safe each site. HACA also advised that this issue will be included for consideration in the forthcoming State-Wide Asbestos Plan. Moree has been advised this and made response to HACA.

LGNSW has also written to the Executive General Manager, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and to the Commissioner of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry on this issue.

X27 City of Ryde

Renewable energy options

That the Local Government NSW Conference advocates for increased State and Federal financial assistance and the reinstatement of incentives such as rebates that target low income and medium density residential communities in order to increase equitable access and the uptake of renewable energy options in NSW for this demographic.

Note from LGNSW

This is similar to Liverpool's resolution 57 from the 2017 conference which LGNSW is currently pursuing: *That Local Government NSW advocates that councils show commitment to energy efficiency, solar and other renewable technologies by:*

- *Seeking all available avenues of funding, including State and Federal Governments, to reduce energy use across existing and future council assets through the use of solar and other renewable energy sources.*
- *Ensuring all future development considers the impact on existing renewable energy production by ensuring any shadowing assessments take into account the impact on neighbouring buildings' solar panels.*
- *Engaging actively with neighbouring Councils through ROCs or joint organisations to ensure the use of energy efficient technologies, particularly regarding street lighting.*

This motion is also covered by the [LGNSW Climate Change Position Statement](#) which provides for LGNSW to advocate for: *Ambitious but realistic policies and practices that promote council, community, industry and government commitment to renewable energy, energy conservation and energy efficiency.*

Other levels of government appear to be moving away from supporting household renewables as the economics now provide enough incentive. However, there are still barriers for low income earners, renters and those in medium density.

X28 Bega Valley Shire Council

Phasing out single use plastics

That Local Government NSW phases out single use plastics (cutlery, cups & straws) at their events - and advocates for councils to do the same at council venues and events, commencing immediately.

Note from LGNSW

[LGNSW's Principles and Guidelines for Events](#) document covers this issue and LGNSW continues to encourage councils to embrace sustainable practices at events/meetings etc, particularly when LGNSW hold events in their LGA.

X29 City of Ryde**Phasing out single use lightweight plastic shopping bags**

That the Local Government NSW Conference support the phasing out of all single use lightweight plastic shopping bags. Accordingly, the conference seeks the NSW Government to provide strong leadership by banning single use lightweight plastic shopping bags throughout NSW. In planning the phasing out of these shopping bags, comprehensive consultation needs to be undertaken with communities and businesses in making this transition successful.

Note from LGNSW

This is a long standing policy position of LGNSW established by motions from previous conferences around this issue including 2003 and 2009. The latest resolution on this issue was at the 2017 conference with Shoalhaven's resolution 66: *That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP to act on banning the use of single use plastic bags in NSW. Further, that the ban include all identified "biodegradable and degradable bags up to 70 microns.*

This issue also formed a point of LGNSW evidence into the Senate Inquiry into the waste and recycling industries (April 2018).

X30 Gunnedah Shire Council**Social use of Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs)**

That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to make legislative changes that will allow some Travelling Stock Routes (TSR's) to be utilised by recreational vehicle (RV) users where so identified and supported by councils in consultation with Local Land Service (LLS).

Note from LGNSW

This motion was received in 2017 and representations made to LLS seeking the use of TSRs for recreational purposes. LLS is now preparing a state-wide Plan of Management for all TSRs due for completion by December 2018.

LGNSW has contacted LLS to remind them of the issues we have raised previously. Regional consultation with stakeholders is planned for October 2018 and LGNSW will encourage councils to participate in this process, and also raise these issues again during that consultation period.

X31 Murray River Council**Kangaroo management**

That Local Government NSW advocates to NSW Government for further measures to mitigate the risk to the travelling community posed by increasing kangaroo numbers in rural and regional NSW. Such advocacy should include support for the following:

1. Responsible culling of kangaroos in the worst affected areas.
2. Funding for appropriate fencing where deemed practical.
3. Investigation and trialling of electronic and other technologies to deter kangaroos from roadways.

Note from LGNSW

The NSW Government's drought management package announced in June 2018 includes a new kangaroo management strategy, which will seek to reduce kangaroo numbers in drought-hit areas. Under the strategy, the Government has removed the need for physical tags and the 'shoot and let lie' conditions, expanding the commercial harvest zone in South East NSW, enabling more shooters to operate under each licence, and helping to connect landholders to commercial harvesters. The new strategy will make it easier for landholders to meet the harvest quotas set by the Commonwealth to maintain the long-term kangaroo population.

Further representations will be made by LGNSW to seek support for appropriate fencing and to investigate and trial electronic and other technologies to deter kangaroos from roadways. These issues will be included on the OEH Liaison Committee in November and letters sent to OEH and DPI.

X32 Willoughby City Council**More accurate recording on the NSW Companion Animals Register**

That Local Government NSW make representations to the NSW Government requesting a more robust process to ensure that owners of companion animals are recorded with more accuracy in the NSW Companion Animals Register. This would include accurate identification of owners when companion animals are registered.

Note from LGNSW

This is consistent with LGNSW policy. The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP wrote to LGNSW in response to a 2017 Conference resolution which sought a commitment from the Office of Local Government (OLG) to improve the registration payment system. The response detailed work underway by the OLG to further develop the Pet Registry and improve its Companion Animals Fund payment processes. Accuracy of the information in the register is an important part of this process. The Minister committed to working with LGNSW on this update.

4. SOCIAL POLICY

X33 Blacktown City Council

Transport Access Program (TAP)

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to engage the community to develop and implement transparent assessment criteria for the prioritisation of train station infrastructure facilities, and upgrades for the provision of lifts and accessible facilities. The assessment should take into account suitable criteria such as: how many people use the station, the number of aged, frail and people with a disability using the station, whether the station is used for interchanging and the demographics of the area.

Note from LGNSW

The TAP aligns with current policy and is an ongoing program for the upgrade of public transport infrastructure to ensure accessibility for all.

LGNSW's Policy Principles, which direct our response to key issues, stipulate that:

7. Local government is committed to the principles of:
 - a. Equity – fair distribution of resources
 - b. Rights – equality for all people
 - c. Access – to services essential to quality of life
 - d. Participation – of all people in their community

LGNSW will advocate for these principles to apply to train station infrastructure.

X34 City of Parramatta

Funding for Meals on Wheels and other social inclusion services

That Local Government NSW advocates that the Federal Government maintains grant funding assistance to local government and smaller not for profit providers for Meals on Wheels and other social inclusion services after 30 June 2020.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW has been, and will continue to, advocate for block funding for home support programs that require appropriate support such as Meals on Wheels and social support programs. LGNSW is currently working with councils to assist them to plan for an uncertain future, with decisions around the grant funding for these home support programs still to be made by the Commonwealth Government.

X35 Warren Shire Council

Aged services

That Local Government NSW commences discussions with the NSW Government to undertake a review of aged services to rural communities and the disadvantages for age people that are not covered under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) program.

Note from LGNSW

This motion is supported by LGNSW's policy position on the delivery of aged care services to rural communities as identified in the Position Statements: [Services in Rural Communities](#) and [Strong and Inclusive Communities](#).

LGNSW is also represented on the NSW Ageing Strategy Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) which contributes to the development of the NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020 (the Strategy). The IDC has recently been involved in the review of the Year 2 Action Plan for the Strategy and the development of the Year 3 Action Plan.

X36 Albury City Council

Refugee attraction

That Local Government NSW requests that the Federal Government recognise the benefits of refugee resettlement in regional areas in NSW and support the expansion of the Community Sponsorship Program (CSP).

Note from LGNSW

This is already LGNSW policy and is an issue for which LGNSW will continue to advocate. [LGNSW's Multicultural Communities Position Statement](#) provides that: *LGNSW advocate for the State and Commonwealth Governments to develop a broader Humanitarian Resettlement Strategy to encourage and support distribution of resettlement across NSW and Australia; and support councils and communities in NSW to become refugee welcome zones.*

The Commonwealth Government also has a number of policies that aim to encourage regional settlement of refugees. These include:

- the Safe Haven Enterprise Visa which encourages those assessed as refugees to settle in regional areas in order to be eligible for subsequent visas that provide a pathway to permanent residency.
- The Commonwealth Government also introduced the Community Support Programme in 2016 to establish new pathways for resettlement in Australia through the establishment of 1000 places for which communities and businesses will be able to sponsor applications and support new arrivals.
- The Commonwealth Department of Social Services in 2017 published its 'Guide to Supporting Settlement in Regional Australia' to help local government and regional communities to settle refugees.

X37 Cessnock City Council**Mobility parking**

That Local Government NSW works with the Ministers responsible for locating and relocating government departments and agencies to ensure greater cooperation between local, State and Federal governments in the selection of locations and provision of adequate suitable parking, especially parking of mobility impaired clients.

Note from LGNSW

This issue is supported by current policy for which LGNSW can advocate. LGNSW advocates that the State Government should engage and consult with councils and communities on all significant developments and projects that may affect them, including the provision of community facilities.

[LGNSW's Infrastructure Position Statement](#) provides that: *LGNSW advocates for mandatory upfront engagement by State and Commonwealth governments with local government about specific local priorities.*

X38 City of Ryde**Funding to investigate anti-discrimination and racist behaviour**

That this Conference request the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, and the Minister for Police, the Hon. Troy Grant MP, to increase funding for the NSW Police force to target anti-discriminatory and racist behaviour across the State.

Note from LGNSW

This motion is covered by the [LGNSW's Multicultural Communities Position Statement](#) for which LGNSW can continue to advocate. LGNSW has called for increases in police force numbers following resolutions from previous conferences.

X39 Hawkesbury City Council**NSW Government community engagement infrastructure projects**

That the NSW Government reviews its strategy for community engagement relating to current, future and proposed infrastructure projects.

Note from LGNSW

This is a long held policy position for which LGNSW will continue to advocate. LGNSW advocates that the State Government should engage and consult with councils and communities on all significant developments and projects that may affect them.

[LGNSW's Infrastructure Position Statement](#) provides that: *LGNSW advocates for mandatory upfront engagement by State and Commonwealth governments with local government about specific local priorities.*

LGNSW will continue to advocate for Transport for NSW to engage with councils about proposed new projects.

X40 Randwick City Council**Support for women and children affected by domestic violence**

That Local Government NSW writes to the NSW Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, the NSW Minister for Women, the Hon. Tanya Davies MP, and the Hon. Pru Goward MP, NSW Minister for the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault, calling for the following measures to be taken to support women and children affected by domestic violence:

- A substantial increase in direct funding for specialist services and crisis accommodation providers.
- Funding for affordable long-term accommodation.
- A substantial increase in direct funding of legal services.
- Transparent reporting of all spending on domestic and family violence programs.

Note from LGNSW

This motion is consistent with LGNSW policy for which we will continue to advocate. Most recently, Blacktown's resolution 9 from the 2016 LGNSW annual conference called for increased NSW Government funding for domestic violence services. Since this time, LGNSW has continued to advocate for improved funding for domestic and family violence, including through direct letters to the relevant minister, and through budget submissions to the NSW Government.

5. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY**X41 City of Newcastle****Local Government Veterans Employment Program**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Acknowledges that the NSW Government's Veterans Employment Program has led to the over 500 veterans employed into the NSW public service since 2016;
2. Notes that while Veterans can experience barriers to employment following their Australian Defence Force careers, statistics indicate that employers and colleagues have a very positive experience working alongside veterans;
3. Notes that the skills veterans acquire in the ADF are highly transferable to public sector workplaces, particularly local government;
4. Writes to the Minister for Veterans Affairs, calling on the NSW Government to work with Local Government NSW, to develop a program to assist veterans to find employment in local government in NSW.

Note from LGNSW

This is an issue which LGNSW is continuing to pursue. LGNSW has met several times with the Veterans Employment Program and the United Services Union to explore various ways that the program can be extended into the NSW local

government sector. Work completed so far includes sharing links on respective websites, addressing specialist network meetings, and developing relevant HR templates.

6. GOVERNANCE/CIVIC LEADERSHIP POLICY

X42 Gunnedah Shire Council **Legislation changes required**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government carry out a review of the Local Government Act orders and costs recovery powers to create a new system of powers and costs recovery mechanisms that will allow councils to simply and effectively address unsightly, untidy, overgrown and unhealthy properties in line with community expectations.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW understands that councils already have these powers. *The Local Government Act* and *The Environmental Planning & Assessment Act* have recently been extensively reformed. If an order made under the LG Act or the EP&A Act is not complied with, the person who fails to comply is guilty of an offence for which a penalty is payable.

X43 North Sydney **Parking and storage of unattended property**

That NSW legislation concerning parking and storage of unattended property including but not limited to boats/trailers/rental bikes/small water craft be reviewed to facilitate local government authority to fine and impound such property to ensure fair and equitable usage of resources.

Note from LGNSW

The Impounding Amendment (Shared Bicycles and Other Devices) Bill 2018 was introduced to Parliament on 19 September 2018. LGNSW understands that the new Bill addresses Council's concern about share bikes and boats.

X44 Wollondilly Shire Council **Illegal dumping of cars**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to develop better options to assist councils dealing with illegally dumped cars in areas where currently its officers have no authorisation to impound.

Note from LGNSW

The Impounding Amendment (Shared Bicycles and Other Devices) Bill 2018 was introduced to Parliament on 19 September 2018. This Bill is likely to address some of Wollondilly's concerns. For further assistance on this issue please contact LGNSW's Legal Officer, Jessica Wood, on 9242 4125.

X45 Wingecarribee Shire Council **Councillor diversity within NSW councils**

That a report be prepared by Local Government NSW that outlines the current diversity amongst councillors within NSW councils, including the reasons for the varying levels of diversity across councils and a set of recommendations to promote diversity that better reflects community demographics. This report should be issued at least 15 months before the next NSW council election so individual councils can consider implementing recommendations as appropriate.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW supports councillor diversity in NSW. Recently LGNSW announced a significant new review of the appropriateness of remuneration paid to mayors and councillors in NSW in order to make the case for increased remuneration and conditions and, if outcomes are achieved, this should encourage councillor diversity. The preparation of a report as outlined in the motion is a resourcing constraint for LGNSW.

Wingecarribee may be willing to approach this issue by submitting an expression of interest by 15 October to the new [LGNSW Research and Innovation Fund](#) for the preparation of a report and recommendations on promoting diversity of councillors. The LGNSW Research and Innovation Fund will support new areas of research, policy development and innovation for the advancement of local government in NSW. Its purpose is to fill gaps in the evidence base, explore emerging issues, promote informed discussion and debate, and encourage the development of research capacity within the sector.

X46 Murrumbidgee Council **Difficulties facing merged councils**

That the Annual Conference support Murrumbidgee Council's call on NSW Government agencies to realign their regional boundaries to coincide with new boundaries created by merged councils.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW will continue to advocate for regional alignment of agency boundaries. One advocacy win is that current Joint Organisation boundaries align with Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Planning & Environment boundaries.

X47 Bega Valley Shire Council **NSW State Election priorities**

That Local Government NSW develops a clear one page list of local government elections priorities to deliver to all parties for consideration and response prior to the State Election in March 2019.

Note from LGNSW

LGNSW will produce a concise State Election priorities document. LGNSW is also proud to have joined with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to launch the federal election document for the local government sector. The local government platform outlines 12 ways political parties and their candidates can keep the election local and deliver for Australian communities. We have called on all councils to support the national advocacy.