



## Communique

### National General Assembly 2023

Over 1,100 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 13 – 15 June for the 29th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to share innovations to support the public good and to speak to the Federal Government with one voice.

We acknowledged the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognised any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. The Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Opening the NGA, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley thanked and acknowledged local governments for their dedication and work for local communities especially responding to natural disasters. His words, noting councils were the level of government that looked communities in the eye, resonated with delegates.

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to work in partnership with the Federal Government for the public good, while at the same time addressing the local and regional challenges faced by communities across the nation.

We welcomed and thanked the many federal members of parliament who attended and spoke at the NGA or associated events, including the Hon



Catherine King, the Hon Kristy McBain, the Hon Peter Dutton and the Hon Darren Chester.

Councils also welcomed His Excellency, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ukraine Ambassador, who provided an update on the Ukrainian people's progress to protect their national sovereignty; and welcomed and encouraged sister city arrangements between Australian and Ukrainian regions.

In response to ALGA's advocacy, councils thanked the Federal Government for its re-establishment of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) which will be held on Friday 16 June 2023. The ACLG was first established in 2008 as a physical and symbolic acknowledgment of the respect and mutual interest of both levels of government and need to work together.

This year's Assembly program included consideration of 260 notices of motions submitted by councils. These motions identify opportunities where a strong partnership between the Federal Government and local government can progress our mutual policy interests, and the ALGA Board will now consider these in forming its policy positions and federal advocacy.

These motions included solutions to address the financial sustainability of councils, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, improved transport and communications, improved natural disaster preparedness and management, Closing the Gap and the Voice, enhancing the circular economy and improving housing and homelessness outcomes through partnerships.



On behalf of Australia's 537 local governments, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will continue to work with the Federal Government to deliver better outcomes for all Australian communities.