

Councillor Giles - MoN - ALGA National General Assembly Recommendations

Tuesday, 12 August 2025
Council

Council Member
Councillor Janet Giles

Public

Contact Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Janet Giles will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Continues to actively participate in the National General Assembly of ALGA each year by putting forward motions and sending representatives.
2. Proactively works with other city councils to promote and promulgate the adaptive re-use of office buildings to address the issue of embedded carbon and housing shortages.
3. Requests Administration to consider how we support our migrant population to remain in the city and participate actively in our community.
4. Requests that Administration summarises the implications for the City of Adelaide of the reports mentioned at the forum, specifically:
 - National Climate Risk Assessment Adaptation Plan
 - Local Government Sustainability Report
 - Outcomes of the Productivity Round Table
 - Outcomes of the Migration and Citizenship Round Table.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

National General Assembly

1. At its meeting on 11 March 2025, Council approved two motions being submitted to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), under the priority area Roads and Infrastructure, for the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra at the National Convention Centre from 24-27 June 2025 ([Link 1](#)), as follows:
 - 1.1. *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:*
 - 1.1.1. *Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a toolkit for local government areas to develop or update an active transport strategy.*
 - 1.1.2. *Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a framework and/or self-assessment tool for local government areas to audit their cycling/walking/active transport strategies.*
 - 1.1.3. *Providing federal funding support to develop these frameworks and tools.*
 - 1.2. *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:*

- 1.2.1. *Working with the Australian Local Government Association to commit 30 per cent of journeys to school by active transport by 2030 (30 by 30).*
- 1.2.2. *Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop an overarching action plan to support local government areas who also commit to '30 by 30'.*
2. On 25 March 2025 ([Link 2](#)), Council approved a third motion, as follows:
 - 2.1. *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government, in the context of Scope 3 of the Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards – Disclosure of Climate-related Financial Information, to amend its mandate requiring tenancy only in 6-star rated new builds, so that, subject to conversion, existing building stock could qualify for being leased as office space for Commonwealth agencies, to serve the dual purpose of:*
 - 2.1.1. *Incentivising inner city property owners to invest in renovation and conversion of existing building stock, and*
 - 2.1.2. *Avoiding the continued and increasing loss of carbon embodied in existing buildings.*
3. Councillor Giles attended the National General Assembly and provided an update to the Council meeting on 22 July 2025, including the outcomes of Council's motions ([Link 3](#)):
 - 3.1. Motion 61 – Active Transport toolkit for Local Government - was passed with no objection.
 - 3.2. Motion 62 – Federal Government to work with LGA to commit to 30% of journeys to school by active transport by 2030 (30 by 30) - was debated and passed with an amendment accepted by Cr Giles to include providing infrastructure for school crossings and other safety measures.
 - 3.3. Motion 188 – Federal Government Policy Green building occupancy and the need to consider refurbishing as an option - was late on the agenda and was referred to the executive for consideration.

Adaptive re-use of office buildings

4. The City of Adelaide (CoA) is working proactively with other city councils to promote the Adaptive Reuse City Housing Initiative (ARCHI) program to unlock dwelling potential in vacant and underutilised buildings, while providing an additional mode of housing supply across the existing housing spectrum. This work is ongoing.
5. Engagement sessions with other city councils to date include:
 - 5.1. Multiple ARCHI presentations to the City of Hobart (July 2025). Participants included the Head of Executive Services, Director and Deputy Director of Strategic and Regulatory Services, and members of the strategic planning team.
 - 5.1.1. Key discussion points included strategic policy, program methodology, State and Local Government partnership, the National Construction Code, and the ARCHI Incentives Scheme.
 - 5.1.2. The City of Hobart has expressed interest in adapting the ARCHI program in some form locally.
 - 5.2. ARCHI presentation to the City of Melbourne (July 2025) attended by over 33 participants across teams such as Climate Change and City Resilience, Building Regulations and Services, and Strategic Planning.
 - 5.2.1. Key discussion points included the National Construction Code, incentive scheme structures, and State and Local Government partnerships.
 - 5.2.2. The City of Melbourne expressed interest in shared advocacy relating to barriers in the National Construction Code relating to adaptive reuse and sustainability/retrofitting upgrades, and case studies on 5+ storey office-to-residential conversions.
 - 5.3. ARCHI contribution to the Capital City Committee of Lord Mayors (CCCLM) led Adaptive Reuse Advocacy Plan.
 - 5.3.1. This plan aims to address barriers to adaptive reuse and develop mechanisms for measuring embodied carbon. This work is ongoing.
 - 5.3.2. Furthermore, the CCCLM continues to work on the progression of the ALGA Motion 62, referred to in 3.2 above for the Australian Government to amend its mandate requiring tenancy only in 6-star rated new builds, so that, subject to conversion, existing building stock could qualify for being leased as office space for Commonwealth agencies
 - 5.4. ARCHI presentation at the Green Building Council of Australia's National Local Government Round Table (June 2025).

5.4.1. This platform was used to showcase the CoA's leadership through ARCHI and its alignment with the goals of the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030.

6. Future collaboration opportunities may include:
 - 6.1. A combined advocacy approach by city councils on amendments to the National Construction Code and related national standards to support adaptive reuse.
 - 6.2. Establishment of an Adaptive Reuse Working Group to formalise knowledge sharing and support research partnerships between city councils.
 - 6.3. An ARCHI roadshow to proactively promote adaptive reuse opportunities to other city councils.

Supporting our migrant population

7. The CoA supports a range of initiatives that aim to support migrant settlement, with a particular focus on international students. These include:
 - 7.1. Library and community centres programming, including partnerships to support community-led groups to host special events for interest groups.
 - 7.2. Grants for community and cultural projects, e.g. One Culture football program.
 - 7.3. Volunteer programs to connect local people with newly arrived people, e.g. Talk with a Local, which aims to facilitate opportunities to improve conversational English language skills and build local connections.
 - 7.4. Partnerships with agencies offering settlement support, such as the Migrant Resource Centre and AMES Australia, as well as student associations and student accommodation providers.

National Climate Risk Assessment

8. The Australian Climate Service is working with the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) to deliver Australia's first National Climate Risk Assessment.
9. The National Climate Risk Assessment aims to identify and prioritise nationally significant climate risks and will be supported by a National Adaptation Plan that outlines how Australia will adapt to these risks and build resilience.
10. A 'first pass' risk assessment has been completed and identified 56 Nationally Significant Climate Risks ([Link 4](#)) which are consistent with the CoA's existing climate related risk register.
11. The Federal Government is due to complete a more detailed 'second pass' quantitative assessment and National Adaptation Plan to replace the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021–2025. These documents have not yet been publicly released.
12. The CoA is updating its Climate Risk Register in 2025/26 as part of an ongoing governance and reporting framework for the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030, Resilient, Protected, Sustainable. The Climate Risk Register will be subject to annual review.

Local Government Sustainability Report

13. The Australian Parliament established a Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the sustainability of local government with an interim report released in February 2025 ([Link 5](#)) that highlights the urgent need for increased funding for Australia's 537 local governments.
14. To address the local government financial sustainability emergency, ALGA is advocating for five new, untied funding streams to be distributed to all councils on a formula basis:
 - 14.1. \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply
 - 14.2. \$500 million per year for community infrastructure
 - 14.3. \$600 million per year for safer local roads
 - 14.4. \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity
 - 14.5. \$400 million per year for climate adaptation.
15. ALGA has advocated to make no changes to the formulas that determine Federal funding distributions for local government that would reduce the quantum of funding received by any Australian council.
16. Administration continues to monitor developments in this matter.

Outcomes of the Productivity Round Table

17. The Economic Reform Roundtable will be held on 19-21 August 2025 by invitation only and seeks to bring together a mix of leaders from business, unions, civil society, government and other experts.
18. The Roundtable aims to build consensus on ways to improve productivity, enhance economic resilience and strengthen budget sustainability.
19. ALGA has made a submission to the Roundtable which addresses the Government's three priority areas of improving productivity, economic resilience and budget sustainability by highlighting the key role councils can play to support national reforms with local solutions ([Link 6](#)).
20. Administration will monitor for any further developments or announcements after the conclusion of the Roundtable.

Outcomes of the Migration and Citizenship Round Table

21. An inaugural international Ministerial Migration Roundtable was held on 28-29 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland and was organised by the International Organisation for Migration.
22. ALGA represents and advocates for local government by participating in Australian Ministerial Migration Roundtable(s) held by the Federal Government.
23. The most recent Australian Ministerial Migration Roundtable was held on 28 June 2024 to advance cooperation on Australia's migration planning and the migration reform agenda.
24. Administration will continue to monitor developments relating to migration that may impact CoA.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 3 hours.

- END OF REPORT -