

Foundations for the Future

TWENTY13

*Resolutions from the
2013 National General Assembly of
Local Government*

16 - 19 June 2013

Resolution Number:1

Council: City of Marion, SA

That the National General Assembly call for the Australian Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the Financial Assistance Grants and local government tax sharing arrangements, and then work with all levels of government to implement the recommendations of this review.

Carried

Resolution Number:2

Council: Gloucester Shire Council, NSW

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reallocate Commonwealth taxes to a percentage share basis with local government throughout Australia, either through fixed grants or general grants.

Carried

Resolution Number:2.1

Council: Yarra City Council, VIC

That this National General Assembly call for the Federal Government:

- a) to note:
 - i. successive ALGA motions in previous years highlighting problems in funding urban and regional public transport infrastructure, social housing, education, and health services by the States and Local Government infrastructure and services to meet population growth; and
 - ii. fiscal imbalances between Commonwealth, State and Local Governments in meeting their responsibilities for the above; and
- b) to raise through the COAG Agenda, the need for re-alignment of federal funding arrangements so that levels of Government in Australia have a more efficient match between their responsibilities and their finances.

Table 1.4: Share of Taxation revenue, by sphere of Government and source of revenue 2009-10

	Federal	State	Local	Total
Revenue Source	%	%	%	%
Tax on income	56.2	-	-	56.2
Employers payroll taxes	0.2	5	-	5.2
Property taxes	-	6.1	3.5	9.6
Taxes on Property	23.7	3	-	26.7
Taxes on provision of goods and services				
Taxes on use of goods and performance activities	0.2	2.3	-	2.5
Total	80.3	16.4	3.5	100.00

Notes: Figures may not add to totals due to inclusion of external territories and rounding:

- nil or rounded to zero

Source: ABS, Taxation Revenue, Australia, 2009-10, cat. No. 5506.0

Carried

Resolution Number:3

Council: Tenterfield Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to contribute to the rates base of non-ratable land and thereby fund and support services to the same land areas because many small rural Councils and Shires have large areas of non-rateable land, (eg National Parks), and small populations.

Carried

Resolution Number:4

Council: Wagga Wagga City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide continuity of long term funding to Local Government for community infrastructure through programs such as the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP).

Carried

Resolution Number:4.4

Council: Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly, on behalf of Councils across Australia, work with the Federal Government to identify sustainable funding sources to enable all Councils to provide, maintain and renew assets and services in their communities.

Carried

Resolution Number:5

Council: Fraser Coast Regional Council, QLD

Noting the increasing financial burden being placed on local governments through cost shifting, this National General Assembly of Local Governments calls upon the Federal Government to urgently review the Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Intergovernmental Relations on Local Government Matters.

Carried

Resolution Number:6

Council: ALGA

That this National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to increase its investment in transport infrastructure.

Carried

Resolution Number:7

Council: Gilgandra Shire Council, NSW

That, as part of its infrastructure renewal platform, the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to have additional funding made available for the replacement of timber bridges on local roads.

Carried

Motion Number:8

Council: Meander Valley Council, TAS

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to establish a National Credit Authority.

Lost

Resolution Number:9

Council: Wyndham City Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly support the continuation of Infrastructure Australia as a national expert body at arms-length from government, with a brief to financially support

nation building infrastructure development across a broad range of infrastructure classes, including public transport based on sound business cases with transparent business case assumptions.

Carried

Resolution Number:10

Council: Central Goldfields Shire Council, VIC

That this National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to work with State and Territory Governments to fund the development and maintenance of sewerage, water and natural gas infrastructure works, particularly for small and regional communities.

Carried

Resolution Number:10.1

Council: Wyong Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls upon the Commonwealth Government to provide funding to Local Government to assist in delivering essential infrastructure such as Roads, Water, Sewer and Drainage in new residential sub-divisions as a mechanism to make housing more affordable.

Carried

Resolution Number:10.2

Council: Wyong Shire Council, NSW

That the Australian Local Government Association calls upon the Commonwealth Government to establish a low interest loan subsidy system for Local Government, for the provision of essential infrastructure such as Roads, Water, Sewer and Drainage

Carried

Resolution Number:11

Council: Brisbane City Council, QLD

That National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to contribute to essential local development infrastructure and the mechanisms available to generate revenue and infrastructure development.

Carried

Resolution Number:12

Council: Kyogle Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to ensure the Roads to Recovery funding program be expanded and made permanent to assist local Councils in long-term strategic planning and budgetary considerations.

Carried

Resolution Number:13

Council: Bankstown City Council, NSW

That this National General Assembly calls upon the Australian Government to develop a funding program to assist local government with the upgrade of the “last mile” on Higher Mass Limit routes.

Carried

Resolution Number:14

Council: Gloucester Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop a more equitable funding model to be applied for ongoing renewal and maintenance of local roads that serve beyond the local government boundary or provide key regional linkages.

Carried

Resolution Number:15

Council: Moreton Bay Regional Council, QLD

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to develop a consistent set of guidelines for works undertaken for and/or by utility companies within Council road reserves.

Carried

Resolution Number:16

Council: Manningham City Council, VIC

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

Carried

Motion Number:17

Council: Tenterfield Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to ensure that the whole of the fuel tax revenue be allocated directly to road maintenance and renewal, and that funding is provided directly to the service providers be that Local, State or National government.

Lost

Resolution Number:18

Council: Forbes Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government, as part of the Nation Building Program network, to commence planning to upgrade the National Highway system to dual carriageway.

Carried

Resolution Number:19

Council: Parkes Shire Council, NSW

For the betterment of the Nation, that the National General Assembly call on the current and future Commonwealth Governments of Australia and the Queensland, Victorian and New South Wales governments and local authorities along the route to set common timelines and budgets and commit to build the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail, to future-standards, during the current decade.

Carried

Resolution Number:20

Council: Whitehorse City Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly call on to the Australian Government and all major political parties to introduce a national program of action to provide accelerated funding for the removal of rail level crossings across Australia to improve the Australian transport network and to improve safety and reduce congestion.

Carried

Resolution Number:21

Council: Brisbane City Council, QLD

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to refocus the Major Cities Unit, within the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport, to partner with Australia's 18 major cities to undertake a policy program and shared learning approach to focus on natural disaster resilience, innovative design and sustainability, process efficiency and policy strength.

Carried

Resolution Number:22

Council: City of Port Phillip, VIC

That the National General Assembly strongly call on the Australian Government for new capital funding for community housing through joint venture programs administered through State Governments and delivered by community housing organisations.

Carried

Resolution Number:23

Council: Isaac Regional Council, QLD

That the National General Assembly call the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, to work with our state governments that have the mandates to supply water to local government areas, to develop sustainable water supply strategies for regional Australia that supports growth of industry and communities and provides clear actions for local governments experiencing water security and reliability concerns.

Carried

Resolution Number:23.1

Council: Griffith City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly of Local Government strongly support the development of a proposal to construct a series of dams and/or water storages in Australia which demonstrate positive outcomes for the Nation. These benefits to include enhancement of water security, help to mitigate against floods, provide hydro power and grow economic prosperity while being sensitive to the environment.

Carried

Resolution Number:24

Council: Darebin City Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly of Local Government calls on the Australian Government to establish a Standing Council on Local Government within the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to support ongoing reforms between all levels of government.

Carried

Resolution Number:25

Council: Blacktown City Council, NSW

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to develop and maintain a central database and register to bring together information and application material relating to local government grants programs in a single location.

Carried

Resolution Number:26

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to urgently review the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA) to more effectively address the growing list of NDRRA shortcomings including the need to encourage increased use of betterment provisions and to accommodate the requirements of councils, especially those in rural and remote areas, to use contractors and in house staff to deal with the diverse challenges communities face when dealing with disasters.

Carried

Resolution Number:26.4

Council: Brisbane City Council, QLD

That ALGA lobby the Australian Government to provide grants, through the Financial Assistance Grants program, to local governments to develop and prepare Catchment Floodplain Management Plans (CFMPs) that assist in minimising the impact of flooding by undertaking a risk based management approach.

Carried

Resolution Number:26.9

Council: Town of Bassendean, WA

That the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA) be urgently strategically reviewed to more effectively address the growing list of NDRRA shortcomings that have been and may still be highlighted by the increasing list of disasters around Australia.

Carried

Resolution Number:26.12

Council: Kulin Shire Council, WA

The National General Assembly lobby all Federal Government politicians on the current arrangements for the National Disaster Restoration & Relief Arrangements (NDRRA) with a view to amending the funding guidelines to allow Local Governments to use their own workforce, including ordinary wages for permanent staff (day labour), to carry out road and infrastructure repairs following a declared NDRRA event.

Carried

Resolution Number:27

Council: North Burnett Regional Council, QLD

That this National Assembly calls the Federal Government to expand current Flood mitigation programmes to include alternatives to flood levees to increase resilience of communities that suffer regular disaster events.

Carried

Resolution Number:28

Council: Moyne Shire Council, VIC

The National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to support the development of renewable energy projects as part of its environmental responsibility to reduce carbon dioxide emissions; and likewise should support those LGAs that host such projects.

Carried

Resolution Number:28.1

Council: City of Stonnington, VIC

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government establish a fund from carbon pricing revenue to support local government to undertake projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Carried

Resolution Number:29

Council: Willoughby City Council, NSW

That this National Assembly call upon the Federal and State Governments to remove regulatory barriers and provide funding for Councils to develop local decentralised renewable energy production facilities.

Carried

Resolution Number:30

Council: City of Rockingham, WA

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to initiate a coordinated national approach, involving all three levels of government, to planning and managing the Australian coast for the benefit of future generations

Carried

Resolution Number:31

Council: Etheridge Shire Council, QLD

That National General Assembly propose the Australian Government to undertake a national coordinated approach to controlling the spread of pests and weeds throughout rural Australia.

Carried

Resolution Number:32

Council: Roper Gulf Shire Council, NT

That the National General Assembly supports the concept of a national container deposit scheme to manage the recycling of used drink and other containers such as is in place in SA and the NT.

Carried

Resolution Number:33

Council: Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly request the Federal Government to introduce legislation banning plastic shopping bags and support State and Local Governments wishing to impose this ban.

Carried

Resolution Number:34

Council: Brisbane City Council, QLD

That National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to establish a fund to assist local governments to assess the applicability to alternative waste treatment (AWT) technologies to organic waste streams within their local government areas and establish regional AWT initiatives in partnership with neighbouring local government authorities.

Carried

Resolution Number:35

Council: Penrith City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly request Federal and State Governments to develop an equitable, long-term strategy for waste disposal needs nationally that will not impact on a single community. The Strategy should also provide clear guidelines for industry and local government on the regulatory management processes and options available for the disposal of hazardous and restricted solid waste in all states and territories, including addressing the issue of instances where there is only one waste facility licensed to accept Restricted Solid Waste in a particular state.

Carried

Resolution Number:36

Council: Strathfield Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Minister for Environment to work with State and local government to develop a coordinated national program to combat illegal dumping, giving consideration to assisting councils directly with funding and tipping fee subsidies.

Carried

Resolution Number:37

Council: Regional Council of Goyder, SA

That National General Assembly call for the urgent implementation of the recommendations from the Senate Committee Inquiry into the Impact of Rural Wind Farms and finalise national standards to guide a more consistent and considered approach to the planning, regulation and management of the wind industry development across all jurisdictions.

Carried

Resolution Number:38

Council: Melbourne City Council, VIC

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to undertake research and report findings on best practice models in regional collaboration by local government in Australia.

Carried

Resolution Number:39

Council: Griffith City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government, as a matter of urgency, to put in place strategies to attract and retain General Practitioners, Specialists and Nurses to Regional and Country Communities

Carried

Resolution Number:40

Council: Willoughby City Council, NSW

That the National Assembly call on the Federal Government to increase funding with local government throughout Australia for community exercise programs to assist with Preventative Health measures.

Carried

Resolution Number:41

Council: Wyong Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call upon the Commonwealth Government to provide funds for local government to enable the employment of apprentices and to establish skills centres as a way of reducing youth unemployment.

Carried

Resolution Number:42

Council: North Burnett Regional Council, QLD

That this National General Assembly call for a Senate enquiry into the WHS National Harmonisation Legislation with terms of reference that include compliance cost to Local Government and the effectiveness of the legislation.

Carried

Resolution Number:43

Council: Knox City Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly call upon the Commonwealth Government to review the legislative provisions applicable to the ongoing funding of Local Government Defined Benefits Superannuation Schemes to ensure a consistent and sustainable approach for all states and territories.

Carried

Resolution Number:44

Council: Shoalhaven City Council, NSW

That the Australian Local Government Association calls on the Federal Government to re-focus the National Broadband Network and target Government Infrastructure including local government to connect Council assets and improve communications within Local Government areas.

Carried

Resolution Number:44.1

Council: Balranald Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to support the provision of broadband to all rural and remote schools with at least mobile connectivity.

Carried

Resolution Number:45

Council: Bankstown City Council, NSW

That this National Assembly call upon the Australian Government to reinstate the funds deferred from the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 funding program or consider further investment into funding programs targeted at crime prevention.

Carried

Resolution Number:46

Council: City of Darwin, NT

That the National General Assembly supports legislative amendments to address illegal vehicle based camping and calls for Federal and State Government support for a coordinated cross-government solution development process.

Carried

Resolution Number:47

Council: City of Whittlesea, VIC

That the National General Assembly request the Commonwealth Government to develop policies that support social equity for children, young people and families in rural, regional and urban fringe areas of capital cities.

Carried

Resolution Number:48

Council: Gloucester Shire Council, NSW

That this National General Assembly call for more active consultation between the State Government and Local Government to reflect community aspirations.

Carried

Resolution Number:49

Council: Isaac Regional Council, QLD

That the National General Assembly call for support for 1-21 of the Federal FIFO/DIDO Report (*) regarding workforce practices in Regional Australia and for the Australian government to adopt the recommendations, as well as recognising and including local governments across the nation as key stakeholders through the policy review and policy development process to address social, economic and infrastructure policy, along with funding challenges identified in the report.

Carried

Resolution Number:50

Council: Etheridge Shire Council, QLD

That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to support the development of water supply solutions, including sustainable solutions for remote areas in Australia.

Carried

Resolution Number:51

Council: North Burnett Regional Council, QLD

That this National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to review the funding and support to Oral Health services with particular emphasis on rural and remote communities.

Carried

Reserved Motions

Motion Number:52

Council: Shoalhaven City Council, NSW

That the Australian Local Government Association calls on the Federal Government to facilitate a process whereby subsidies currently provided to local vehicle manufacturers be diverted to Councils so as to achieve a lesser purchase price of vehicles.

Lost

Resolution Number:53

Council: Forbes Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly object to the restrictions imposed by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority APVMA on the chemicals Fenthion, Omethoate and Dimethoate for the control of Queensland Fruit Fly as there is no satisfactory alternative to these chemicals and their restricted use in eastern Australia will result in the total destruction of the Australian Fruit Industry and many vegetable industries, including tomatoes and request the Federal Government to intervene and reinstate these chemicals for use in the Australian Fruit and Vegetable industries.

Carried

Resolution Number:54

Council: Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to institute a system between governments, collating information on type and location of land acquired by foreign ownership especially where there are significant water, mineral or food resources.

Carried

Resolution Number:55

Council: Etheridge Shire Council, QLD

That the National General Assembly call on the Australian Government to actively support the development of Agribusiness across Northern Australia.

Carried

Motion Number:56

Council: City Port Adelaide Enfield, SA

That the National General Assembly ask Australian councils to push for a solution or solutions that will lead to the eventual phasing out of Live Animal Exports to be replaced by a chilled or frozen meat export industry in the interests of the humane treatment to animals and to increase employment and economic activity in the Australian meat export industry.

Not voted on

Resolution Number:57

Council: Shoalhaven City Council, NSW

That the Australian Local Government Association calls on the Federal Government to reform how Regional Development funding is allocated to rural and semi rural regions through the re-establishment of Area Consultative Committees.

Carried

Resolution Number:58

Council: Horsham Rural City Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, VIC

That the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to make additional funding available for mobile telephone and data services in regional areas, based on

- Economic benefit to agriculture
- Emergency management requirements eg fire and flood
- Tourism activities

Carried

Resolution Number:59

Council: Tumut Shire Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly request that the Australian and State Governments revisit and reaffirm the intentions of the Plantations 2020 Vision - especially the enhancement of regional wealth creation and international competitiveness - with policy development so as to encourage the expansion of the plantation timber estate through either

direct investment by government(s) and/or the development of incentives that support private sector investment in the plantation establishment and expansion process.

Carried

Resolution Number:60

Council: North Burnett Regional Council, QLD

That this National Assembly calls on the Federal Government to call an enquiry into the Australian Dairy Industry and the impacts of recent national reforms and to investigate the perceived or real market inequality between retailers and producers.

Carried

Resolution Number:61

Council: City of Ryde, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal Government to coordinate all State Governments to provide all local governments across Australia, with the enforcement powers to enact the respective State Government legislation relating to the bans on smoking in public places. Further, to assist Councils in undertaking these enforcement powers, that the Federal Government directly or through each State Government provide funding to local government to establish this function, on the basis that all fine income generated from this enforcement is retained by local government.

Carried

Resolution Number:62

Council: Yarra City Council, VIC

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

Motion Number:63

Council: Liverpool City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly call on the Federal government to confirm the government's position in regard to the Badgery's Creek site as the second airport for Sydney and to commit to either removing the planning restrictions that apply to the Badgery's Creek site, or, commencing the appropriate studies to determine the economic, environmental and social impacts of the locating the second Sydney airport at this site.

Lost

Resolution Number:64

Council: Shoalhaven City Council, NSW

That the National General Assembly calls on the Minister for Child Care for the childcare benefit provided to Family Day Educators to be increased to offset the loss of income that will occur as a result of the change in ratio from one educator to five children to one educator to four children under three years old.

Carried