



# ORDINARY MEETING

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## Supplementary

Date of meeting: 14 March 2023  
Location: Council Chambers  
Time: 6:30 PM

**BUSINESS PAPER**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**Table of Contents**

**Meeting Date:** 14 March 2023

**Table of Contents**

**4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION..... 5**

    SUPPLEMENTARY ..... 5

    4.4. CORPORATE SERVICES ..... 5

        4.4.2. CS – 2023 National Assembly of Local Government – (95496) ..... 5

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**Table of Contents**

**Meeting Date:** 14 March 2023

**ORDINARY MEETING  
REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION**

**Meeting Date:** 14 March 2023

**4. REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION**

**SUPPLEMENTARY**

**4.4. CORPORATE SERVICES**

**4.4.2. CS – 2023 National Assembly of Local Government – (95496)**

**Previous Item:** 006, Ordinary (31 January 2023)

**Directorate:** Corporate Services

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise of an additional Conference motion for consideration for the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Business Paper for Council's Ordinary Meeting on 14 March 2023 includes a report on the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government, to be held in Canberra from 13 to 16 June 2023.

That report:

- Contains information concerning the Australian Local Government Association's call for motions to be considered at the Conference, as reported to the Council Meeting of 31 January 2023
- Refers to Council's resolution from the Council Meeting of 31 January 2023, which included Councillors providing proposed Conference motions to the General Manager to be included for consideration at the Council Meeting on 14 March 2023, and formulation of a Conference motion concerning raising the Warragamba Dam Wall
- Provides for consideration of a Conference motion concerning raising the Warragamba Dam Wall
- Provides for consideration of Conference motions concerning Inland Waterway Safety and Biosecurity Management (weeds)

Following the Council Meeting of 31 January 2023, a Conference motion concerning grant funding was provided but was inadvertently not included in the Business Paper for the Council Meeting on 14 March 2023.

That proposed motion is as follows:

**MOTION:**

That the Australian Local Government Association lobbies the State and Federal Governments to enact changes to relevant legislation around grant funding, to allow Councils to quarantine and utilise a percentage of funds received, to be used for future operating costs, maintenance and renewal of facilities provided for by that grant funding.

**Background:**

**ORDINARY MEETING**  
**REPORTS FOR DETERMINATION**

**Meeting Date:** 14 March 2023

Capital investment via grant funding (for example, WestInvest funding in the Western Sydney area) enables new and improved assets to be built. However, there is generally no provision for the costs of operating, maintaining and renewing these assets in the future. Even if an amount for contingencies is included in original costing this is allocated to the phase of construction or upgrade, not for future use.

If a Council does not have sufficient funds in general revenue to fund the operating costs, or any maintenance, repairs or upgrades required, the burden will fall on ratepayers either via special rate variations, or borrowings which will have to be paid back, potentially by future generations. Principles of local government decision-making include ensuring best outcomes for the local community including future generations.

The existence of rate capping, particularly in NSW where it currently sits below inflation rates, restricts the amount of own source revenue generated by Councils. In smaller Councils with limited scope to grow, this can be an issue. If provision was made for a percentage of grant funding for capital expenditure to be quarantined and invested for future use, the risk of burdening ratepayers to fund operational and maintenance costs would be minimised.

The criteria for Conference motions is set out in the Australian Local Government Association's Call for Motions Discussion Paper, which is attachment Attachment 1 to the Business Paper.

The recommendation below contains the recommendation from the Business Paper in relation to this item with the addition of Part 5 in relation to a proposed conference motion concerning grant funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

1. Consideration be given to the participation of nominated Councillors, and staff as considered appropriate by the General Manager, at the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government from 13 to 16 June 2023.
2. Council consider the submission of motions to the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government concerning Inland Waterway Safety and Biosecurity Management (weeds).
3. Council consider the submission of a motion to the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government concerning the need to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall, as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.
4. After participating in the 2022 National General Assembly, delegates provide a written report to the General Manager detailing the proceedings and findings, as well as any other aspects of the Assembly relevant to Council business and/or the local community.
5. Council consider the submission of a motion to the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government concerning Grant Funding, as contained in this report.

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**oooO END OF REPORT Oooo**



Ordinary  
meeting

End of  
Supplementary  
Business Paper

This business paper has  
been produced  
electronically to reduce  
costs, improve efficiency  
and reduce the use of  
paper. Internal control  
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