

## **2011 National General Assembly Resolutions**

### *Theme 1 – Place*

#### **Resolution Number: 1**

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure that future National Urban Policy takes a place based planning approach, which places citizen engagement at its core.

**Carried**

#### **Resolution Number: 2**

That this National General Assembly of Local Government calls upon the Australian Government to adopt an effective model for the federal, state and local governments to effectively work together in developing plans for the capital and major cities. That the Australian Government involves itself in funding and assisting the coordinated development of best practice long-term local area plans (LAPs), which are then integrated into the strategic plans for the capital and major cities.

**Carried**

#### **Resolution Number: 3**

That the National General Assembly call on the Commonwealth Government to lead the preparation of a National Settlement and Infrastructure Strategy based upon a Governance Structure that engages strongly with the Governments of States and Territories and with representatives of Local Government.

**Carried**

#### **Resolution Number: 4**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to explore the viability of expanding the population and economic base of regional cities in regard to catering for the nation's sustainable population growth targets.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 5**

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Minister for the Environment, the Hon Tony Burke to amend the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 to take into consideration the social and economic impacts and the property rights of existing land owners when the Act is implemented.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 6**

That the delegates to this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to facilitate the development of national standards to promote greater provision of Green Spaces in urban development to reflect the importance of open space and wilderness areas for the mental health, wellbeing and enjoyment of our increasingly urbanised society, and to support biodiversity.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 7**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to review the impact of government policies, including the National Competition Policy, on the drift of population and services away from rural and regional areas.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 8**

That the National General Assembly encourage all Councils to include, in their strategic plan, health and wellness targets for their communities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 9**

That this National General Assembly of Local Government calls upon the Australian Government to impose a statutory obligation for private lessee operators of federal airports to contribute to the upgrade and maintenance of surrounding local infrastructure network needed to service large scale, traffic generating commercial developments in leased airports, rather than leaving it to the local and state governments to pay for the infrastructure required.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 10**

That the National General Assembly express its strong concern to the Australian Government at its redirection of regional development engagement and infrastructure funding allocation from the current “direct to Local Government” Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) model to a process that requires submission through and priority allocation by Regional Development Australia Boards; and request that the current RLCIP model be retained as the adopted model for distribution of Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) allocations.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 11**

That the National General Assembly calls for ALGA to renegotiate the cost shifting intergovernmental agreement between the three tiers of government.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 12**

That the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to put in place policies to promote healthy, sustainable and prosperous outer suburban areas that will encourage the establishment of the most productive and high value farming enterprises.

**Carried**

***Theme 2 – Position***

**Resolution Number: 13**

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal and State and Territory Governments to address the continuing incidences of cost shifting on to Local Government.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 14**

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal and State and Territory Governments to ensure that the processes associated with obtaining funding be commensurate with the level of funding requested.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 15**

That this National General Assembly support an urgent review by the Australian Tax Office of the current ceiling of \$1,000 for election expenses that can be claimed by candidates for Council Elections.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 16**

That the delegates to this National General Assembly request the ALGA to lobby the Federal Government for greater representation for Local Government at COAG (Council of Australian Governments) to provide:

- (a) preferably one (1) seat for each State; or
- (b) at least two (2) seats nationally.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 17**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to ensure Local Government receive a set proportion of the Goods and Services Tax currently collected in each Local Government Area.

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 18**

That this National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to acknowledge that the Roads to Recovery program is an effective model whereby Federal Funding is provided directly to Local Government for road infrastructure improvements, and examine options for similar funding arrangements in other areas of local government operations where Federal funding is provided.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 18.1**

In recognition of the huge backlog of works and deterioration of service levels on local roads throughout Australia, created by the ongoing under funding of maintenance and renewal activities, that the National General Assembly of Local Government request that the Federal Government replace the Roads to Recovery Program with a recurrent funding program for local roads fixed by a percentage of one or more of the government's growth revenue streams (such as fuel excise or GST).

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 19**

That this National General Assembly requests the Federal Government to re-direct the funds from current grants programs such as the Social Cohesion Program (Department of Immigration and Citizenship) into other areas which urgently require additional funding, for example infrastructure improvement.

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 20**

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to substantially increase the current level of funding provided to councils for the sustainable asset management of local roads and infrastructure.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 21**

That this National Assembly calls upon the Federal Government to continue with the Roads to Recovery (R2R) programme and to further expand the R2R programme to establish a specific funding pool for bridge and hydraulic infrastructure.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 22**

That this National General Assembly call on Councils to give preference to those investments offered by financial institutions that have followed the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA)

directions by adjusting mortgage interest rates in line with RBA adjustments to the official cash rate after taking into consideration the returns and the associated risk with each of the available investments on offer.

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 23**

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal and State and Territory Governments to ensure that there is greater recognition of the role of Local Government in the provision of infrastructure, management of environmental concerns and economic and cultural impacts of population increases. The recognition of this role includes appropriate funding models, supportive statutory legislation and genuine partnerships and negotiation with Local Government.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 24**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to recognise that since some councils/groupings of councils are better placed than others to take service delivery initiatives, these entities be financially assisted to enable early implementation of such initiatives. Further, that the financial assistance includes funding for personnel whose role would be to ensure that the program could be rapidly replicated among other Councils, once proven beneficial.

**Carried**

***Theme 3 –Partnership***

**Resolution Number: 25**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to establish, through co-operative partnerships between all levels of government, a clear vision and that sets a social economic and environmental vision for Australia, and to deliver effective services and infrastructure to support the projected growth.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 26**

That the National General Assembly calls on Federal, State and Territory Governments to establish a sports and recreational facilities infrastructure funding program for local councils.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 27**

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to implement a national strategy towards integrated transport with additional funding programs to improve the productivity, liveability and sustainability of major cities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 28**

That this National General Assembly calls on Austroads to amend the wording in the Safer Travel component of the Austroads guidelines that places potential liability against Councils, despite meeting relevant standards. Examples being where drivers are at fault and crash in circumstances that should be foreseeable by Road Authorities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 29**

That the National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government to provide funding and resources in order to modify existing and/or establish new infrastructure to assist local councils with their obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to comply with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) requirements so that the necessary infrastructure can be transformed to meet the required standards.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 29.1**

That the National General Assembly of Local Government call on the Australian Government to recognise the cost implications of the Disability Discrimination (Access to premises/buildings) Standards 2010 and to defer the new requirements until a comprehensive nationwide review by the Federal Government.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 30**

That the delegates to this National General Assembly request the Federal Government to:

- encourage state, territory and local governments to recognise cycling as a legitimate transport mode;
- establish a national funding program to build a network of cycling tracks and end-of-trip facilities to encourage commuter cyclists; and
- develop marketing and education programs that promote the benefits of cycling.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 31**

That the National General Assembly call on the Commonwealth Government to ensure funding opportunities and support is provided to initiatives such as Evocities and PORTS, which relieve growth stress on major centres and support growth in regional areas where capacity is available.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 32**

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to modify the National Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) guidelines to:

1. Allow for the payment of Council's day labour costs;
2. Allow for the payment to include aerodromes, sewerage and water supply and waste management;
3. Allow for the approval process to be expedited.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 33**

That this National Assembly calls upon the Federal Government to review the determination which includes new requirements for Local Governments for the provisioning of insurance costs for Local Government accessing Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery arrangements.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 34**

That the National Assembly of Local Governments calls on the Federal Government to partner with local government, to develop local and regional community transport initiatives.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 35**

That the National Assembly call upon the Australian Government to develop a whole of government approach to funding the public library system.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 36**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government, COAG, Infrastructure Australia and other relevant bodies to commit to a 10 year funding program of \$70M indexed annually to ensure the ongoing development and upgrade of the Outback Highway which will provide Australia with a vital reliable road link needed for the Australian Government to implement its Regional Remote Australia Development policy.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 37**

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal, State and Territory Governments to work with and support councils with the aim of ensuring national consistency in the notification and education of the owners of property impacted by the predicted sea level rise. The Federal, and State and Territory Governments should assist councils to develop clear guidance on how the existing and potential owners of the properties potentially affected by predicted sea level rise are to be notified and also educated about the risk posed by sea level rise.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 38**

That the National General Assembly of Local Government calls on the Australian Government, that when a carbon price is set up by the Federal Government, the Government

provides compensation to local government as a major service delivery organisation to the community, commensurate with their own progress in reducing their carbon footprint.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 38.2**

That this National General Assembly calls on the Commonwealth Government to adopt national standards for energy efficient street lighting and establish a subsidy program to fund local government to convert the existing street lighting to more efficient measures.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 39**

That the National Assembly of Local Governments calls on the Federal Government to partner with local government, to develop innovative approaches to renewable energy generation which facilitates the establishment of de-centralised renewable energy generation networks.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 40**

That this National Assembly calls upon the Federal Government to fully and openly consult with Local Government prior to the introduction of a carbon pricing mechanism and request consideration of an exemption from any introduced pricing of carbon or emissions trading system for the Local Government sector.

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 41**

That the National General Assembly recognise the need for:

- 1.Support for the establishment of a national insurance fund to assist the rebuilding of public infrastructure in the aftermath of natural disasters.
- 2.Representation of Local Government's interests and ensure that any intergovernmental agreements on how the replacement and restoration costs are shared by governments, insurers and taxpayers adequately protect local councils from the sole determinations of State and Territory Governments regarding the availability of disaster relief funding.

3.Representation of Local Government’s interests in explaining its inability to insure viably all its public infrastructure against catastrophic disasters and gain support for the provision of the necessary financial assistance to local councils for damage to uninsured infrastructure assets such as roads, drains and bridges arising from localised natural disasters which may not otherwise attract State, Territory or Commonwealth disaster relief funding.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 42**

That this National General Assembly of Local Government calls upon the Australian Government to provide the required national leadership by legislating extended producer responsibilities to meet the challenges of waste management.

That the Australian Government assists the development and uptake of an alternative waste technology suitable for Australia - given the enormous challenge, this requires a national approach.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 43**

That the National General Assembly make representation to the Prime Minister that the Federal Government fully subsidise waste tipping fees for asbestos materials on a national basis and provide financial assistance to Local Councils for environmental compliance and prosecutions, with the aim of seriously discouraging illegal dumping that will impact on future health costs.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 44**

That the National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government to facilitate a process towards the harmonisation of State and Territory laws protecting the rights of boarders and lodgers in the private rental market.

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 45**

That the National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government to develop a policy to promote more sustainable development and the construction of energy efficient buildings that includes a review of the Building Code of Australia.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 46**

That this National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to take a whole-of-government approach in the planning, funding and development of a range of housing options including opportunities for public and private Affordable Housing developments.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 47**

That the National General Assembly of Local Government write to the Commonwealth Government recommending that:

1. It sponsors a working group of National, State, Territory and Local Government representatives together with key child care sector and other stakeholder representatives to examine the current and future cost pressures on child care services and their impact on child care affordability.
2. Implement relevant funding and policy changes that address key issues identified by the working group.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 48**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government for a greater dialogue directly with Local Government Authorities in relation to the proposed reforms in aged care and disability services associated with the National Health reforms and Productivity Commission reports into Aged Care and Disability Services, to ensure ongoing high quality health outcomes are as a minimum maintained for ageing residents living in our communities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 49**

1. That the National General Assembly call on the Commonwealth Health Minister for direct Commonwealth funding to Local Government for the provision of doctors in rural and remote communities.

2. That the National General Assembly call on the State and Territory Governments to ensure that they meet the shortfall for afterhours emergency GP services where they are provided by Local Government to public hospitals.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 50**

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to consider pooling the Satellite Subsidy Scheme that has been put in place to alleviate the financial burden of households in rural and remote areas for the purchasing and installation of satellite dishes and associated equipment as part of the digital television switchover. Further, that the Federal Government consider allocating the pooled Satellite Subsidy Scheme to local governments that manage self-help re-transmission sites if they decide to continue doing so to enable them to upgrade these sites if it is the most cost-effective and efficient method of delivering digital television to their communities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 51**

That the Australian Local Government Association seeks support for a study into the quadruple bottom line feasibility of Local Governments partnering with State and Territory Governments and the Federal Government and private sector to undertake widespread power line undergrounding projects in association with the National Broadband Network rollout.

**Carried**

***Theme – Constitutional Recognition***

**Resolution Number: 52**

That this National General Assembly supports the Australian Local Government Association's position seeking constitutional recognition of local government.

**Carried**

## ***RESERVED RESOLUTIONS***

### **Resolution Number: 53**

That this National General Assembly:

- affirms its support for the process which may lead to Statehood for the Northern Territory at referendum, and recognises Statehood as a unique opportunity for the people of the Northern Territory to design a new constitution;
- supports the NT Local Government Association's request for the convention process to actively explore and consider how the new constitution might protect and support regions;
- acknowledges that the regions can be supported by new governance models that enhance regional decision-making powers and models entrenched in the constitution to ensure the equitable distribution of financial resources.

**Carried**

### **Resolution Number: 54**

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the Native Title Act to clarify the requirements and implications of the respective State and Territory Local Government Acts for local government.

**Carried**

### **Resolution Number: 55**

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to abolish Fringe Benefits Tax on electric and hybrid powered cars.

**Carried**

### **Resolution Number: 56**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to address the state of underinvestment in the National Rail System through the formation of a Government Authority for Rail.

That correspondence be sent to the Federal Minister for Transport and a copy be forwarded to the State and Territory Ministers of Transport and media outlets.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 57**

That this National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government – via the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority - to remove the requirement for Local Government to have superannuation cash backed given the inconsistency between the three tiers of government and given that State, Territory and Federal governments carry these amounts on their balance sheets as unfunded liabilities.

**Lost**

**Resolution Number: 58**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to ensure that any remote business, roadhouse, station property, etc. that has installed a solar power generation system or installed a waste water recycling system has the same ability to write off their investment over 3 years as is the case with depreciating computers.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 59**

That this National Assembly calls upon the Federal Government to continue to improve mobile phone coverage along major transport corridors, roads of regional significance and rural communities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 60**

That this National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to facilitate an investigation and trial of alternative fuels, to ensure sustainable future public transport systems that meet the needs of local communities.

**Carried**

**Resolution Number: 61**

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to support the Principles of Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan (ZCASEP)

- a) To give support for Australia to position itself as a global renewable super power for future prosperity.
- b) To support that the Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan (ZCASEP) is a ten year roadmap for 100% renewable energy.
- c) To support that Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan (ZCASEP) delivers Baseload Energy supplied by renewable sources.
- d) To support affordability; The Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan (ZCASEP) is affordable at \$8 per household per week.
- e) Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan (ZCASEP) is costed.

**Carried**

### **Special Urgent Resolution**

#### **Procedural motion:**

That the motion from Boulia Shire Council be considered.

**Carried**

That this National General Assembly expresses its concerns at the impacts on regional, rural and remote communities from the Government's decision relating to live animal exports and urges the Australian Government to resolve the situation as soon as possible.

**Carried**