

 AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
2 - 4 JULY
Preceding the ACLG 5 JULY
National Convention Centre Canberra

2024
NGA

Building
Community
Trust



Communique

National General Assembly 2024

More than 1,200 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 2-4 July for the 30th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

We were welcomed to country by Ngunnawal, Kambri and Ngambri custodian Paul Girrawah House. The Assembly recognised the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples 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, and speaking in her first major public address, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, spoke about increasing civic engagement with our future leaders and the importance of kindness and care in our leadership.

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, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, the Hon Darren Chester, and Luke Gosling OAM MP.

Delegates received a presentation on new local government financial sustainability research, which highlighted that sustainable federal funding to



councils would deliver a \$7 billion increase to Australia's GDP. The 2024 National State of the Assets report was also launched, outlining the condition of one third of Australia's public infrastructure, which is part of the \$643 billion worth of assets councils manage. This new research reinforces the urgent need for federal Financial Assistance Grants to local government to be restored to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Across two days, numerous presenters spoke on the theme of building community trust, and how local government is integral to holding and building this trust.

This year's NGA included new listening sessions on housing and community infrastructure, emergency management, roads and transport and energy transition, that provided a free-flowing exchange of ideas between councils, the federal public service, and other stakeholders.

This year's Assembly program included consideration of 160 motions submitted by councils, outlining opportunities for the Federal Government to better support councils and Australian communities.

These motions included solutions to address the financial sustainability of councils, support councils to deliver cost of living relief, facilitate more affordable housing, maintain safe and productive local roads, cycleways and footpaths, better prepare for and recover from natural disasters, and Close the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

In the lead up to the next federal election, ALGA will work with our state and territory member associations, and Australia's 537 local governments, to



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advocate for critical Financial Assistance Grants to be restored to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, and for local government to be restored as a full voting member of National Cabinet.

These are critical to ensuring that local government continues to play a role in the ongoing sustainability and liveability of every community.