Australian Local Government Association

2027 National General Assembly Discussion Paper

CALL FOR MOTIONS

Canberra | June 2027 | Final NGA date to be confirmed

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Local Leadership. National Progress

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is an opportunity for councils from across Australia to identify practical national reforms and investments that will help local government deliver stronger outcomes for communities. For 2027, councils are invited to focus on issues of genuine national significance and on practical ways the Australian Government and local government can work together.

The discussion areas below draw on ALGA's Strategic Plan 2026-2029, key policy priorities, previous NGA resolutions and the policy and funding proposals in Pre-Budget Submissions. They are intended to guide, rather than limit, councils in developing eligible motions.

Key dates

Date	Milestone
Last week of October 2026	Call for motions opens
24 February 2027	Call for motions closes
14 days before the first day of the NGA (Assembly)	Final call for amendments closes (including revised wording)
10.00 am on the Friday before the Assembly	Amended motions distributed to voting delegates via the NGA app and published as part of the final motions material
10.00 am on the Friday before the Assembly	“Intention to oppose” a motion closes
June 2027 (date TBA)	National General Assembly debate

Submitting motions - a guide

Councils may submit a maximum of three motions. Motions should address a single issue, seek a clear national action or outcome, and be relevant to local government across Australia. Motions must have current financial year council endorsement and be submitted through ALGA's online portal.

A motion must not have been debated at an NGA in the preceding three years.

- A motion should commence: “This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...”
- Motions must be nationally relevant and align with the policy objectives of the relevant state or territory local government association.
- Motion wording is limited to 100 words, the national objective to 100 words, and the key argument to 150 words.
- Council/shire endorsement must be attached when the motion is submitted.
- Materially similar motions may be consolidated. Motions consistent with current ALGA policy may be grouped for visibility and considered without debate.

Priority areas for 2027 motions

ALGA's key priorities are: securing financial growth for local government; roads, transport and community infrastructure; Closing the Gap; emergency management; housing enabling infrastructure; local government jobs and skills; environment; and climate change. The following sections translate those priorities into prompts for nationally focused NGA motions.

1. Securing financial growth for local government

Financial sustainability remains fundamental to councils' capacity to maintain services, infrastructure and the place-based delivery that communities and the Australian Government rely on. ALGA's current advocacy is focused on increasing the quantum and certainty of funding available to local government and demonstrating the sector's value as a trusted delivery partner.

Guiding question: What Commonwealth funding reforms would give councils greater certainty and flexibility to meet local priorities?

Guiding question: Where could funding arrangements be simplified or better designed so councils can efficiently contribute to national priorities?

2. Roads, transport and community infrastructure

Councils manage extensive local road and community infrastructure networks. ALGA advocates for greater support for productive and safe roads, and community infrastructure upgrades.

Guiding question: What Commonwealth investment would most improve councils' capacity to deliver safer and more productive local transport networks?

Guiding question: What nationally significant community infrastructure needs would benefit from predictable, formula-based Commonwealth support?

Guiding question: What support do councils need to meet new freight access, asset-data and network-management requirements?

3. Emergency management and climate resilience

Councils have critical responsibilities before, during and after disasters and are also managing growing climate risks. ALGA proposes funding for climate and disaster funds, emergency management upskilling, and regional climate capacity-building programs through local government associations.

Guiding question: What investment would allow councils to reduce disaster and climate risk before events occur?

Guiding question: How can the Australian Government strengthen local emergency management capability, training and workforce capacity?

Guiding question: What practical support would help councils mainstream climate risk and adaptation into everyday planning, asset management and service delivery?

4. Housing: enabling infrastructure

Local government has an important role in the delivery of local enabling and community infrastructure that supports new housing. National housing ambitions will require sustained partnership with councils and investment that recognises local infrastructure pressures.

Guiding question: What Australian Government programs would help councils unlock housing supply through enabling infrastructure?

Guiding question: How can national housing policy better incorporate local government knowledge, capacity and infrastructure requirements?

5. Local government jobs and skills

Workforce shortages constrain councils' capacity to deliver infrastructure, planning, regulatory and community services. ALGA seeks a council-accessible workforce and training fund, support to lift apprenticeships and traineeships, and targeted regional and remote attraction and retention measures.

Guiding question: What Commonwealth initiatives would best help councils build and retain the skilled workforce required to deliver national priorities?

Guiding question: How could training, apprenticeship and regional workforce programs be made more accessible to local government?

6. Closing the Gap

Local governments are important place-based partners in Closing the Gap, with many councils supporting local partnerships, services and community-led initiatives. Motions should focus on practical national reforms that strengthen local government participation, capability and resourcing while respecting the roles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities. ALGA seeks greater capacity for associations to enable practical guidance, peer learning and cultural capabilities.

Guiding question: How can Commonwealth programs better recognise and resource local government's place-based role in Closing the Gap?

Guiding question: What national mechanisms would improve coordination between governments and communities at the local level?

7. Environment and circular economy

Councils deliver substantial environmental, waste and resource-recovery services. National reform can create opportunities to reduce costs to councils, strengthen product stewardship, improve resource recovery and ensure local government is considered in the design of environmental policy.

Guiding question: What national reforms would reduce the cost and risk of waste and resource recovery for councils?

Guiding question: How can Commonwealth environmental programs better support local, regional and place-based delivery?

8. Climate change and the energy transition

Councils are managing physical climate impacts while also supporting communities through the transition to lower emissions and new energy infrastructure. Local government brings place-based knowledge, community relationships and responsibility for assets and services affected by these changes.

Guiding question: What support do councils need to adapt infrastructure and services to a changing climate?

Guiding question: How can renewable energy and transmission development deliver lasting benefits for host communities while fairly addressing impacts on council assets and services?

Other nationally significant issues

The priority areas above are not intended to exclude other issues. Councils may submit motions on other matters where they meet the published criteria, demonstrate genuine national significance for local government, and seek a clear action by the Australian Government.

What happens after submission

The ALGA Secretariat will review motions for completeness, quality and consistency with the published criteria. State and territory local government associations and the ALGA Board will review eligibility, with the Board making the final decision on inclusion in the Business Papers. ALGA may, with the submitting council's agreement, edit wording for clarity or consolidate materially similar motions in accordance with the approved Debating Rules.

Amendments will not be accepted from the floor of the Assembly. Any revised wording must be agreed by the submitting council and provided by the published deadline. Motions not amended and not subject to a valid objection may be considered en bloc.

After the NGA

Motions passed by a majority of voting delegates become resolutions of the National General Assembly and are permanently recorded. They are provided to ALGA for consideration. The ALGA Board determines what action, if any, is appropriate, including referral to relevant Australian Government Ministers or use in ALGA advocacy. NGA resolutions are not binding on ALGA and do not automatically become ALGA policy.

Final checklist for councils

- ☐ No more than three motions from your council.
- ☐ Current financial year council endorsement attached.
- ☐ New issue not debated at an NGA in the preceding three years.
- ☐ Nationally relevant, single-issue and clearly drafted.
- ☐ Calls on the Australian Government to take a practical action.
- ☐ Required supporting material is complete and within word limits.
- ☐ A council representative is expected to be present at the NGA to move and speak to the motion if required.