

DIS016: ELECTED MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT INTERSTATE CONFERENCE – ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – JUNE 2017

Proponent : City of Albany
Attachments : Nil
Report prepared by : PA to Executive Director Works & Services (A Paulley)
Responsible Officer(s): : Executive Director Works & Services (M Thomson)

Responsible Officer's Signature:



STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan 2023 and Corporate Business Plan 2014 to 2018:
 - a. **Key Theme:** 5. Civic Leadership
 - b. **Strategic Objective:** 5.3. To engage effectively with our community.
 - c. **Strategic Initiatives:** 5.3.2. Increased interaction between councillors and the community.

In Brief:

- Endorse the attendance of the Mayor at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in Canberra in June 2017.

**DIS016: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
VOTING REQUIREMENT: ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

THAT DIS016: Elected Member Attendance at Interstate Conference – ALGA National General Assembly – June 2017 be ACCEPTED as an urgent item for consideration by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

**DIS016: RESPONSIBLE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

THAT Council ENDORSE the attendance of the Mayor at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in Canberra from 19 – 20 June 2017.

BACKGROUND

2. In June 2016, the City of Albany submitted a bid to host the 2017 National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Albany.
3. In November 2016, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) announced that Albany was the successful bid.
4. A teleconference meeting was held recently between the City and ALGA during which ALGA invited the Mayor and CEO to attend ALGA's National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra in June 2017 in order to promote Albany as the host of the 2017 Congress.
5. The Congress will attract up to 350 delegates to Albany in November 2017. Some delegates may also bring their partners. This will inject significant dollars into the Albany economy, with potential flow on effects in future tourism. Attendance at the NGA will afford opportunities for the Mayor and CEO to network and encourage other local government representatives to attend the Congress in Albany.

6. The NGA gives key local government representatives the opportunity to debate issues of national significance, hear from political and academic speakers as well as to develop policy and fiscal strategy for the coming year. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten are due to speak at this year's NGA.
7. The City will have the opportunity to submit motions of national relevance for debate at the NGA, and the City of Albany could speak to motions submitted by other councils in the Great Southern who would not otherwise attend the NGA. ALGA will also extend an invitation to the Mayor and CEO to be involved in one of the NGA's panel sessions.
8. While in Canberra, ALGA encourages local government representatives to take part in the 'Mayor a Minute' round of meeting with Federal Government Ministers. The Mayor and CEO can arrange appointments with the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Fiona Nash, and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester, in order to discuss local government issues relating to Albany. This would also be a good opportunity to update the Ministers on the progress of Albany projects which have sourced, or are seeking, funding from their departments.

DISCUSSION

9. In accordance section 2.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, it is the Mayor's role to speak on behalf of the City of Albany.
10. This report is presented in accordance with Council's *Travel and Representation Policy position, being in part:*

“Travel outside of Western Australia

2. Councillors may attend City Representation events held outside WA and overseas during their term of office upon the following conditions:

a. The travel falls within the definitions for conference, professional development or delegation;

b. An item has been presented to Council specifying:

(i) the benefit to the City of the attendance at the conference, professional development or delegation;

(ii) whether, if applicable, there is a necessity to send more than one councillor; and

(iii) whether the information to be discussed at the conference or professional development can be sourced from within Western Australia.

3. Approval has been granted by Council resolution;

4. There is sufficient budget allocation for the councillors' travel.”

11. This report has been presented for the endorsement and approval of Council.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. Nil

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

13. Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no policy implications related to this report.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

15. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City's Enterprise Risk & Opportunity Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
Reputation - Lack of engagement with the local government sector	Likely	Moderate	High	Support the Mayor attending the National General Assembly.
Reputation – Lack of support in helping ALGA make the 2017 Congress in Albany as successful as possible.	Likely	Moderate	High	Support the Mayor attending the National General Assembly.
Reputation – Lack of support for Albany business community who would expect the City to maximise opportunities to attract as many delegates to the Congress as possible.	Likely	Moderate	High	Support the Mayor attending the National General Assembly.
Opportunity: Attendance at the conference will raise the profile of Albany to attract as many participants as possible at the National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held in Albany in November 2017.				

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Funding is allocated in the current budget for elected members to attend training and conferences. The following costs are within the existing budget allocation.
17. The cost per elected member to attend the National General Assembly is estimated to be \$3,695, which will cover:
- Return Flights from Albany: \$1,746. Includes Albany to Perth and Perth to Canberra return.
 - Accommodation: Sunday 18 June through to Tuesday 20 June 2017: \$720
 - National General Assembly cost per person: \$929
 - Meals and travel allowances: \$300 but most meals will be supplied as part of accommodation costs and NGA fees.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. Nil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

19. Nil.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

20. Nil.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

21. It is recommended that the attendance of the Mayor at the ALGA National General Assembly is endorsed.

Consulted References	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act 1995 • Council Policy: Travel and Representation Policy
File Number (Name of Ward)	:	(All Wards)
Previous Reference	:	Nil