

# 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government

Tuesday, 27 January 2026  
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

**Program Contact:**  
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Public

**Approving Officer:**  
Michael Sedgman, Chief Executive Officer

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has called for motions for consideration at its National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA). Motions need to be submitted to ALGA via an online portal by Friday 27 February 2026.

Consistent with previous practice to garner motions on notice for ALGA forums, the Administration invited Council Members through an E-News request on 6 January 2026 to submit proposed motions to the Administration by close of business on Friday 13 February 2026. All proposed motions will be provided to Council for consideration at the Council meeting on 24 February 2026.

Council's decision is also sought to appoint a Council representative (and proxy) as a voting delegate for the NGA.

The NGA of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will be held in Canberra from Tuesday 23 – Thursday 25 June 2026. The theme for the 2026 NGA is 'Stronger Together: Resilient, Productive, United.'

By participating in the NGA the Council can contribute to the national debate on matters that require Federal intervention or support that will directly advance Council's Strategic Plan objectives.

Voting on motions by Council's representative (or proxy) will be in-line with any endorsed position of Council. The voting delegate will be briefed on City of Adelaide policy and decision positions relevant to each voting item on the ALGA NGA Agenda.

## RECOMMENDATION

### THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that input from Council Members has been sought in developing proposed motions for the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government, with a report to come back to Council at its 24 February 2026 meeting outlining proposed motions for consideration.
2. Approves the appointment of a Council Member to represent Council as a voting delegate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra from 23 – 25 June 2026.
3. Notes the method of appointing a Council Member and proxy to attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government in accordance with the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures as follows:
  - 3.1 The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is subject of the nomination.
  - 3.2 The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed as Council's representative as a voting delegate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.
  - 3.3 In the event of only one nomination to be Council's representative, the candidate is appointed Council's representative as a voting delegate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government, announced by the Returning Officer.

3.4	In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.
3.5	If the votes for more candidates for the relevant position are equal, a revote by ballot between tied candidates will be undertaken.
3.6	If the votes for two or more candidates for the position remain equal, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded.
3.7	The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed as Council's representative as a voting delegate to attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government
4.	Approves the appointed delegate to travel and attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government in person.

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# IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<p><b>Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation</b> Effective Leadership and Governance</p>
Policy	The nominated representative will be briefed on the City of Adelaide policy and decision positions relevant to each voting item on the ALGA NGA Agenda.
Consultation	Council Members have been invited to submit motions for inclusion in a subsequent report for Council at its meeting on 24 February 2026. Council Members are offered Administration support in preparing any proposed items.
Resource	Support for briefing on Agenda items will be met within existing resources.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	Attendance at the NGA provides Council with the opportunity to shape the future of local government nationally and further the South Australian perspective.
25/26 Budget Allocation	<p>Costs associated with attending the 2026 ALGA NGA, including administrative support, can be met from within existing budget allocations.</p> <p>Estimated expenses, excluding registration costs, of attending in person are \$3,500 comprising flights (from \$400 - \$800 each way), four nights' accommodation (from \$250 - \$320 per night), optional social dinner (\$200), and sundry expenses, meals, and taxi costs (\$450).</p> <p>Registration costs for the 2026 NGA are to be advised. The registration costs for in-person attendance at the 2025 NGA was \$979.</p>
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

# DISCUSSION

1. The 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to be convened by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will be held in Canberra from 23 - 25 June 2026.
2. The NGA represents an important opportunity for Council to influence the national policy agenda.
3. The NGA also provides opportunities for attendees to hear from leaders across government and to have one on one access to some of the country's most influential decision makers.
4. The theme for this year's NGA is 'Stronger Together: Resilient, Productive, United.'
5. A discussion paper providing further information for the 2026 NGA can be viewed [here](#) [Link 1]. The program is yet to be announced.
6. Costs associated with attending the 2026 NGA, including administrative support, can be met from within existing budget allocations.

## Appointment of Council's Voting Delegate & Costs of Attendance

7. Council's consideration of appointing a voting delegate is sought.
  - 7.1. In the past, nominated delegates have been:
    - 7.1.1 2025 – Councillor Carmel Noon (Councillor Janet Giles as proxy). Following orders made by the Court of Disputed Returns in the matter of *Alexander Hyde v Electoral Commissioner of South Australia*, Councillor Giles attended the 2025 NGA.
    - 7.1.2 2024 – Councillor Janet Giles (Councillor Carmel Noon as proxy).
    - 7.1.3 2023 – Councillor Janet Giles (Councillor Carmel Noon as proxy).
8. The program and call for registrations for the 2026 NGA have not yet been released.
9. Registration fees for the 2025 NGA were \$979 for in person attendance. Registration fees for the 2026 NGA are pending release of the 2026 NGA program.
10. Estimated additional costs of \$3,500 per voting delegate for attendance in person include:
  - 10.1. Economy flights ranging from \$400 to \$800 each way.
  - 10.2. Four nights' accommodation from \$250 to \$320 per night.
  - 10.3. There is typically a General Assembly Dinner available in addition to the registration cost. Ticket price is to be advised, noting the cost in 2025 was \$179 per person.
  - 10.4. Sundry expenses including meals and taxi costs of \$450.
11. Pursuant to the Ballot Process outlined in the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures:
  - 11.1 The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is subject of the nomination.
  - 11.2 The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed as Council's representative as a voting delegate at the 2026 NGA.
  - 11.3 In the event of only one nomination to be Council's representative, the candidate is appointed Council's representative as a voting delegate at the 2026 NGA, announced by the Returning Officer.
  - 11.4 In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.
  - 11.5 If the votes for more candidates for the relevant position are equal, a revote by ballot between tied candidates will be undertaken.
  - 11.6 If the votes for two or more candidates for the position remain equal, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded.
  - 11.7 The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidate appointed as Council's representative as a voting delegate to attend the 2026 NGA.
12. This process applies for the appointment of a proxy member, in the event that the appointed representative can no longer attend.

## **Motions**

13. ALGA has called for motions to be submitted for the 2026 NGA.
14. Consistent with previous practice to garner motions on notice for ALGA forums, the Administration invited Council Members through an E-News request on 6 January 2026 to submit proposed motions to the Administration by close of business on Friday 13 February 2026.
15. All proposed motions will be provided to Council for consideration at the Council meeting on 24 February 2026.
16. The submission deadline for motions to be included in the 2026 ALGA NGA is 27 February 2026. Motions will be submitted via an online portal.
17. This year's call for motions focuses on ten priority areas:
  - 17.1. Financial sustainability
  - 17.2. Emergency management
  - 17.3. Housing and planning
  - 17.4. Roads and infrastructure
  - 17.5. Closing the Gap
  - 17.6. Jobs and skills
  - 17.7. Environment
  - 17.8. Cyber security
  - 17.9. Climate change
  - 17.10. Intergovernmental relations.

## **Past submissions**

18. The City of Adelaide submitted two motions in 2025 that were considered by the NGA, who subsequently resolved:
  - 18.1 *"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:*
    - *Working with the Australian Local Government Association to develop a toolkit for local government areas to develop or update an active transport strategy.*
    - *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.*
    - *Providing federal funding support to develop these frameworks and tools.*
  - 18.2 *"This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to consider:*
    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).*
    2. *Working with the Australian Local Government Association to developing an overarching action plan to support local government areas who also commit to '30 by 30'.*
19. In 2024, the City of Adelaide submitted one motion.

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## **DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Link 1 – 2026 NGA Discussion Paper**

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## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

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