

ITEM 5

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW (LGNSW) ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 23 NOVEMBER 2020

The Local Government NSW Conference is an annual event which provides opportunities for Councillors to network and participate in debate on local government policy issues at a state level. Due to the risks of gathering during a pandemic situation, the 2020 conference will be held as an online conference for a single day. This report seeks to approve Councillors to register to participate in the conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 The Lord Mayor, Cr G Bradbery; Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr T Brown; and Councillors D Brown, A Martin, D Figliomeni, and J Kershaw be approved to register to participate in the Local Government NSW Annual Conference to be held online on 23 November 2020.
- 2 Council authorise the Lord Mayor, Cr G Bradbery; Deputy Lord Mayor, Cr T Brown and Councillors D Brown, A Martin, D Figliomeni, and J Kershaw as six voting delegates to the Conference.
- 3 Council delegate to the Lord Mayor authority to approve attendance of any other Councillor requesting to attend the Conference and to nominate up to one further voting delegate if required.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance and Customer Service
Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

BACKGROUND

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference provides an opportunity for Councillors to meet, discuss and debate issues facing local government, and develop agreed positions which can inform the development of future NSW Local Government policies.

Voting entitlements

While all Councillors can attend, Wollongong City Council is entitled to nominate seven voting delegates to the 2020 Conference. The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and four other Councillors have indicated they would like to attend the 2020 Conference, bringing the number of Councillor delegates to six, leaving one councillor voting delegate position vacant.

Motions

All LGNSW members are invited to submit motions for inclusion in the Conference business paper. The deadline for submitting motions is 28 September 2020. Proposed motions should be strategic, affect members state-wide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. As in previous years, the Executive Officer to the Lord Mayor will liaise with Councillors on possible motions for submission.

Program

Due to the risks of gathering during a pandemic situation, the 2020 conference will be held as an online conference for a single day.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

All Councillors were requested to submit an expression of interest in attending the conference. The following Councillors have confirmed they wish to attend:

- 1 Lord Mayor, Councillor G Bradbery
- 2 Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor T Brown

- 3 Cr D Brown
- 4 Cr A Martin
- 5 Cr D Figliomeni
- 6 Cr J Kershaw

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal “We are a connected and engaged community”.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Governance and Customer Service Divisional Service Plan 2020-21.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a budget to enable Councillors to attend conferences and meet associated costs.

Under the *Councillor Expenses and Facilities* policy, Council will cover the following costs for each delegate at the 2020 Conference for the following:

- Early bird registration: \$66

All expenses are quoted inclusive of GST.

The total estimated cost for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and four other Councillors to attend the 2020 LGNSW Conference is \$396.00, which is covered by the Councillors’ budget for 2020-2021.

CONCLUSION

The Local Government NSW Conference provides an opportunity for Councillors to network (this year in an online format) and participate in local government debate at a state level. Wollongong City Council is entitled to register seven voting delegates to the 2020 Conference. This report seeks agreement for the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor and four other Councillors to attend the Conference, with a further voting delegate to be endorsed by the Lord Mayor should another Councillor wish to attend.