



QUALITY NATURE - QUALITY HERITAGE - QUALITY LIFESTYLE

ADDENDUM ITEMS FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2020

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Clause 7(1) of Council's Code of Meeting Practice that an **Ordinary Council** will be held in the Council Chambers, on **Wednesday 25 March 2020** commencing at **9.30am**.

Terry Dodds
Chief Executive

AGENDA

10. URGENT, LATE & SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

(ITEM GOV14/20)	CANCELLATION OF 2020 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ALGA) BOARD.....	2
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Department:	Office of the Chief Executive
Submitted by:	Executive Assistant & Media
Reference:	ITEM GOV14/20
Subject:	CANCELLATION OF 2020 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (ALGA) BOARD

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK	
CSP Goal:	Leadership - LEAD 12 - We are a well engaged community that is actively involved in decision making processes and informed about services and activities.
CSP Strategy:	We partner with the community, business and Federal and State Government in the achievement of our goals.
CSP Delivery Program	Maintain strong relationships with all levels of Government and proactively seek involvement in decision making impacting our Shire and the New England Northwest Region.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide background and motions for submission to the ALGA Board following cancellation of the 2020 National General Assembly.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the following motions for consideration by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board following cancellation of the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government.

- (a) That ALGA support cultural burning on Crown Lands, National Parks and Forestry Corporation held lands in every State of Australia, and the training and employment of indigenous people to carry out this important task.**
- (b) That ALGA advocate for the State and Federal Governments to increase funding for pasture research to assist in drought proofing Australia.**
- (c) That ALGA support Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) in lobbying the NSW State Government and others to develop a funded business case for measures to increase migration from metropolitan and overseas locations to regional communities, where latent infrastructure capacities, employment opportunities, quality of life and reduced costs of living remain undervalued in target markets.**

BACKGROUND

Three (3) motions have been suggested to be put forward for submission for debate to the 2020 National General Assembly of Local Government. Closing date for submission of motions is midday, Friday, 27 March 2020.

REPORT:

On Thursday, 19 March 2020, Council received notification from ALGA that the 2020 National General Assembly has been cancelled, however options to broaden the agenda

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of the 2020 Local Roads & Transport Congress due to be held in November in Hobart will be considered.

In addition, ALGA advised that Motions are still being accepted and close for submission on Friday, 27 March 2020. With debate unable to take place, the ALGA Board will consider motions at the June Board meeting.

Therefore, this late report is put forward for consideration by Council, providing full details on the suggested motions.

MOTION 1

That ALGA support cultural burning on Crown Lands, National Parks and Forestry Corporation held lands in every State of Australia, and the training and employment of indigenous people to carry out this important task.

Rationale

As we look back at the horrific bushfire season in 2019-2020, it is painfully obvious that we need to manage our country better.

Background

We use the language of war when we speak about fire: We are "attacked" by fire; we have fire "fighters"; we use big trucks and "bomb" fire from the sky with aeroplanes.

But if you are cool burning, you should be able to stand next to the flame, it should be low enough to enable you to step over it. That's not being a firefighter, that's working with fire.

The reoccurring theme here is the necessity, and strong partnership between Aboriginal communities and agencies grounded in trust, to navigate the sensitivities of cultural burning.

We are talking about fire here, but it is really about social justice; getting Aboriginal people in employment; employment on country; researching and skilling up people to do prescribed and cultural burning in line with family aspirations; and to have a conversation "about country, on country" to help shift the thinking towards new ways of approaching fire management.

MOTION 2

That ALGA advocate for the State and Federal Governments to increase funding for pasture research to assist in drought proofing Australia.

Rationale

Given the huge economic and social impacts of the current long running drought, and its effects on huge areas of Australia, funding for research into the use of Australian native species for use as pasture plants.

Background

Mr Mack Rees BAg, MAgSc, PhD worked with CSIRO's Division of Tropical Crops & Pastures from 1965 to 1990. During this time, as a pasture agronomist, he found that some Australian native plant species have great potential as pasture species. When he left CSIRO in 1990 it was his recommendation that full scale research be conducted in Australian native species for drought tolerate, productive plants.

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These plants have evolved for thousands of years in difficult climate conditions and Australia should be looking to benefit from this.

The ephemeral species of the Australian desert showed incredible resilience against drought, heat and cold, great range of temperature, and the ability to establish quickly after rain – a key requirement of a desert plant. With climate change, these characteristics are becoming more important.

MOTION 3

That ALGA support Regional Development Australia Committees (RDAs) in lobbying the NSW State Government and others to develop a funded business case for measures to increase migration from metropolitan and overseas locations to regional communities, where latent infrastructure capacities, employment opportunities, quality of life and reduced costs of living remain undervalued in target markets.

Rationale

RDA Committees are strong advocates for their region and drivers of change and, as such, have a pivotal role in fostering regional economic development. RDAs in regional NSW are also authorised Regional Certifying Bodies (RCBs), appointed by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection for the purposes of the Migration Act. As such, RDAs are instrumental in driving population growth in regional areas through skilled migration programs.

Background

RDA Committees are uniquely placed to investigate opportunities and incentives to increase internal migration and decentralisation from metropolitan to regional NSW. A business case may include but is not limited to:

- How the NSW and Australian Governments can better support internal and overseas migration to regional areas;
- Which policies and incentives can be developed and used by governments and communities to drive demand for internal migration from city to country areas;
- Investigating an increasing of the quota available for skilled migration in regional areas to mitigate population pressures in capital cities and major urban centres;
- Quantifying the number of employment opportunities by sector in regional areas that drive demand for internal migration;
- Investigating the current stringent visa conditions on skilled migrants and employers that discourage uptake of regional skilled migration programs;
- Quantifying the latent housing and community infrastructure, as well as essential services available for population growth in regional areas, to cater for increased internal migration;
- Quantifying the economic benefits that increased population growth brings to regional communities;
- How regional communities can better attract and retain new arrivals from metropolitan centres and overseas;
- Quantifying the benefit to governments in driving population decentralisation;
- Investigating measures to change the perception of regions as 'second rate,' and reducing the ongoing trend of people moving to the state capital.
- How internal migration and decentralisation can mitigate stagnating populations that pose a threat to many rural and regional economies; and
- Other related matters.

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COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

- 1. Community Engagement / Communication (per engagement strategy)**
Nil.
- 2. Policy and Regulation**
Nil.
- 3. Financial (Annual Budget & LTFP)**
Nil.
- 4. Asset Management (AMS)**
Nil.
- 5. Workforce (WMS)**
Nil.
- 6. Legal and Risk Management**
Nil.
- 7. Performance Measures**
Nil.
- 8. Project Management**
Nil.

Terry Dodds
Chief Executive

Prepared by staff member:	Noelene Hyde
Approved/Reviewed by Manager:	Terry Dodds, Chief Executive
Department:	Office of the Chief Executive
Attachments:	There are no attachments for this report.