



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

STRATEGIC PLAN
2014-17

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STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2017

VISION

The Australian Local Government Association is a focused, influential and representative voice of Local Government, supporting State and Territory Associations in delivering excellence in Local Government outcomes.

MISSION

To champion and strengthen Australian Local Governments by representing the agreed position of Local Government member associations.

OBJECTIVES

To assist State and Territory Local Government Associations to benefit their communities, the Australian Local Government Association aims to:

- Strengthen Local Government;
- Advance the interests of Local Government;
- promote efficient, responsible and transparent Local Government processes; and
- encourage the engagement of Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments with Local Government.

BACKGROUND

ALGA is a highly effective, flexible, advocacy body that represents the collective national and international interests of Australian Local Government, as determined by its member state and territory Local Government associations.

OUR CORE PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION ARE:

1. Local Government finances;
2. Roads, and other transport and community infrastructure;
3. Improving the natural and built environment;

4. Regional equity and regional development;
5. Community resilience and sustainability;
6. Collaboration and connectivity;
7. Whole of government collaboration; and
8. Strengthening democratic processes.

OUR BUSINESS INVOLVES:

- Exerting influence through participation in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), other relevant Ministerial Councils, standing committees and working groups;
- Close liaison with relevant Commonwealth departments and other federal agencies;
- Preparation and presentation of high quality submissions to relevant inquiries;
- Political advocacy, focussed on the Australian Parliament including advocacy campaigns;
- Proactive media liaison and public relations activities;
- Conduct of relevant research and development projects; and
- Membership of international Local Government organisations.

OUR AUTHORITY COMES FROM:

- Continuous collaboration with, and provision of timely information to, members;
- Committed leadership by directors appointed by members;
- Consultation with Local Government through the National General Assembly of Local Government and National Local Roads and Transport Congress;
- Excellence in research and policy development; and
- Maintenance of a confident, persuasive, well informed public profile.

WE ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES THROUGH:

- High quality policy and research;
- Development and presentation of realistic, intellectually robust and implementable policies, able to withstand searching scrutiny;
- Credible, persuasive and authoritative advocacy;
- Effective public affairs and communications strategies;
- A coordinated approach with our Members; and
- Development and maintenance of partnerships and other relationships across governments.

KEY OUTCOMES

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES

- Strategy 1.1 Secure a fair share of national taxation revenue for Local Government that reflects the role of local government and the needs of local communities.
- Strategy 1.2 Increase the quantum of Local Government's share of taxation revenue over time, consistent with increasing community service delivery expectations, and ensure that any funds are appropriately indexed.
- Strategy 1.3 Ensure the principles to avoid future cost shifting onto Local Government outlined in the 2006 Intergovernmental Agreement on Local Government Relations, are reflected in and national taxation and governance reform processes.

SUSTAINING LOCAL ROADS, TRANSPORT AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Strategy 2.1 Ensure a safe, effective, sustainable and adequately funded transport system for all local communities.
- Strategy 2.2 Secure permanent funding of the Roads to Recovery and Road Safety Black Spot programs.
- Strategy 2.3 Achieve equitable distribution of Federal local roads funding, including funding for heavy vehicle use.
- Strategy 2.4 Ensure adequate funding to specifically address the challenge of maintaining local bridges.
- Strategy 2.5 Encourage and support cost effective asset management practices by local authorities.
- Strategy 2.6 Lobby for the provision of adequate transport access in local communities including through support for regional airports and the provision of regional infrastructure.
- Strategy 2.7 Lobby for maximum coverage of Local Government through national initiatives to extend broadband.

- Strategy 2.8 Ensure adequate funding for alternative transport such as public transport, cycle paths and walking tracks.
- Strategy 2.9 Ensure adequate funding for rail freight services as part of an integrated transport network.
- Strategy 2.10 Ensure funding for Local Government community infrastructure.

IMPROVING NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

- Strategy 3.1 Negotiate and advocate the national role of Local Government in addressing major natural resource management issues, including water.
- Strategy 3.2 Negotiate and advocate the national role of Local Government in addressing major environmental protection, waste management and heritage issues.
- Strategy 3.3 Negotiate and advocate the national role of Local Government in addressing the mitigation and adaptation challenges arising from climate change.
- Strategy 3.4 Ensure the Federal Government recognises the role of Local Government in land-use planning and the long term planning of the built environment.

4. ENHANCING REGIONAL EQUITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Strategy 4.1 Enhance the interests of Local Government in the Commonwealth Government's regional engagement framework.
- Strategy 4.2 Secure appropriate Commonwealth funding to build and maintain sustainable regional communities across Australia.
- Strategy 4.3 Secure Commonwealth commitment to the establishment of and maintenance of Australia's regional liveability.
- Strategy 4.4 Promote the use of existing regional structures of local government, that may include RDAs, as the primary mechanism to be resourced and augmented as appropriate to deliver Federal regional programs and initiatives

Strategy 4.5 Facilitate consideration of regional strategic alliances between local governments to advance regional development.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Strategy 5.1 Collaborate with the Commonwealth Government in the design and implementation of community focussed human services policies.

Strategy 5.2 Promote the role of Local Government in national health and well-being and work with partners to ensure Commonwealth funding of programs to address these areas.

Strategy 5.3 Promote the role of Local Government in facilitating innovation and digital transformation to promote productivity improvements.

Strategy 5.4 Ensure that Local Government's role in a new National Injury Insurance Scheme reflects the limited scope of Local Government's responsibilities in the area.

Strategy 5.5 Enhance the capacity of Local Government to prepare, respond and effectively recover from natural disasters, including through advocating for changes to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements to better reflect local government needs.

IMPROVING COLLABORATION AND CONNECTIVITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Strategy 6.1 Research and collate information and data on the Local Government sector including best practice and innovation in Local Government.

Strategy 6.2 Collaborate with member associations to develop a consolidated and consistent policy manifesto adopted by ALGA and state and territory associations.

Strategy 6.3 Conduct the National General Assembly and other annual major events to support collective engagement of Local Government.

Strategy 6.4 Provide regular information to Local Government on relevant national issues and activities.

- Strategy 6.5 Strengthen relationships with national stakeholder bodies relevant to Local Government to facilitate collaboration.
- Strategy 6.6 Ensure that Commonwealth strategies to address skills shortages and labour shortages support state and territory association to address workforce issues.
- Strategy 6.7 Provide regular information to Local Government on relevant issues related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters.
- Strategy 6.8 Develop and maintain relations with Local Government associations in the Asia Pacific and promote the opportunities for inclusion of local government capacity-building in the region through the Australian aid program.

|| ENHANCING WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

- Strategy 7.1 Represent Local Government within COAG, relevant ministerial councils and other high level intergovernmental fora.
- Strategy 7.2 Promote whole of government recognition of the role of Local Government in the development and implementation of national policy.
- Strategy 7.3 Maintain close liaison with relevant federal ministers, opposition, frontbenchers, cross benches, and parliamentary opinion leaders.
- Strategy 7.4 Respond to emerging whole of government issues or direct relevance to Local Government.

|| STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

- Strategy 8.1 Defend in all forums the rights of elected local government members to make decisions on behalf of their communities and the need for local government to maintain its financial independence.
- Strategy 8.2 Conduct and utilise research into the contribution of Local Government to the economic, social and environmental development and welfare of communities and promulgate the value of Local Government.

Strategy 8.3

Create the environment to secure legal certainty of direct Commonwealth funding of Local Government, including through recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution if necessary.