

## Ordinary Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 14 March, 2022

**Location:** Council Chambers, City Administrative Building, Bridge Road, Nowra

**Time:** 5.30pm

**Membership** (Quorum - 7)

All Councillors

## Addendum Agenda

### Reports

#### City Futures

CL22.141 Advocacy Update - Australian Local Government Association and  
Shoalhaven .....1

## CL22.141 Advocacy Update - Australian Local Government Association and Shoalhaven

**HPERM Ref:** D22/52943

**Department:** Tourism

**Approver:** Gordon Clark, Interim Director - City Futures

**Attachments:**

1. ALGA Update - 8 September 2021 [↓](#)
2. ALGA Update - 1 February 2022 [↓](#)
3. ALGA Federal Election Priorities 2022 [↓](#)
4. National General Assembly Discussion Paper - 2022 [↓](#)
5. Shoalhaven Advocacy Projects 2022 [↓](#)

### Reason for Report

1. Detail correspondence received from the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) regarding ongoing advocacy and ALGA 2021 National General Assembly motions (No. 21, 36, 64, 66 and 85).
2. Seek endorsement for motions to be submitted to ALGA 2022 National General Assembly
3. Seek endorsement for the ALGA Federal priorities 2022
4. Seek endorsement of Council's *Shoalhaven Advocacy Projects – 2022* document.

Note: this matter is submitted as an addendum given the timeframes involved.

### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Regarding the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 2022 National General Assembly;
  - a. Adopt the proposed Motions in the report for submission and delegate authority to the Mayor and CEO to submit any further proposed Motions after consulting with Councillors prior to the deadline for submitting motions.
  - b. Approve attendance by all interested Councillors at the Australian Local Government Association – 2022 National Assembly, and such attendance be deemed to be Council business.
  - c. Nominate **a Councillor** as the Council's Voting Delegate for the conference.
  - d. Nominate **a Councillor** as the Council's Alternate Voting Delegate for the conference.
2. Support the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Federal Election Priorities 2022 (**Attachment 3**);
  - a. Including the national funding priorities of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), which would contribute an estimated \$6.46 billion per year to Australia's GDP and create 43,444 jobs, and
  - b. Support and participate in the Australian Local Government Association's advocacy for their endorsed national funding priorities by writing to the local Federal Members(s) of Parliament, all known election candidates in local Federal electorates and the President of the Australian Local Government Association to express support for ALGA's funding priorities.

CL22.141

3. Endorse the 'Shoalhaven Advocacy 2022' document (**Attachment 5**) as a key advocacy document for 2022 and;
  - a. Note that it is intended to be a 'living document' that will be updated as needed
  - b. Request that a copy be provided to ALGA, as well we seek funding commitments from the members, candidates and their parties for identified local projects as opportunities arise.

### Options

1. Accept recommendation as written

Implications: Council will support the ALGA Federal election priorities and motions will be submitted to the National General Assembly on behalf of Council by the 25 March 2022 deadline.

2. Provide alternative recommendation

Implications: Consideration needs to be given to the 25 March 2022 deadline to submit motions to ALGA.

### Background - Australian Local Government Association

As the national voice of local government, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) advocates nationally on behalf of the country's 537 Councils for funding and policy outcomes that support local governments to deliver better results for their communities. Council has been a member of ALGA for many years.

Each year ALGA holds a National General Assembly (NGA) in Canberra where Councils from around the nation discuss current and emerging challenges and opportunities and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing our sector.

The motions passed at the NGA inform ALGA's strategic direction and national advocacy objectives and ALGA play a role in taking relevant matters to Ministers, MP's and decision-makers in Canberra and around the country through Ministerial meetings, forums, budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

### Outcomes Update - ALGA 2021 NGA – Motions 21, 36, 64, 66 and 85.

In 2021, Council submitted several motions to the 2021 NGA, held in Canberra during June 2021.

Periodically, updates on outcomes of these motions are provided from ALGA President, currently Linda Scott and these are provided as **Attachment 1** (8 September 2021) and **Attachment 2** (1 February 2022).

### ALGA 2022 National General Assembly (19 to 22 June 2022)

The next NGA will be held in Canberra from 19 to 22 June 2022 and will be an opportunity for ALGA to clearly set and articulate the agenda to a new or returning Federal Government.

The theme for this year's event is *Partners in Progress*, focusing on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and local governments, can tackle the immediate challenges facing communities and help us confidently prepare for the future.

ALGA is now calling for motions for next year's NGA and are encouraging Councils to consider whether there is a strategic issue of national importance that Councils can bring to this event.

CL22.141

ALGA have prepared a Discussion Paper (**Attachment 4**) which covers some of the critical national policy areas that they believe the Local Government sector needs to consider now and into the future.

When considering possible motions, the following criteria are relevant:

1. *Be relevant to the work of local government nationally;*
2. *Be consistent with the themes of the NGA;*
3. *Complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association;*
4. *Be from a Council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association;*
5. *Propose a clear action and outcome; and*
6. *Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.*

All motions require a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and a formal Council endorsement. Motions can be lodged online until Friday 25 March 2022.

Council were briefed on this matter on 8 March 2022 where potential Motions to be submitted on behalf of Council to the NGA 2022 were discussed. Based on that discussion, it is now recommended that Council consider and resolve the following Motions to be submitted:

#### **Motion 1 – National Disaster Levy**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to establish a permanent Disaster Levy as an income tax levy, to establish a funding base to empower Local Government to support our communities with resilience and disaster recovery.**

#### **National Objective:**

Local Government, as the front-line tier of government during natural disasters, needs to be adequately resourced to support communities. This impacts upon all Councils in Australia.

#### **Summary of Key Arguments:**

The logical conclusion of impacts to the community from all emergencies comes to rest at the local level. Local Government has the ability and responsibility to restore the community to “normal” including all individuals, businesses, industry and tourism. Local Government is the level of government closest to the community. One of the functions of Local Government is to coordinate the implementation of Federal and State Government laws and regulations and so is used to disseminate information from a wide variety of sources in a cohesive manner. Therefore, Local Government is best placed to manage the delivery of a variety of services and support from the start.

In recovery, there is an urgency to getting funding into areas as soon as possible. Announcements of funding availability were made by the Federal and State Governments quickly after the fires impacted our regions – and these were most appreciated. However, in some instances, the application process has resulted in substantial delays in being able to respond.

The experience of the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires indicated the following rapid-response interventions were needed to ensure community recovery and resilience:

- Waste disposal
- Road and bridge repairs
- Telecommunications reinstatement

CL22.141



- Water supplies and sewer repairs
- Power supply provision
- Temporary accommodation
- Food and urgent necessities
- Mental health support
- Fencing repairs to contain livestock
- Distribution and storage of donations and supplies

## **Motion 2 – Social and Affordable Housing**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to collaboratively work in earnest with the other levels of Government (State and Local) and key bodies/interest groups to actively deliver additional social and affordable housing supply on the ground in as timely a manner as possible through:**

- Preparing a long-term National Housing Strategy that is evidence-based and has a broad scope
- Providing further significant and ongoing increased investment in funding for social and affordable housing to support the Strategy
- Donating ‘lazy’ well located Government land to be used for the provision of social and affordable housing.
- Directly supporting Councils to facilitate additional social and affordable housing through planning, the provision of land and financial support mechanism, including investing \$200m over four years to assist the development and implementation of innovative local housing partnerships.

### **National Objective:**

All level of Governments to acknowledge that all people need a home and that the number of Australians who are homeless or in extreme housing stress continues to rise and collectively work on and fund solutions that can significantly impact on this national issue.

### **Summary of Key Arguments:**

Everyone needs a home and access to safe and affordable housing is a cornerstone of the economic and social fabric of local communities.

The number of Australian’s who are homeless or in housing stress continues to rise dramatically. Councils around Australia continue to face ongoing challenges with the availability of sufficient social and affordable housing in their areas. This has been exacerbated by bushfire, floods and Covid-19. As a result, many including Shoalhaven have declared a ‘housing emergency’.

Detail recently released by the ‘Everybody’s Home’ Campaign also emphasizes the importance of housing in the key marginal Federal electorates of Bass (Tas), Flinders (SA), Gilmore (NSW), and Longman (Qld) This showed, for example, that around three quarters of all voters in these seats consider it hard or very hard for low to middle income earners to afford to buy or rent in their area.

The only way this issue will really be tackled and addressed, at least in some meaningful way, is if there is substantial additional and concerted national investment in the direct provision of new social and affordable housing throughout the country. This is a nation building opportunity.

Preparing a funded ten-year National Housing Strategy is critical to ensuring a robust, coordinated and collaborative response, fostering and taking up investment opportunities at all levels: Federal, State and also Local.

Building new social and affordable homes across the Country will also create a construction boom and associated jobs growth, helping further stimulate local economies and assist with

CL22.141

the ongoing response to the impacts of Covid-19.

### **Motion 3 – Green Energy support in Natural Disaster**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to protect communities against critical power loss during natural disasters through the delivery of a targeted program to support the installation of stand-alone power systems (SAPS) in at-risk communities.**

#### **National Objective:**

Protecting power supplies and the essential services that can help people survive natural disasters is a national issue. In recent years Australian communities have faced catastrophic bushfires, severe storms and widespread flooding, leaving some communities isolated and without power for days, cut-off from evacuation. Loss of electricity often means no communication, no ability to access critical safety information in times when this is most important and no access to payment facilities to access petrol, food and basic supplies.

#### **Summary of Key Arguments:**

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements states that the provision of essential services is especially critical before, during and after a natural disaster – when people are at their most vulnerable. “Disruptions to essential services were a common occurrence during the 2019-2020 bushfire season for many regional communities in disaster-affected areas. These disruptions, among other difficulties, meant that people could not access information on the threat posed by the fires, purchase essential goods due to either supply chain issues or the inability to use EFTPOS, or contact friends or family.”

The report from the Royal Commission also recognises that “given that electricity and telecommunications are highly interconnected, a holistic understanding of risks and the mitigations applied is required to prevent outages and facilitate the rapid restoration of services.” (Chapter 9 Essential Services):

<https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/html-report/chapter-09>).

The provision of renewable stand-alone power systems in areas which are exposed to natural disasters would enable communities to maintain access to essential energy-reliant services, including emergency information, communications, lighting, heating and cooling. Stand-alone power systems, such as microgrids, can improve electricity stability, operating as fail-safe systems that can be activated when there is a threat to power supply.

In the 2021 report ‘Neighbourhood Issue: Climate costs and risks to Councils the Climate Council recommend that Federal, State and Territory Governments invest in preparing before climate disasters strike rather than responding after the damage is done, and support residents and businesses exposed to extreme weather events to build resilience.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report (2021), extreme weather and climate impacts such as heatwaves, fire weather, heavy rainfall, and more severe flooding are all occurring more frequently and with greater intensity, and the likelihood of compounding extreme weather events happening at the same time or in succession is increasing. As these events continue to escalate in frequency and severity, protecting at-risk communities must remain a national priority.

### **Motion 4 – Circular Economy**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to streamline process and directly allocate funding for circular economy projects that will allow Councils to manage localised remanufacturing proposals and implement discounted**

CL22.141

## **buyback schemes for recycled products.**

### **National Objective:**

The Australian Government, through tax programs imposed on waste generators and short to long term fund allocation, has the ability to assist Councils to increase recycled material recovery efficiencies at local and regional scales, bolstering jobs and further cycling both waste stream products and money through our economy.

### **Summary of Key Arguments:**

The Federal Government National Waste Action Plan (in conjunction with circular economy principles in the National Waste Policy 2018) aim to improve resource recovery, increase the use of recycled materials and build markets for recycled products.

Councils nationwide assume responsibility for the end-to-end management of waste throughout its lifecycle, from kerbside pickup through to landfill and resource recovery centres, as well as site closure and remediated lands management. A task no other standalone industry or government undertakes for our communities, and which is done through specific rates and charges levied at a local level.

With the advent of the National Waste Export Regulation as of 2021, the need to find more efficient processing of recycling streams as well as re-manufacturing processes is now not just a reality, but is critical to ensure circular economy principles can be achieved (including the proposition to recover 80% of all waste by 2030).

It is known that for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, 9.2 jobs are created. In comparison, only 2.8 jobs are created where that waste goes to landfill.

It is proposed that the Australian Government consider directly allocating specific funding (directly through, or in addition to the Recycling Modernisation Fund) to Councils who can prove business cases which adhere to the National Waste Policy 2018, and consider streamlined approvals processes that will allow Councils to manage localised remanufacturing proposals and implement discounted buyback schemes for recycled products. Help us keep materials in local economies for longer.

CL22.141

## **Motion 6 – ADF response in disaster**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to accept and implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on National Natural Disasters pertaining to an enhanced role for the Commonwealth in coordinating the established levels of state, territory and local council response. This will ensure a national response to emergencies that will facilitate our communities' resilience following disasters, in particular, more effective and faster responses from the Australian Defence Force (ADF).**

### **National Objective:**

The Australian Government is asked to take the lead in coordinating aspects of natural disaster response, so that all levels of government are better able to defend and restore our communities in times of crisis.

### **Summary of Key Arguments:**

Natural Disasters like bushfires and floods are border and jurisdiction agnostic, and response and recovery need to be tailored accordingly. Separation of local, State and Federal agencies responding and assisting the community to recover should make better use of the defence forces for assistance. We make the following recommendations for Commonwealth involvement in particular coordinating more advance notice to be given when the Australian Defence Force are to be deployed to an area to facilitate identification

of appropriate projects; and deployment of Defence resources sooner to assist in clean-ups.

**Motion 7 – National Funding for vocational training to support recovery skills shortages**

**This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address the need for recovery and skills shortages across the country by creating a national vocational training strategy and associated funding to increase the number of individuals participating in training across the country.**

**National Objective:**

Federal funding support for significant increase in community participation in vocational training to address skills shortages across the country.

**Summary of Key Arguments:**

Significant skills shortages have been identified in over 150 occupations nationally. From trades to manages, hairdressers and professionals, every sector across the country is crying out for people.

Increased resourcing to effective vocational training is critical to address this sector wide need. A cross government partnership between Federal and State Government is critical to address this growing issue in local government communities across the country.

CL22.141

At the Council Briefing on 8 March 2022, Councillors also suggested motions on

- Obtaining constitutional recognition for Local Government
- Re-establishment of Financial Assistance Grants at the level of 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue.

As those specific motions were debated and adopted at the 2021 NGA, they are ineligible for submission again and therefore have not been detailed in this report.

**ALGA's 2022 Federal Election Priorities Document**

The 17 national priorities outlined in [this document](#) (also **Attachment 3**) have been informed by motions passed at the 2021 NGA, and unanimously endorsed by ALGA's Board in conjunction with member state and territory local government associations.

They cover key priority portfolios of economic recovery, transport, and community infrastructure, building resilience, circular economy and intergovernmental relations, and outline what local government could achieve, if formally recognised and adequately funded.

They have been assessed by independent economists, and if implemented by the next Federal Government they would create at least 42,975 new jobs and add \$6.39 billion per annum to Australia's GDP.

In the lead up to this year's Federal election, ALGA and also state and territory local government associations will be calling on all parties and candidates to support these national priorities, empowering local government to play a meaningful role in Australia's recovery.

ALGA is calling on local governments to support this national campaign by endorsing ALGA's priority asks, identifying local projects and programs that could be delivered with better funding partnerships, writing to local members and candidates, and highlighting the value strong funding partnerships can deliver for your local community.

As such, this report also recommends that Council formally endorse ALGA's 2022 Federal Election Priorities.

### **Shoalhaven City Council Advocacy Projects - 2022**

ALGA has also called upon local Councils to identifying local projects and programs that could be delivered with better funding partnerships ahead of the Federal Election. To assist with this, and other advocacy opportunities, the initial version of the Shoalhaven Council Advocacy Projects document has been developed and published (**Attachment 5**). Council was briefed on the document on 27 January 2022.

This report recommends the formal endorsement of this document and the key advocacy priorities for 2022 identified within it.

The document is intended to be agile and will be updated and reported to Council as projects progress. Opportunities for inclusion of additional projects into the future will be ongoing.



8 September 2021

Mayor Amanda Findley  
Shoalhaven City Council  
council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au  
Janice Cormmie  
janice.cormmie@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor Findley,

I write to provide an update on the motion(s) submitted by you on behalf of your Council to the 2021 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) held in June in Canberra.

Thank you for contributing to our debate on motions and for helping ALGA gain a greater understanding of the issues affecting Local Government across Australia.

Your Council's motion(s), carried as a resolution by the National General Assembly, has been noted by the ALGA Board. Resolutions help inform ALGA representations to Australian Government Ministers and their Departments. The [full list of resolutions is available on the ALGA website](#).

**I have written to The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, advising of your NGA resolution on the COVID response, and inviting a response.**

The ALGA Strategic Plan 2020-23 identifies that a key priority for ALGA is to support councils and communities to prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and adverse events, including bushfires, droughts and pandemics.

**I have written to The Hon. Paul Fletcher MP, advising of your NGA resolution on cybersecurity, and inviting a response.**

Provision of information technology (IT) to all Australians is vital to innovation, economic growth and social equity. However, IT services should also be well regulated, and vulnerable members of local communities should feel safe in using it.

**I have written to The Hon. Kevin Hogan MP, advising of your NGA resolution on federal and local government communications, and inviting a response.**

ALGA will continue to advocate for an equal partnership approach to social and economic development, program provision and infrastructure funding. The approach should involve all three tiers of Australian government, including the level closest to the community: Local Government.

**I have written to Senator The Hon. Bridget McKenzie, advising of your NGA resolution on Indigenous land management, and inviting a response.**

ALGA will continue to advocate on behalf of Local Government in its work on forums such as those implementing the Strategy for Nature, Threatened Species Strategy, climate change adaptation, and Australian biosecurity provisions. In all these forums, ALGA makes representations on behalf of Indigenous land managers.

**I have written to Senator The Hon. Bridget McKenzie, advising of your NGA resolution on natural disasters, and inviting a response.**

The ALGA Strategic Plan 2020-23 identifies that a key priority for ALGA is to support councils and communities to prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and adverse events, including bushfires, drought and pandemics.

In November this year we will announce the dates and theme for the June 2022 NGA in Canberra. I hope you will consider submitting a new motion then, and that you will attend next year's Assembly.

Best wishes and thank you again for being part of the National General Assembly of Local Government.

*Linda Scott*

Cr Linda Scott  
ALGA President



1 February 2022

Mayor Amanda Findley  
Shoalhaven City Council  
[amanda.findley@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:amanda.findley@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)  
Janice Cormmie  
[janice.cormmie@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:janice.cormmie@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mayor Findley,

**ALGA 2021 National General Assembly motions 21, 36, 64, 66 and 85**

Thank you for submitting the following motions to ALGA's 2021 National General Assembly. I am writing to share the outcomes of our advocacy to-date on the issues you have raised.

**Motion 21:**

*This National General Assembly expressed its support for Federal Government investment in a jobs-rich conservation and land management stimulus package as part of the economic response to COVID-19.*

I wrote to the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, and the Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills and Small and Family Business, regarding your motion and asked them to respond on behalf of the Federal Government. Minister Ley's response is outlined below:

*The Australian Government is investing more than \$1 billion for the current phase of the National Landcare Program, being delivered from July 2017 to June 2023. The program is delivered in partnership with governments, industry, and communities to protect and conserve Australia's water, soil, plants, animals, and ecosystems, as well as to support the productive and sustainable use of these valuable resources.*

*There are around 6,000 groups, including Landcare groups, farming systems groups, and Indigenous land management groups across Australia supported directly or indirectly through the National Landcare program. This includes direct grants for on-ground conservation work as well as through partnerships with the 50 service providers across Australia under the \$450 million Regional Land Partnerships Program. This ongoing investment through the National Landcare Program plays a significant role in assisting regional communities recover from COVID-19, while at the same time contributing to the protection and improvement of our natural resources.*

*The National Landcare Program is complemented by other initiatives that invest in our local communities. In 2019-20, the Australian Government provided funding through the Communities Environment Program to approximately 108 local government entities for 218 projects with a combined value of \$3.2 million (GST excl.). The majority of these projects addressed habitat enhancement, revegetation and weed control.*



## Motion 36:

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide employment opportunities nationwide to support Cultural Burning (Indigenous fire management) as a resilience strategy. This would take form of a core jobs program, amalgamated with conservation management.*

As previously advised, I wrote to the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians, and Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience and Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education, regarding your motion and asked them to respond on behalf of the Federal Government. Their response is outlined below:

*The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) works closely with Indigenous land managers, funding 129 Indigenous ranger groups across Australia to manage natural and cultural values of Country, including fire management.*

*The Indigenous Rangers Program provides jobs for around 1,900 Indigenous Australians each year. NIAA and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment also support Traditional Owners to manage more than 74 million hectares of land under the Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) program. Indigenous rangers and IPA managers undertake fire management as part of their regular activities for a range of benefits including natural disaster resilience on Indigenous and state held land.*

*In addition, as the ISEP will be a flexible, locally informed program, there is nothing that would preclude a conservation management initiative being considered under the program in future if that was a priority supported by the region.*

The issues you raised in your motion are also being pursued as an outcome of the National Natural Disaster Arrangements Report of 28 October 2020. Recommendation 18.1 of this report refers to Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience, and reads: *Australian, state, territory and local governments should engage further with Traditional Owners to explore the relationship between Indigenous land and fire management and natural disaster resilience.*

Additionally, Recommendation 18.2 Indigenous land and fire management and public land management reads: *Australian, state, territory and local governments should explore further opportunities to leverage Indigenous land and fire management insights, in the development, planning and execution of public land management activities.*

ALGA is a member of the National Emergency Management Ministers meeting through which these recommendations are being progressed and will continue to advocate on this issue through this forum.

We are also a signatory to the national Closing the Gap Agreement, and we can also advocate through this forum if the matter is raised here.

## Motion 64:

*This National General Assembly calls in the Australian Government to undertake a nationwide educative project on cybersecurity, in particular to help protect vulnerable members of our community against online fraud.*

On this motion I wrote to the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts. His response is outlined below:

*Through Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020:*

- *The Australian Government is progressing a \$4.9 million national cyber security awareness-raising campaign to encourage Australians, particularly vulnerable members of the community, to protect themselves against cyber security threats such as online fraud. The campaign will be designed to complement other government messaging such as those being conducted by the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), and encourages people to visit [www.cyber.gov.au](http://www.cyber.gov.au) as a one-stop shop on cyber security information.*
- *The ACSC is providing online cyber security training for older Australians, families and small to medium enterprises.*
- *\$6.1 million has been provided to IDCARE to bolster support services for victims of identity and cybercrime, such as online fraud.*

Motion 66:

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to implement a formal transparent framework of contacts for Local Government to liaise effectively with Federal Government partners.*

I wrote to the Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Assistant Minister for Local Government, and his response is outlined below:

*I am open to hearing from my stakeholders if they have any ideas on how to improve communications. I look forward to receiving more information regarding this proposal for further consultation and consideration of this matter.*

Noting the Minister's response, we will continue to discuss this issue at a ministerial and departmental level.

In the lead up to this year's Federal Election ALGA is calling on all political parties to strengthen the voice of councils and communities by committing to reinstating local government representation to the National Cabinet, and ensuring local government's ongoing voting membership of other relevant Ministerial forums.

Motion 85:

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to accept and implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on National Natural Disasters pertaining to an enhanced role for the Commonwealth in coordinating the established levels of state, territory and local council response, and affording Commonwealth assistance as requested by established local and state authorities. This will ensure a national response to emergencies that will facilitate our communities' resilience following disasters.*

On this motion, I wrote to both the Hon Kevin Hogan MP, Assistant Minister for Local Government, and Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience and Minister for Regionalisation, Regional Communications and Regional Education. Their response is outlined below:

*A number of changes have been made to the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework to incorporate recommendations from the Royal Commission and budget announcements, to provide clarity for stakeholders through amended language, account for situations that were previously not covered, and embed new processes. Budget initiative updates include:*

- *Establishment of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA)*
- *Establishment of the Australian Climate Service*
- *Enhancements to EMA.*

*Governance and architectural changes include:*

- *The new seven phase National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum*
- *Embedding the role of the National Coordination Mechanism which operationalises the AGCMF. Through the National Coordination Mechanism, the Commonwealth coordinates the established levels of state, territory, and local council response to national natural disasters.*
- *Disbanding the National Crisis Committee and collapsing it into the National Coordination Mechanism.*
- *The application of the National Emergency Declaration (NED) Act 2020.*

*The HRWS Preparedness and Engagement Program provides face-to-face meetings between key government and jurisdictional emergency management leaders and decision-makers. The program has commenced and is running from September to October 2021 and will include all the states and territories. There will also be preparedness briefing sessions to representatives from other Australian Government agencies, major charities and non-government organisations.*

*The Australian Government is providing \$30.2 million funding for National Aerial Fire Fighting including \$4 million for a national LAT expecting to be operating in December 2021.*

*The Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) is the plan for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance to Australian states and territories in an emergency or disaster. The Minister responsible for emergency management must authorise approval for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance.*

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to ALGA's full list of Federal Election Priorities, which you can download [here](#). These priorities have been informed by motions passed at our National General Assembly, and I would encourage your council to endorse this document and work with us and Local Government NSW to ensure that no community is left behind in our nation's COVID-19 recovery.

Our 2022 National General Assembly will be held in Canberra from 19-22 June, with the theme of *Partners in Progress*. We are now calling for motions, and have prepared a [discussion paper](#) to assist you and your council to develop your motions for this year's event. I hope I will see you there.

Should you have any questions regarding your motion or our 2022 National General Assembly, please don't hesitate to contact ALGA's Executive Director Advocacy Darren Hunter at [darren.hunter@alga.asn.au](mailto:darren.hunter@alga.asn.au).

Thank you for bringing these motions to our 2021 NGA, and your ongoing advocacy on behalf of our communities.

Kind regards,

Linda Scott

Cr Linda Scott  
ALGA President

cc Cr Darriea Turley, President Local Government NSW

CL22.141 - Attachment 2



**DON'T LEAVE LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES BEHIND!**

**Federal Election Priorities**



## Successfully delivering for Greater Sydney communities



### Rouse Road footbridge (\$22 million), Blacktown City Council, NSW

Blacktown City Council Mayor Tony Bleasdale said the opening of the Rouse Road Bridge in 2019 - partially funded through the Commonwealth's Bridges Renewal Programme - solved a number of significant problems and that the bridge was a major access point for the Tallawong Metro station and Rouse Hill Anglican College.

"This area is experiencing rapid growth and the old causeway was an enormous traffic bottleneck and a serious safety concern for pedestrians and motorists alike during times of heavy rain," Cr Bleasdale said.

"Blacktown City Council had the bridge planned for some time, but needed to wait for available funding. The Australian Government grant enabled the work to be fast-tracked."

Authorised by Matt Pinnegar Chief Executive Officer of ALGA.

## Table of contents

Page

**4**

Introduction

**7**

Economic Recovery

**9**

Transport and Community Infrastructure

**11**

Building Resilience

**13**

Circular Economy

**15**

Intergovernmental Relations

## Introduction: Linda Scott, ALGA President

As our nation faces social and economic challenges unseen in peace-time Australia, Australians need their decision-makers working together.

They want, expect, and need pragmatic policy making that delivers a locally led recovery from COVID-19, and a focus on opportunity rather than austerity from this economic crisis.

In total (including direct and flow-on impacts), the funding priorities we've proposed in this document are estimated to contribute at least \$6.46 billion per annum on average to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as support an average of 43,444 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs per annum across Australia over a four-year period.

By working with Australian councils – the level of government closest to its community – a future Federal Government can put steps in place to guarantee no local community is left behind as we recover from COVID-19.

**DON'T LEAVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEHIND!**

The COVID-19 pandemic that shook Australia in March 2020 has imposed new physical, social, and economic realities in Australia.

Occurring almost simultaneously with the Black Summer fires, floods, and drought, the pandemic helped trigger Australia's first recession in nearly 30 years.

It has led to unprecedented Commonwealth, state and local government economic support for those most affected by the economic and social impacts, but the cumulative shocks to our system – exacerbated by the Delta variant and a mammoth vaccination task – have presented all governments with significant financial challenges, which local governments are unable to face without the support of the Commonwealth.

Businesses closed their doors and laid off staff, families lost income, and individuals were left isolated from friends and loved ones.

Unwelcome as the pandemic was, it has also revealed the adaptability, innovation, and resilience of our nation and its citizens.

Through stay-at-home orders in place, our homes became our offices, schools, and lecture halls, and many have faced unemployment or uncertainty about how to pay the rent or support our families.

Within days of the announcement of lockdowns and health restrictions, we took difficult but necessary steps to protect our communities from the risks of infection – educating people about the need for social distancing and providing masks and food for communities.

We used our own limited funding to provide financial support to local small businesses directed to close because of COVID-19 restrictions, and organised vouchers for aged and other vulnerable locals to redeem at participating local cafes and restaurants struggling to stay in business.

We supported our communities to innovate, quickly adapting in a way only local governments can.



**Councillor Linda Scott**  
President of the Australian Local Government Association



As communities and businesses “pivoted”, we saw the adaptability that characterises local government.

Recognising that broad economic stimulus and job-creation programs were the keys to community recovery, local governments accelerated local employment-generating programs.

We partnered with other governments to roll out targeted capital works to improve road safety, rejuvenate or upgrade local community assets, and enhance our local parks, footpaths and community open spaces.

Forced to contemplate what the future might look like post-COVID, many Australians believe our communities should be restored not to what they were, but to what they could be.

A successful national recovery is a recovery that will be made up of thousands of smaller locally driven recoveries led by local governments in partnership with funding partners: private, philanthropic, state, territory and federal.

To sustain such a recovery and ensure it is felt across all communities regardless of size or location, we need a stronger, more equal partnership between governments. Our local communities need more investment, and they need to have a greater say in decision-making about their futures.

All spheres of government, elected and administrative, must work together to ensure that economic recovery post-COVID does not falter.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a better future: one that bolsters community connection, wellbeing and resilience.

This document lays out a series of offers to the next incoming government, alongside a set of asks.

They build upon local government’s strengths and its proven track record of working in partnership to deliver for Australian communities and national productivity.

The policies contained in these election priorities have been assessed by independent economists, who were engaged to model the contribution to the Australian economy from each priority investment as well as articulate the socio-economic benefits these programs can be expected to deliver.

They are exactly what is needed to ensure local communities of all sizes are in a strong position to drive the inclusive recovery all Australians want and that leaves no community behind.

#### Local government can lead and deliver the strong community-focused recovery from COVID-19 by:

- leading local economic growth;
- delivering stimulus projects that generate local jobs, support local businesses and boost productivity;
- enabling economic growth through the development of a circular economy;
- building community resilience to disasters and climate change; and
- facilitating community wellbeing.

|                                               | <b>Local Government Offer to the Australian Government</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Local Government Ask of the Australian Government</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Economic Recovery</b>                      | To partner with the Federal Government to create more jobs, while addressing the nation's skills shortage through training and upskilling Australian workers.                                                                                                                       | To commit to a progressive increase in Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue (at least \$4.5 billion per year), and an initial injection of additional Financial Assistance Grants funding.                                                                                |
| <b>Transport and Community Infrastructure</b> | To partner with the Federal Government to create infrastructure that will improve the safety, liveability and productivity of our communities, while contributing to Australia's economic recovery.                                                                                 | To invest \$500 million per year for four years extending the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, while increasing roads funding and improving digital connectivity in our regions. To invest in an innovative housing partnerships of \$200m over four years to support affordable housing in communities. |
| <b>Building Resilience</b>                    | To partner with the Federal Government to grow the resilience in our communities, mitigate against the impacts of future disaster events, while focussing on local opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and to Close the Gap between Indigenous Australians and the nation. | To provide \$200 million per year for four years for a targeted disaster mitigation program, while establishing a \$200 million Local Government Climate Partnership Program and supporting all councils to implement Closing the Gap targets with \$100 million per annum over four years.                               |
| <b>Circular Economy</b>                       | To identify and implement opportunities to reduce waste sent to landfill and support the development of a circular economy that will deliver environmental and economic benefits for all our communities.                                                                           | To provide \$100 million per year for four years to fund local government circular innovation projects, and support our communities to reuse wherever possible.                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Inter-governmental Relations</b>           | To provide a local, place based community perspective to intergovernmental deliberations to ensure that decisions are responsive to local needs and have regard to the great diversity between communities.                                                                         | To reinstate local government representation to the primary intergovernmental forum in Australia, the National Cabinet, and ensure local government's ongoing voting membership of other Ministerial forums.                                                                                                              |

CL22.141 - Attachment 3

## Economic Recovery

Government responses to COVID-19 over the past two years have been overwhelmingly concentrated on averting a health and economic crisis. 2022 and the years beyond are set to be dominated by discussions and decisions around economic recovery.

New policies and strategies will be required to ensure all Australians can be employed in secure, meaningful, and sustainable jobs.

With our footprint across the nation and a workforce that encompasses 394 occupations, local governments provide an ideal catalyst for growing jobs.

We are also the ideal vehicle for co-investment in new job-creation initiatives.

Increased federal funding and investment will help councils roll out new local economic stimulus projects and give us the ability to cut the red tape that might potentially be slowing or blocking other investments planned for communities across Australia.

We would be able to create more jobs, including traineeships and apprenticeships, to address an emerging skills gaps in local government that threatens to slow decentralisation efforts aimed at rejuvenating regional and rural Australia.

Longer term certainty with Federal funding will enable Council's to invest in workforce planning and training.

In many communities, we are proud to be a major employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Local governments are willing to support opportunities for skill training, new jobs, and business opportunities for indigenous people and their communities to help close the gap on indigenous disadvantage.

An added benefit of increased federal funding to local government is that it will help achieve equitable levels of services across all parts of Australia, build community resilience and wellbeing, and improve productivity-generating infrastructure.

## Don't leave our regional communities behind



**Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants support equitable service levels for all Australians and ensure that no community is left behind.**

These grants are particularly vital in many regional communities, but over the past twenty years they have significantly declined as a share of total Commonwealth taxation revenue.

North Burnett Regional Council Mayor Rachel Chambers, pictured, said a number of factors including amalgamation, changes to Financial

Assistance Grants, and increasing depreciation expenses placed the region in a predicament, and could cost local jobs in her community.

"Our back is against the wall. We're running out of money, we're running out of options to save jobs, and we're running out of time," she said. "We have to use depreciation as an expense so our expenses have increased and that has been an issue. Then we have had budget cutbacks by the state and federal governments over the years."

## Economic Recovery

Failure to secure future federal funding creates the real risk of communities being disproportionately impacted in this period of economic recovery.

Councils are also grappling with the budget repair challenges that are facing state and federal treasuries.

Funding certainty is critical to the short and long-term planning of councils, particularly in rural and regional areas where there is a greater reliance on external funding.

### We are seeking:

**1: An initial injection of Financial Assistance Grants to local government worth \$1.3 billion to support communities and jobs and also resolve the current practice of bringing forward two quarterly Financial Assistance Grant payments each year.**

If funded:

**Jobs created: 13,213**  
**Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$b): \$1.928**

**2: A commitment to return Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue - an additional (\$b) 1.598 per year - via a phased approach to be agreed with the Government.**

If funded:

**Jobs created: 16,242**  
**Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$b): \$2.370**

| Local Government Offer to the Australian Government                                                                                                           | Local Government Ask of the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To partner with the Federal Government to create more jobs, while addressing the nation's skills shortage through training and upskilling Australian workers. | To commit to a progressive increase in Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue (at least \$4.5 billion per year), and an initial injection of additional Financial Assistance Grants funding. |

## Better Transport and Community Infrastructure

Well-targeted infrastructure investment generates lasting economic, social and environmental benefits.

It lowers costs for business and government and better connects workers to their jobs. It increases community resilience and ensures we as a nation are protected against the extreme weather events associated with global warming.

We are responsible for 33 percent of Australia's public infrastructure, including 75 percent of the country's roads by length. Much of this infrastructure is ageing and needs renewing or replacing so it meets community and industry needs.

Roads represent 39 percent of the total local government infrastructure with a total replacement cost of \$204 billion. Bridges represent four percent of the total infrastructure with a replacement cost of \$26 billion. Park and Recreation assets represent \$16 billion or 3 percent of the total infrastructure replacement cost.

However, we collect only 3.5 percent of all taxes raised in Australia, while faced with the mammoth task of maintaining a third of the nation's infrastructure.

Councils are committed to providing quality infrastructure and creating sustainable jobs.

We need additional funds to achieve this commitment and a longer-term funding assurance that allows councils to recruit trainees and apprentices, upskill workers, and attract skilled workers into rural, regional and remote areas.

Access to affordable housing underpins the economic and social fabric of local communities. We are calling for a national housing summit that can develop a national housing strategy to address the current housing challenges in our communities. Local governments must be involved with national housing governance arrangements.

### Successfully delivering for Perth suburban communities



**Thornlie Community and Sports Hub (\$5.6 million, partially funded through Community Development Grants Programme) City of Gosnells, WA**

"It's been very exciting to watch this building rise from the ground," Gosnells Mayor David Goode says.

"The hub will provide important facilities to keep local residents active, provide a welcoming meeting place, and support local community groups. I look forward to the day when we can welcome the whole community to enjoy it."



## Better Transport and Community Infrastructure

We are seeking:

1: A \$500m per annum four year continuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program which allows councils to deliver projects that respond to local needs.

If funded:

Jobs created: 3,974  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$604

2: A strategic local roads investment program of \$300m per annum over four years to address road transport first and last mile issues and congestion on local roads.

If funded:

Jobs created: 2,332  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$366

3: An increase in Roads to Recovery to \$800m per annum (an additional \$300m per annum) and the Black Spot Program to \$200m per annum over four years, while addressing the South Australian road funding anomaly by making the additional \$20m per annum to SA in 2021-22 and 2022-23 permanent, to more sustainably manage local government's 75% share of the national road network and boost productivity and road safety.

If funded:

Jobs created: 3,214  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$502

4: Continuation of the Stronger Regional Digital Connectivity Package at \$55m over four years to improve community resilience and local economic recovery.

If funded:

Jobs created: 99  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$18

5: \$200m over four years to assist councils to develop and implement innovative housing partnerships.

If funded:

Jobs created: 469  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$68

| Local Government Offer to the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                 | Local Government Ask of the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To partner with the Federal Government to create infrastructure that will improve the safety, liveability and productivity of our communities, while contributing to Australia's economic recovery. | To invest \$500 million per year for four years extending the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, while increasing roads funding and improving digital connectivity in our regions. To invest in an innovative housing partnerships of \$200m over four years to support affordable housing in communities. |

## Resilient Communities Building Back Better

Communities across Australia are doing it tough – their physical, financial and mental reserves depleted by years of drought swiftly followed by the Black Summer bushfires, the coronavirus pandemic and severe storms and flooding.

All levels of government have worked hard to address the challenges thrown up by these rolling disasters.

They have supported businesses, communities, and individuals –and they are now focused on engineering a national economic recovery.

Although mass vaccinations diminish the health threats posed by COVID-19, the swift succession of natural disasters has demonstrated that communities need to be better prepared.

The likelihood of more frequent severe weather events in future underlines this need.

Investing in programs to mitigate natural disasters is critical to building community resilience.

Communities derive substantial co-benefits from investments in mitigation and adaptation – including new employment opportunities, regional growth, lower insurance premiums, and faster reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Working in partnership with the Australian Government, we can deliver highly effective projects that greatly assist communities to be better prepared and better able to adapt to future climatic conditions.

### Successfully delivering for communities in rural Victoria



#### Rokewood Bridge upgrade (\$541,000) Golden Plains Shire, Victoria.

"It's terrific to see that works have now been completed to replace the old, single lane bridge over the Kuruc A Ruc Creek with a double lane and unrestricted structure, that is safer for all bridge-users", Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Helena Kirby, pictured, said.

"Golden Plains Shire is home to many older bridges, and thanks to the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, we've been able to get on and

upgrade the Reserve Road Bridge for the benefit of the surrounding community.

"Reserve Road Bridge is the first of four bridge upgrade projects that Council will complete in 2021, with works underway or soon to begin on bridges in Meredith, Rokewood and Rokewood Junction."

## Resilient Communities Building Back Better

We are seeking:

1: A targeted disaster mitigation program of \$200m per annum for four years which will reduce the costs of response and recovery and is a sound investment in strengthening community resilience.

If funded:

Jobs created: 1,833  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$280

2: A commitment to ensuring betterment funding as a core element of disaster recovery funding arrangements.

3: A commitment to include community infrastructure that is publicly accessible and owned, and local government waste, water and wastewater assets under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

4: A Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200m over four years to enable planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in local communities and enable councils to achieve climate neutrality as soon as practicable.

If funded:

Jobs created: 467  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$73

5: \$100 million per annum over four years provided directly to local governments to support the capabilities of indigenous councils and implementation of the Closing the Gap local/regional voice.

If funded:

Jobs created: 804  
Contribution to annual Gross Domestic Product (\$m): \$117

| Local Government Offer to the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Local Government Ask of the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To partner with the Federal Government to grow the resilience in our communities, mitigate against the impacts of future disaster events, while focussing on local opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and to Close the Gap between Indigenous Australians and the nation. | To provide \$200 million per year for four years for a targeted disaster mitigation program, while establishing a \$200 million Local Government Climate Partnership Program and supporting all councils to implement Closing the Gap targets with \$100 million per annum over four years. |



## Creating a Circular Economy

Guided by the 2018 National Waste Strategy and the 2019 National Waste Policy Action Plan, building Australia's transition from a linear economy to a circular economy is gaining traction.

By embracing the principals of circularity – retaining the value of materials for as long as possible, designing out waste and pollution, and regenerating natural systems – Australia will develop new industries and jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make more efficient use of our natural resources.

As modelled by the Centre for International Economics in 2017, a five percent improvement in the effectiveness of recycling and resource recovery could benefit Australia's GDP by as much as \$24 billion.

In addition, for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, 9.2 jobs would be created, compared with only 2.8 jobs when the same amount of waste is sent to landfill.

As an example, the South Australian Government has estimated that 25,700 new full-time equivalent jobs could be created in South Australia by 2030 by adopting a more circular economy.

Councils are major players in the management of household and domestic waste.

Local governments co-invest in new materials recycling facilities, lead community education and awareness campaigns, and help to create a sustainable market for recycled materials through procurement policies.

Australia can realise the full potential of a circular economy sooner if local government's engagement and capabilities are effectively harnessed.

| Local Government Offer to the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                       | Local Government Ask of the Australian Government                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To identify and implement opportunities to reduce waste sent to landfill and support the development of a circular economy that will deliver environmental and economic benefits for all our communities. | To provide \$100 million per year for four years to fund local government circular innovation projects, and support our communities to reuse wherever possible. |

## Creating a Circular Economy

We are seeking:

- 1: Support to provide guidance and advice to councils on how to unlock the circular economy locally, particularly in rural, regional, and remote areas.
- 2: Support to investigate and, if feasible, implement a national bin harmonisation program that will improve kerbside recycling, reduce contamination, and maximise opportunities for reuse.
- 3: Funding of \$100 million per annum over four years to fund local government circular waste innovation projects.

If funded:

Jobs created: 797  
Contribution to annual GDP (\$m): \$136

### What sustainably funded councils could deliver for communities



Upgraded municipal resource recovery infrastructure for South Australia's Limestone Coast.

Naracoorte Lucindale Council Mayor Erika Vickery OAM (pictured centre) says additional financial support from the Federal Government is a catalyst for state and local government and commercial investment in waste management infrastructure.

"By working together, we can all participate in and promote the use of materials that circulate through our economy again and again, providing ongoing value, efficient use of resources and knowledge-based jobs for the future."

## Intergovernmental Relations

The Australian Local Government Association was a foundation member of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), and over 28 years made a substantial contribution to our federation.

When COAG was scrapped and replaced by the National Cabinet in mid-2020, local government was effectively sidelined from membership.

The result is that Australia's pre-eminent intergovernmental forum lacks a strong and effective advocate for local communities.

As the level of government closest to the community, we have a unique insight into how to create new jobs, drive economic growth, and build better lives for Australians.

Properly heard, our viewpoints would ensure that decisions are responsive to local needs and contribute to achieving the best outcomes at a local level and cumulatively at the national level.

Australians expect their governments to make decisions that reflect their unique circumstances and requirements.

At the same time, they want all three spheres of government to work together to achieve shared national objectives.

This can only be achieved through ALGA's participation in the National Cabinet or any subsequent structure.

Our place-based, community perspective should not be overlooked – nor our role as a voice for the concerns and aspirations of local communities.

ALGA's input would balance and complement the broader view of the First Ministers, helping to ensure that National Cabinet deliberations result in stronger and more resilient communities.

We are seeking:

- 1: Full membership of the National Cabinet.
- 2: A guaranteed seat at relevant Ministerial forums.

| Local Government Offer to the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                         | Local Government Ask of the Australian Government                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To provide a local, place based community perspective to intergovernmental deliberations to ensure that decisions are responsive to local needs and have regard to the great diversity between communities. | To reinstate local government representation to the primary intergovernmental forum in Australia, the National Cabinet, and ensure local government's ongoing voting membership of other Ministerial forums. |



# DON'T LEAVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES BEHIND!

## Federal Election Priorities

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across the country. In structure, we are a federation of state and territory local government associations.

ALGA's members include:



### Local government key facts and figures

There are 537 councils Australia-wide. Of these, around 55 percent are regional, rural, or remote councils.

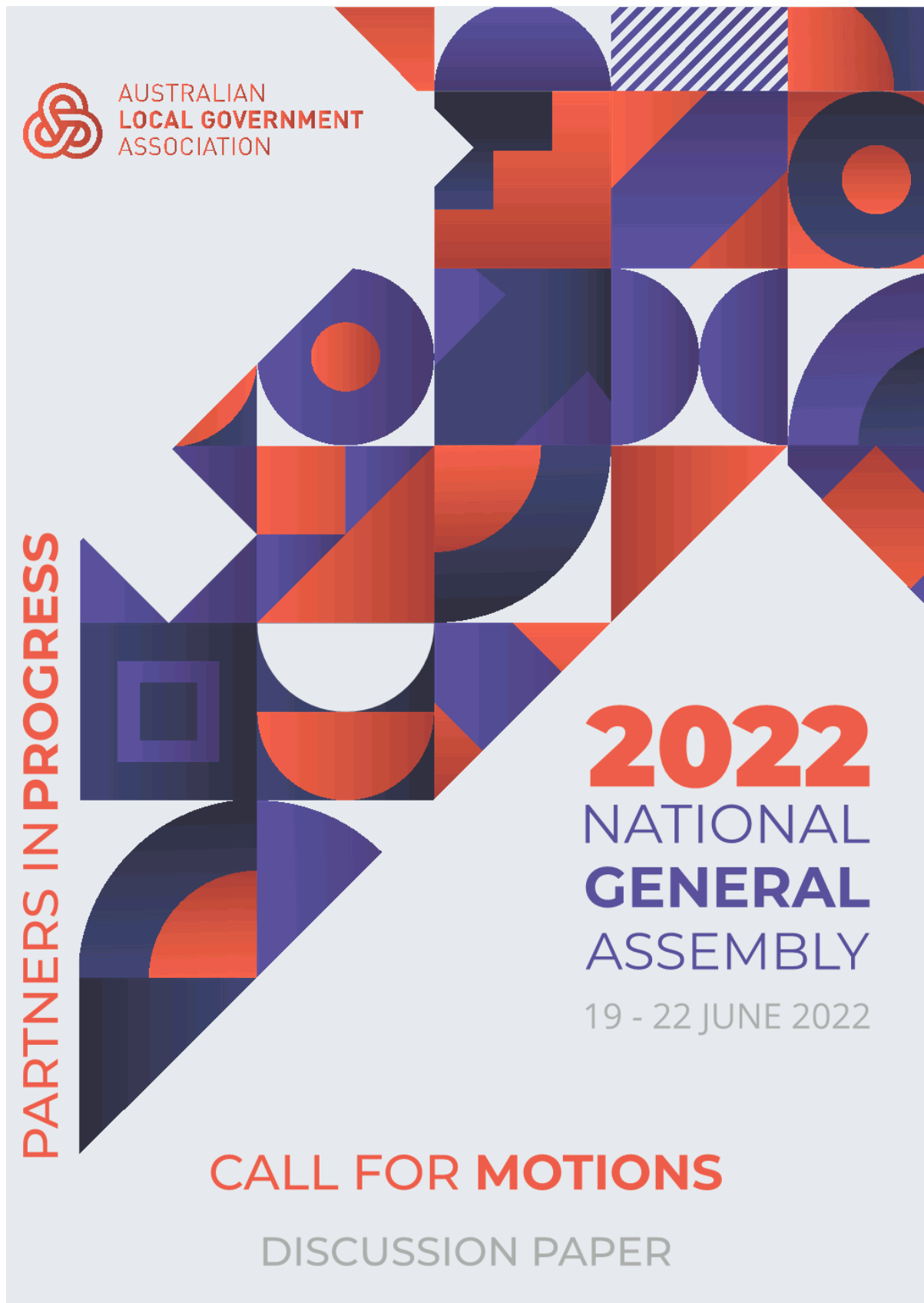
Local government employs 194,000 people.

The first local government established in Australia was in Adelaide in 1840.

Australia's largest council by population is Brisbane City Council, servicing a population of 1.25 million.

Australia's largest council by area is East Pilbara in Western Australia. It covers an area of 379,571 square km (larger than Victoria), has a population of 11,005 and 3,237km of roads.

Authorised by Matt Pinnegar Chief Executive Officer of ALGA.



PARTNERS IN PROGRESS



AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION

**2022**  
NATIONAL  
**GENERAL**  
ASSEMBLY

19 - 22 JUNE 2022

**CALL FOR MOTIONS**

DISCUSSION PAPER

CL22.141 - Attachment 4



**NGA22.COM.AU**

## SUBMITTING MOTIONS

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2022 National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra 19 – 22 June 2022.

It has been prepared to assist you and your council in developing your motions. You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.

The theme of the 2022 NGA is – Partners in Progress.

The NGA aims to focus on how partnerships, particularly between the Australian Government and Local Governments, can tackle immediate challenges facing communities as well as confidently facing the future.

In submitting your council's motion/s you are encouraged to focus on how partnership can address national issues at the local level, and new ways the Australia Government could partner to strengthen the local government sector to advance community well-being, local economic development, create jobs, address environmental challenges, climate change and complex social issues such as housing affordability.

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is an important opportunity for you and your council to influence the national policy agenda and promote new ways of strengthening the local government sector and our communities.

Note: If your council does submit a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2022 NGA.

**1 DECEMBER 2021**  
Opening of Call for Motions

**25 MARCH 2022**  
Acceptance of motions close

**19 JUNE 2022**  
Regional Cooperation & Development Forum

**20 - 22 JUNE 2022**  
National General Assembly

**To submit your motion go to:**  
[alga.asn.au/](http://alga.asn.au/)

1





## KEY DATES CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. be relevant to the work of local government nationally
2. not be focussed on a specific location or region – unless the project has national implications. You will be asked to justify why your motion has strategic importance and should be discussed at a national conference
3. be consistent with the themes of the NGA
4. complement or build on the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association
5. be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association
6. propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to do something; and
7. not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

Motions should generally be in a form that seeks the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the Federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

Motions should commence as follows - *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to .....*

*Example*

*This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to restore Local Government Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue.*

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

Please note that it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the issue. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion. Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed and relatively simple. Complex motions with multiple dot point can be difficult to implement and to advance.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-Committee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Sub-Committee considers the criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government. If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the ALGA Board NGA Subcommittee will group the motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions have either been drafted by ALGA or are based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter. Debate will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au). All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council. Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.



## Introduction

As Australia emerges from the crisis management phase of the COVID-19 global pandemic, attention now turns to rebuilding and to the future.

By the time of the NGA in June 2022, the next federal government and 47th Parliament of Australia, will almost certainly have been elected.

Prior to the election the major political parties will have campaigned on priorities and made numerous policy and programs commitments that will help shape our nation's future.

Invariably, in government, these policies and programs will need to be refined, developed and implemented. Almost certainly they will need to be adapted to meet changing circumstances, emerging issues and local and regional needs.

We know from previous elections that governments will not be able to achieve their policy agenda alone. They need reliable partners committed to playing their part in taking the nation forward, working together on mutual goals and advancing national prosperity for all.


During the election campaign, ALGA will be working extensively with state and territory local government association members, and many of you, to advance the national priorities highlighted in the Federal Election manifesto 'Don't' Leave Local Communities Behind'.

These priorities were significantly influenced by many of the resolutions of past NGAs.

Whether the Coalition Government is returned or a new Government formed, the 2022 NGA provides the first major opportunity to engage with relevant portfolio Ministers and key members of the new Government.

Most importantly, it provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to reaffirm our national priorities and to place new ideas on the national policy agenda.

4



## The Immediate Recovery Challenges

Government at all levels have collaborated to avert the worst possible health and economic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic across Australia.

By November 2021 most states had reached or made significant progress in reaching the 80% or more vaccination threshold.

Every community was affected, some more than others, and local government has been at the forefront of developing local solutions to local challenges.

*Given the economic and social impacts of the COVID pandemic on communities over the past 2 years, are there issues that need to be addressed by a new partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local governments?*

*Given the impacts of the COVID pandemic on your council and other councils around the country, are their issues that a partnership between the Commonwealth Government and local government should address?*

## Jobs

In September 2021 the national, seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, was 5.2% (ABS). The underemployment rate was 9.5% with monthly hours worked decreasing by 1 million hours. Roy Morgan's survey work suggests Australian unemployment (unadjusted) was 9.2% in October with underemployment at 8.6%.

National statistics however mask variations at the state, regional and local level. State and Territory unemployment ranged from 3.9% in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, 5.1% in Queensland and Tasmania, 5.3% in South Australia, NSW 5.4%, Victoria 5.6% and the Australian Capital Territory 6.6%. Similarly, regional and local community unemployment vary from the national average reflecting local circumstances and the different impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and their flow-on effects have on the local economy. Youth unemployment and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unemployment is also consistently higher.

As an employer of staff and of contractors, as well as a facilitator of local economic development, local government can play a key role in addressing unemployment and underemployment.

In keeping with the ALGA Federal election manifesto, 'Don't' Leave Local Communities Behind' local solutions are required for local circumstances.

*What new partnership program could the Australian Government develop to take advantage of local government's knowledge of the local economy, geographic spread across the country and its ability to create jobs?*

*As an employer, what are the pre-requisites for councils to create more good quality, secure local jobs that build community capacity and address local workforce skills shortages?*

5





### Building Back Better Businesses

The economic shock of the past 2 years has caused unprecedented disruption to local businesses and communities. While many businesses have adapted to difficult circumstances, some have not survived. The current vacant shop fronts and offices of the streetscapes in our cities and towns is evidence of the challenges that our local businesses, local industry and communities have faced.

*The capacity of the private sector, and small business in particular, to bounce back is untested.*

*What new partnership programs could the Australian Government introduce to take advantage of local government's role in economic development, including to support local businesses?*

### Opening Australia's Borders

As previously mentioned, by November 2021 most states had reached or made significant progress in reaching the 80% or more vaccination threshold. At this point, under the National Plan to Transition Australian National COVID-19 Response, governments were committed to introducing new measures such as opening international borders, minimising cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns, Covid vaccination boosters encouraged and provided as necessary, and allowing uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine.

As Australia opens-up its international borders economic recovery is expected to accelerate. The return of expats, international students, overseas migration and international tourism will increase population, supply of labour and demand for goods and services including for accommodation.

In the first instance, economic activity can be expected to return to pre-Covid levels. Over time, with appropriate support, it will grow.

The closure of borders and particularly international borders affected many parts of the tourism industry and the economies of many local communities. While domestic visitors helped fill a gap, recovery of many parts of the industry and the economy of communities that depend heavily on tourism will depend on the return of international travel.

To do this Australia must position itself to compete in international markets. This comes through offering high quality destinations, services and experiences that highlight the quality and value available in Australia. In addition to delivering a better visitor experience, this should also increase productivity, efficiency and innovation.

*In the short term, what new partnership programs could the Australian Government introduce to assist local government meet the return of international students and stronger migration now and into the future?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to facilitate tourism and the traveller economy?*

### Workforce Shortages and Re-engineering Work

In November 2021 business representatives report significant labour shortages particularly in the agriculture and hospitality sectors. The lack of backpackers, overseas students and migrant workers, combined with people not wanting to return to the workforce, are just some of the reasons attributed to these shortages.

While opening borders may increase the supply of labour, some argue that there is a more fundamental change in Australia's workforce and workplaces.

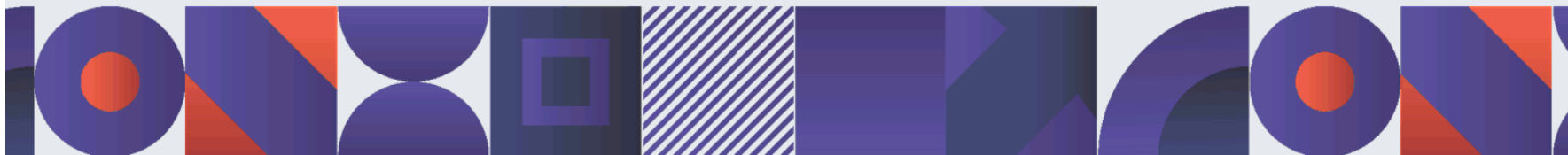
Although not reported in Australia yet, in the United States the post Covid workforce has been associated with what some have called the 'Great Resignation' as employees have adjusted their expectations, work life balance and priorities and simply not returned to their old jobs.

Many workers have been required to work from home for extended periods during the pandemic, including working remotely and now look for greater flexibility in their work. Technology and automation are transforming work and the workplace.

Many are prepared to change jobs to maximise this flexibility and the benefits derived from it. Traditionally this has led to wage pressure but coupled with demand for greater workplace flexibility employers need to be innovative to attract and retain employees. As an employer, councils are not immune and will also need to develop these strategies.

*What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help support an influx of skilled migrants?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help councils attract and retain appropriately trained workers and employees?*



### Climate change

The United Nations Conference (COP) of Parties 26 held in Glasgow 2021 focused global attention on climate change and global and national efforts to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

For decades local governments have played an important leadership role in addressing climate change. Councils have supported the adoption of a wide range of community-based programs and initiatives to lower the carbon footprint of local communities. As a sector, local government has led the debate for lowering carbon emissions, sourcing renewable energy, responded creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, facilitated the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Pragmatically, local government has been at the forefront to address the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change. These impacts include an increased number of days with high temperatures, less rainfall and more droughts in southern Australia, less snow, more intense rainfall and fire weather, stronger cyclones, and sea level rise. These changes will increase stress on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets and natural ecosystems that are already threatened, and significantly affect agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health, tourism, finance and disaster risk management.

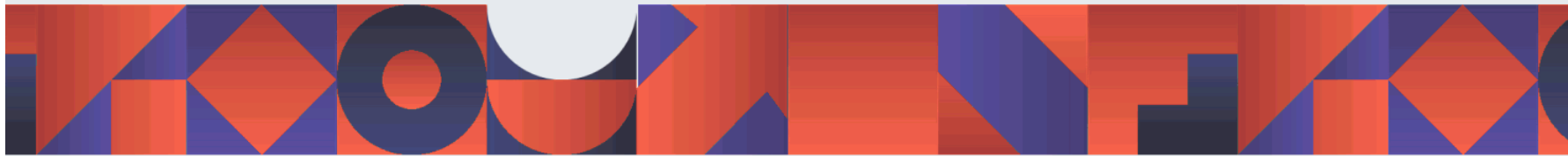
*How do we work together to ensure that there is local adaptation to climate change and climate extremes?  
What partnerships are available to achieve climate neutrality?*

### Natural Disasters

With the high-risk weather season commencing, many councils will be engaging with their communities about disaster preparedness, resilience and recovery. Not only have we experienced one of Australia's worst bushfire seasons in 2019-20, but some councils also had to deal with multiple disaster events within a 12 month period. Some councils have had to deal with bushfires, followed by storms, flooding, hailstorms, more flooding and COVID-19. These multiple disasters have had a devastating effect on many councils' financial sustainability and their ability to fund mitigation measures for the upcoming high risk weather season. Smaller rural and regional councils are further financially challenged and require help with preparedness and mitigation, as they currently have zero capacity to fund major mitigation projects.

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements recognised that councils need help. It concluded that without assistance many local governments cannot undertake the roles and responsibilities allocated to them by their State/ Territory Governments.

*What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to address natural disasters to assist in recovery and build resilience?*



### Environment

Local government plays a critical role in environmental management including environment protection.

"Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030" recognises that we all have a role in securing nature as the foundation of our existence. It is an overarching framework for all national, state and territory and local strategies, legislation, policies and actions that target nature. It has 3 goals:

1. Connecting all Australians with nature:
2. Care for nature in all its diversity, and
3. Share and Build knowledge.

To achieve these goals there are a variety of options for joint action to reduce threats and their impacts include ensuring the design and management of the protected area network considers and accommodates future threat scenarios and establishes robust mechanisms to respond effectively to new and emerging threats. The strategy suggests there are opportunities to '... improve planning, regulation, environmental impact assessment and approvals processes. In addition, threat abatement activities could include targeted pest management, ecosystem restoration (integrated fire management, revegetation), pollution control, greenhouse gas emissions management and climate change adaptation'.

*How could the Australian Government partner with local government to help support the implementation of the Australian Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030 and take advantage of local knowledge?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to help to reduce threats and risks to nature and build resilience?*

### The Circular Economy

The 2019 National Waste Policy Action Plan applies principles of a circular economy to waste management to support better and repeated use of our resources. The circular economy principles for waste are:

1. Avoid waste
2. Improve resource recovery
3. Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
4. Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
5. Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

Councils play a major role in the management of household and domestic waste. Therefore, local government has a critical role to play in further developing the circular economy.

*How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government to progress these objectives?*



### Affordable Housing

The shortage and costs of rental properties and affordable home ownership is causing significant social and economic impacts in cities and towns across Australia, including rural and regional communities. This is due to a range of factors such as changes in recent migration patterns, cheap finance and labour and material shortages in the construction sector.

The impacts on local governments and communities includes housing stress for individuals and families, difficulty in attracting and housing key workers and an increase in homelessness.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue 2021 is leading an inquiry into the contribution of tax and regulation on housing affordability and supply in Australia. Whilst the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, local governments often facilitate affordable housing within their communities, operating within state/territory planning, financial and other legislation requirements. The housing challenge is different in each community and the council response is dependent on its financial resources and priorities.

*How could the Australian Government partner with local government address housing affordability?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government to progress this objective?*

### Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and support for the 2022 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A reminder:

- Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 25 March 2022.
- It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- Motions must meet the criteria published at the front of this paper.
- When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2022 NGA.



CL22.141 - Attachment 4

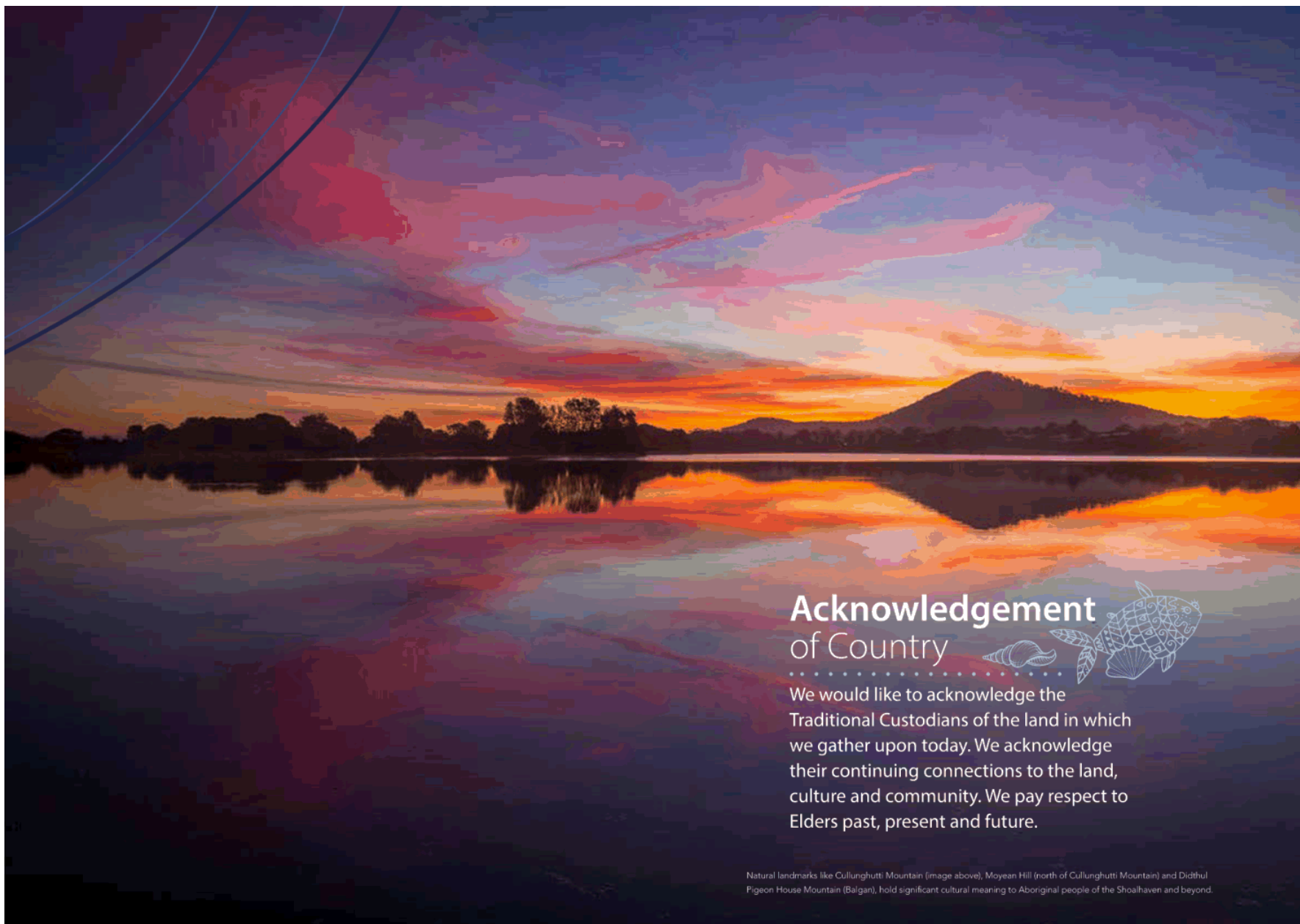




# Advocacy Projects 2022



CL22.141 - Attachment 5







## A Message from Stephen Dunshea

Shoalhaven is a wonderful place to live, work, stay and play. Just 2 hours from Sydney and Canberra the region has a strong relationship with Federal and NSW Governments to help grow and serve our 100,000 locals and 3 million annual visitors.

Shoalhaven City Council is committed to building on and supporting this growth by delivering strategic projects in order to provide jobs and a strong vibrant community. Innovation that delivers sustainability and builds resilience is now more important than ever since the impacts of the Currowan Bushfires, floods and COVID-19.

Made up of 49 towns and villages, Shoalhaven is one of the largest local government areas in NSW and includes commercial centres in Berry, Bomaderry, North Nowra, Nowra, Culburra Beach, Huskisson, Sanctuary Point, Sussex Inlet, Milton, Ulladulla with South Nowra hosting one of the largest available industrial areas south of Sydney.

With your support and our dedicated team Council looks forward to continuing building the Shoalhaven economy and securing our future.

## Overview

**Only 2 hours from both Sydney and Canberra the Shoalhaven region is looking forward. The upgrade of the Princes Highway from Sydney to Nowra and beyond is making our part of NSW even more accessible to the world.**

More than \$15 billion will be invested by the NSW Government over the next 20 years to duplicate the entire Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border. The recently completed Albion Park Bypass (\$630 million) has changed the trip length from Sydney to the Coast, and further improvements are already under construction including the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade (\$450 million) and the Nowra Bridge Project (\$310 million).

You can see that the opening up of the South Coast will bring a level of development not seen in the past, and we need a meaningful partnership with the NSW and Federal Government to be ready to bring jobs and investment to the region.

High-speed broadband makes interstate, international operations or telecommuting viable. For international or interstate distribution, rail and road connections are critical. Sydney and Canberra International Airports are less than 2.5 hours away and the growing Shellharbour regional airport less than an hour's drive.

A wide range of industries operate in Shoalhaven with many international businesses operating from the city. Manufacturing is strong, with food, chemicals, construction products, marine craft and

more. High technology companies provide aviation maintenance and systems support to the Royal Australian Navy.

The logistics sector is growing as are education, building & construction, retail and tourism. Significant growth in population is continuing across the region.

Shoalhaven is committed to local jobs and has an innovative vocational education sector, with University, TAFE, Community College and private options. The region has an ongoing investment in tertiary education to ensure a skilled workforce with the newly established Country University Centre in Ulladulla and the University of Wollongong, Shoalhaven Campus.

As a major regional centre with a maturing economy you won't go far to find professional business services and availability of skilled employees, including a constant inflow of talented sea/tree changers.



## Contents

|                                                           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>KEY ROADS PROJECTS</b>                                 | <b>8</b>  |
| Nowra Bypass                                              | 9         |
| Princes Highway Upgrade                                   | 10        |
| Moss Vale Road Upgrade                                    | 11        |
| HYSA Corridor                                             | 11        |
| ENSA                                                      | 10        |
| <b>TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE</b>                           | <b>12</b> |
| Multi Storey Car Park                                     | 12        |
| Doubling Freight Capacity into Industrial Area            | 12        |
| Local Road Improvement Package                            | 13        |
| Local Roads Linked to Sites of National Significance      | 14        |
| <b>RIVERFRONT PRECINCT</b>                                | <b>15</b> |
| Flagship Park & Leisure Facilities                        | 16        |
| Paringa Park Water Recreation and Access                  | 17        |
| Precinct Road Linkages                                    | 17        |
| <b>SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>                      | <b>18</b> |
| Bomaderry Urban Renewal Planning                          | 18        |
| <b>IMPROVING RESILIENCE</b>                               | <b>20</b> |
| Masterplan for the Integrated Emergency Management Centre | 20        |
| Shoalhaven Reclaimed Water Management Scheme              | 21        |
| Shoalhaven 'Circular Economy' Model of Waste              | 22        |
| Bewong to Milton Water Pipeline                           | 22        |
| <b>IMPROVING FACILITIES</b>                               | <b>23</b> |
| Shoalhaven Community and Recreational Precinct (SCaRP)    | 23        |
| Danjera Dam Camping Facility and Refuge                   | 24        |
| Sanctuary Point Library                                   | 24        |
| Whole of Precinct Improvement – Ulladulla Harbour         | 25        |
| Marriott Park Nowra                                       | 26        |
| Boongaree Precinct – Later Stages                         | 27        |
| <b>SOUTH NOWRA INDUSTRIAL LAND</b>                        | <b>30</b> |
| <b>REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>                             | <b>31</b> |
| Canberra to the Coast, Main Road 92 Improvements          | 32        |
| Picton Road Upgrade                                       | 32        |
| Princes Highway continuous upgrades                       | 33        |
| South Coast Rail Upgrades                                 | 33        |

Shoalhaven City Council - Prospectus 2022 | Page 7



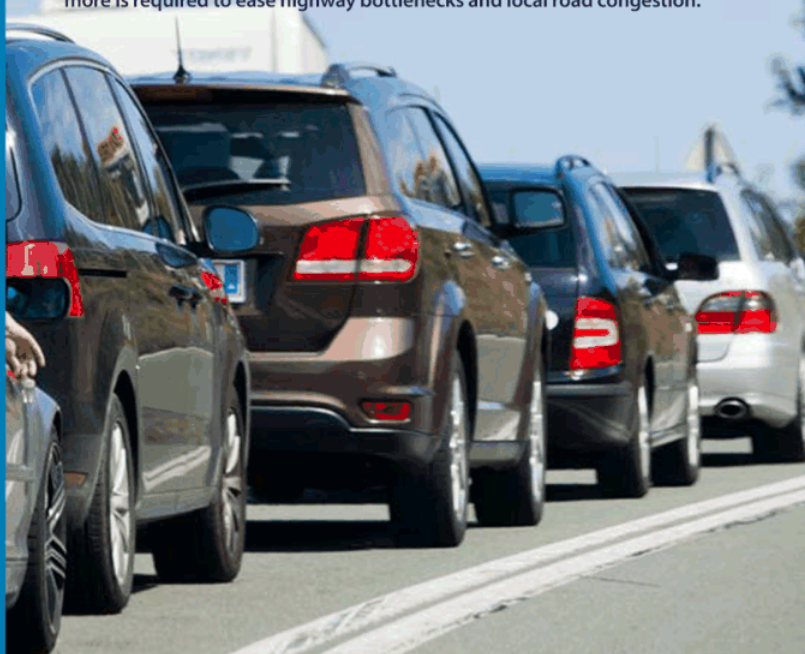
KEY ROADS PROJECTS - \$1.84 BILLION

## Key Roads Project

Keep the South Coast moving

**Funding Request: up to \$1.84 billion**

The region has benefited from significant investment from both NSW and Federal governments, including upgrades of the Princes Highway, and the development of Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan, however, more is required to ease highway bottlenecks and local road congestion.



## Nowra Bypass

Stop the bottleneck and plan for the future

**Funding Request: up to \$1 billion**

The Nowra Bypass is the vital missing link between already committed Princes Highway projects to the north and south of Nowra.

The projects omission from the current Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan will see Nowra - Bomaderry turn into the next Albion Park bottleneck, which routinely saw traffic backed up for over 5km in the summer months.

For nearly 40 years, the need for a bypass has been recognised as critical. Land west of Nowra has been earmarked since 1986 and the time to move on this important project is now, which will benefit residents, and visitors, as well as Sydney-Melbourne traffic.

- The project would benefit from a \$100 million commitment over the first 5 years to investigate options and prepare the project for construction.
- A further \$900 million + in funding would be required to see the project through the 5 year delivery phase.
- It is estimated that the \$1 billion + Nowra Bypass would require a 10-year program for planning, development, design and delivery.

| PHASE | DESCRIPTION                                    | YEAR | FUNDING         |
|-------|------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1     | Strategic Options                              | 1    | \$5 million     |
| 2     | Business Case                                  | 2    | \$5 million     |
| 3     | Environmental Assessments & Design Development | 3-4  | \$30 million    |
| 4     | Land Acquisition & Procurement                 | 4-5  | \$60 million    |
| 5     | Delivery                                       | 6-10 | \$900 million + |

KEY ROADS PROJECTS - \$1.63 BILLION

## Princes Highway Upgrade

Six lanes to the bay -  
Boost tourism access

**Funding Request: \$550 million**

Currently the Princes Highway through Nowra-Bomaderry is mainly four lanes, with the only six-lane section being in Nowra's CBD.

Even with the completion of the Nowra Bridge Project (which will see the six-lane section extend north to Bolong Road), just 20% of the Princes Highway running through Nowra and Bomaderry will be six lanes.

A continuous six-lane would significantly reduce congestion through the city.

Planning is currently underway with Transport for NSW on delivery of the Jervis Bay intersection to reduce congestion and improve safety on this dangerous part of the highway.

This is urgently needed to effectively manage the 300% population surge experienced during the school holidays.



## ENSA

East Nowra linkage -  
Open Nowra CBD

**Funding Request: \$100 million**

The proposed "East Nowra Sub Arterial" road (ENSA) removes traffic from congested parts of the network (e.g. Kalandar Street) and facilitates more efficient travel along the Princes Highway.

The project would connect Greenwell Point Road (at Old Southern Road) to the Princes Highway in the Nowra CBD, spreading the load and removing traffic from numerous local roads.

Additional works, costed and included in the project, on the eastern side of the Highway (est. \$20 million) would add value and could be performed concurrently.

- ENSA forms part of the adopted Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan (supported by both Council and the NSW Government)
- ENSA is integral to the adopted Nowra CBD strategy to expand the road network to the east of the Princes Highway
- Improving local connections and accessibility would remove thousands of traffic movements from the Princess Highway and local rural roads

## HYSA Corridor

Southern linkage -  
Access for industry

**Funding Request: \$40 million**

The Hillcrest to Yalwal Sub Arterial road (HYSA) would deliver similar benefits to ENSA (East Nowra Linkage) but on the southern side of the Princes Highway/ Kalandar Street intersection.

Part of the adopted Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan, the project would connect Yalwal Road (at Albatross Road) to the Princes Highway (at Hillcrest Avenue), easing congestion along Albatross Road and Kalandar Street, improving access to the growing industrial precincts at south and west Nowra as well as visitors, locals and those heading to the Navy base.

## Moss Vale Road Upgrade

Cambewarra linkage -  
Enable investment in housing

**Funding Request: \$150 million**

Moss Vale Road forms part of the NSW Road Network through the northern Shoalhaven. The subject section is a 100kph rural road, reducing to 60kph at the entry to the Bomaderry urban area.

With an estimated 3,622 dwellings set for construction in the approved urban release area, work to radically improve safety for new families is imperative.

Under the proposed plan, work required to improve the area includes road widening and additional lanes.





**TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - \$140 MILLION**



### Multi-storey Car Park, Nowra

More spots, more jobs, more money in the CBD

**Funding Request: \$20 million**

Beginning with a 2,000-signature petition in 2012, a proposal for a five-storey parking facility in the Nowra CBD is shovel-ready and crucial to progressing Nowra's economy. To be built on the existing ground-level car park at the intersection of Worrigee Street and Berry Street, the 462 car and 18 motorcycle spaces will directly benefit local small businesses, with increased commercial activity leading to more jobs and a stronger local economy.

- Provides an extra 234 car spaces
- Allowance for additional levels to be built as Nowra grows
- Allowance for future upgrades as retail/commercial space

### Doubling Freight Capacity into Industrial Area

Delivering for the Shoalhaven

**Funding Request: \$60 million**

From 2024, larger trucks (HML - Higher Mass Limited) vehicles will have unrestricted access south across the Shoalhaven River at Nowra.

To accommodate the increase in heavy vehicle traffic, the 'first' and 'last mile' roads in and out of Nowra's industrial facilities will need upgrading.

Shoalhaven City Council will be seeking Federal and NSW funding to upgrade freight access into the South Nowra industrial precinct, Yalwal Road and Slaughterhouse Road into Milton Meats Abattoir.

Improvements to the productivity of these Council-owned roads will improve domestic supply and export sales, improving the prospects of local manufacturing businesses.

This project will also form part of the integrated road network solution required for Nowra, Bomaderry and the future bypass.



### Local Road Improvement Package

Bringing local roads up to speed

**Funding Request: \$30 million**

Over 20% of the 1,770 km of roads in Shoalhaven City Council area are in "poor" to "very poor" condition, with impacts on safety and efficiency for both residents and the 3 million people who visit the region every year.

Council's \$36 million roads allocation is insufficient, with six natural disasters in the past two years and roads to new developments continually increasing the burden placed on the region's 100,000 ratepayers. Currently, each ratepayer is effectively paying for 177 metres of road.

A one-off support package of \$30 million would bring Shoalhaven's sprawling roads network up to a condition that could be maintained ongoing by Council under its current allocation and improve future resilience of the region.

The importance of this work can't be overstated. Whether it's mums and dads going to work, children to school, or millions of tourists stimulating the economy, safe roads are vital, especially in the regions.

**TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE - \$140 MILLION**

**Local Roads Linked to Sites of National Significance**

Connecting the world to significant facilities

**Funding Request: \$15 million**

Shoalhaven has several nationally significant facilities and access has never been more important to welcoming the world to our doorstep. A critical project to improve ongoing and future resilience to these assets through upgraded road access.



**Bundanon**

A reimagined art destination

**Funding Request: \$5 million**

Bundanon is many things. An art museum embedded in the landscape. A wildlife sanctuary set on 1000 hectares. A gift to the Australian people. The vast array of experiences at this South Coast art destination means every visitor's journey here will be different. The Australian Government has granted the Bundanon Trust \$22 million in capital funding to secure Australian artist, Arthur Boyd's vision for Bundanon as a centre for creative arts and education.

Recognised as a venue of national significance for art and tourism, ongoing investment in operational funding is critical for the assets and its long-term success.

Locally, the road to the Bundanon homestead is in disrepair and requires significant upgrades.

**Willinga Park**

Leading equestrian centre

**Funding Request: \$10 million**

Willinga Park is one of Australia's leading equestrian centres, and an events destination renowned for exceptional quality and beauty.

The 2300-acre park is peppered with world-class, architecturally-designed equestrian facilities. Equally as stunning are Willinga Park's conference facilities, gardens and public art features, however the local road access requires significant investment.



**Riverfront Precinct**

A Shoalhaven gateway Nowra can bank on

**Funding Request: \$49.7 million**

**The Shoalhaven Riverfront Precinct Project serves two key outcomes – connecting Nowra's city centre to its beautiful river while elevating Nowra as the region's civic, community, tourism and recreational hub.**

Situated near the Princes Highway, and boasting an abundance of natural splendour, judicious riverfront development will deliver for Nowra an uplifting 'sense of place'.

Shoalhaven City Council and the NSW Government are committed to progressing with proposed urban design and the planning control changes necessary to realise this exciting vision including repurposing the old Nowra Bridge as a community space.

All tiers of government partner on the Nowra Riverfront Advisory Taskforce, a true cross-government team approach to be proud of.

**RIVERFRONT PRECINCT - \$49.7 MILLION**



RIVERFRONT PRECINCT - \$49.7 MILLION



**\$200K will fund remaining technical studies 50/50 with NSW Government**

**\$25,000**

**Strategic cultural framework**

**\$50,000**

**Graham Lodge Conservation Management Plan**

**\$25,000**

**Non-Indigenous heritage review**

**\$50,000**

**Traffic review and plan**

**\$25,000**

**Economic feasibility review**

**\$25,000**

**Social Impact Study - Housing Affordability**

**Flagship Park & Leisure Facilities**

Driving investment with Open Space

**Funding Request: \$39 million**

The lynchpin reinvigorating Nowra's relationship with the Shoalhaven River is a riverfront park which would transform the area into a vibrant community precinct.

A boardwalk and riparian enhancements will lift the riverbank's accessibility and aesthetic value, while an amphitheatre and stage build on the site's already significant cultural value.

A forecourt and plaza connect the aquatic centre to the river, with bus pickup and set down, grassed areas, shade trees, shelters, BBQs and seating bringing amenity to the site.

A nature-inspired stream with wetlands, endemic vegetation and creek play areas offer an adventure play-scape for children, with educational opportunities arising from interpretive displays.



**Paringa Park Water Recreation and Access**

Taking advantage of our natural assets with accessibility

**Funding Request: \$6 million**

Paringa Park forms the western bookend to the Shoalhaven Riverfront Precinct. This enchanting picnic and swimming spot on the waters edge of the Shoalhaven River is surrounded by tall sandstone cliff faces. Plans are underway for a community meeting space, a multi-watercraft storage building and boat launching facility.

The building design is multi-level and provides much needed storage space for multiple types of watercraft on the lower level, including accessible sailing craft (a growing sport locally and regionally). The upper level features a multi-function room and break out space for meetings or small group gatherings with fantastic views of the riverfront, all accessible via a lift from the ground floor.

The external space provides car and trailer boat parking and a launching facility for the watercraft and pedestrian linkages to the broader precinct.

**Precinct Road Linkages**

Take me to the river

**Funding Request: \$4.5 million**

The proposed park would absorb Scenic Drive, making the establishment and construction of a new route into the riverfront precinct critical to the development.

The alternative route would deliver safe access from Hyam Street for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians and play a role in the precinct's visual transformation.

In addition to the new section of road, the development would also see traffic lights or a roundabout at the Bridge Road and Hyam Street intersection, a roundabout at the Hyam Street and Keft Avenue intersection, the new 220 metre access road from Hyam Street, and the required property acquisition to make the plan possible.



## SOCIAL & AFFORDABLE HOUSING - \$200.2 MILLION

### Social and Affordable Housing

Helping provide housing for all

**Funding Request: \$200 million over 4 years**

The entire nation is in the grip of a housing affordability crisis, and, sadly, Shoalhaven is no exception.

Housing insecurity, mortgage stress and the spectre of homelessness looms in all of NSW, but is especially pronounced in popular lifestyle destinations.

The situation has been exacerbated by trends associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and in May 2021, Council declared a "housing crisis".

Council has been extremely proactive in this space following the release of the Affordable Housing Strategy in early 2018, including work with community housing provider Southern Cross Housing to deliver up to 40 additional housing units on a former Council site at Bomaderry.

Council is also strongly advocating for a broader Shoalhaven urban renewal project with potential to deliver a significant increase in affordable housing stock locally.

The Australian Government currently provides approximately \$1.6 billion in funding to support the NSW Governments in delivering housing and homelessness services and programs. This funding eventually finds its way to the local level via a range of programs or initiatives. While this is welcomed, much more is needed to provide safe, secure and affordable homes for Shoalhaven families.

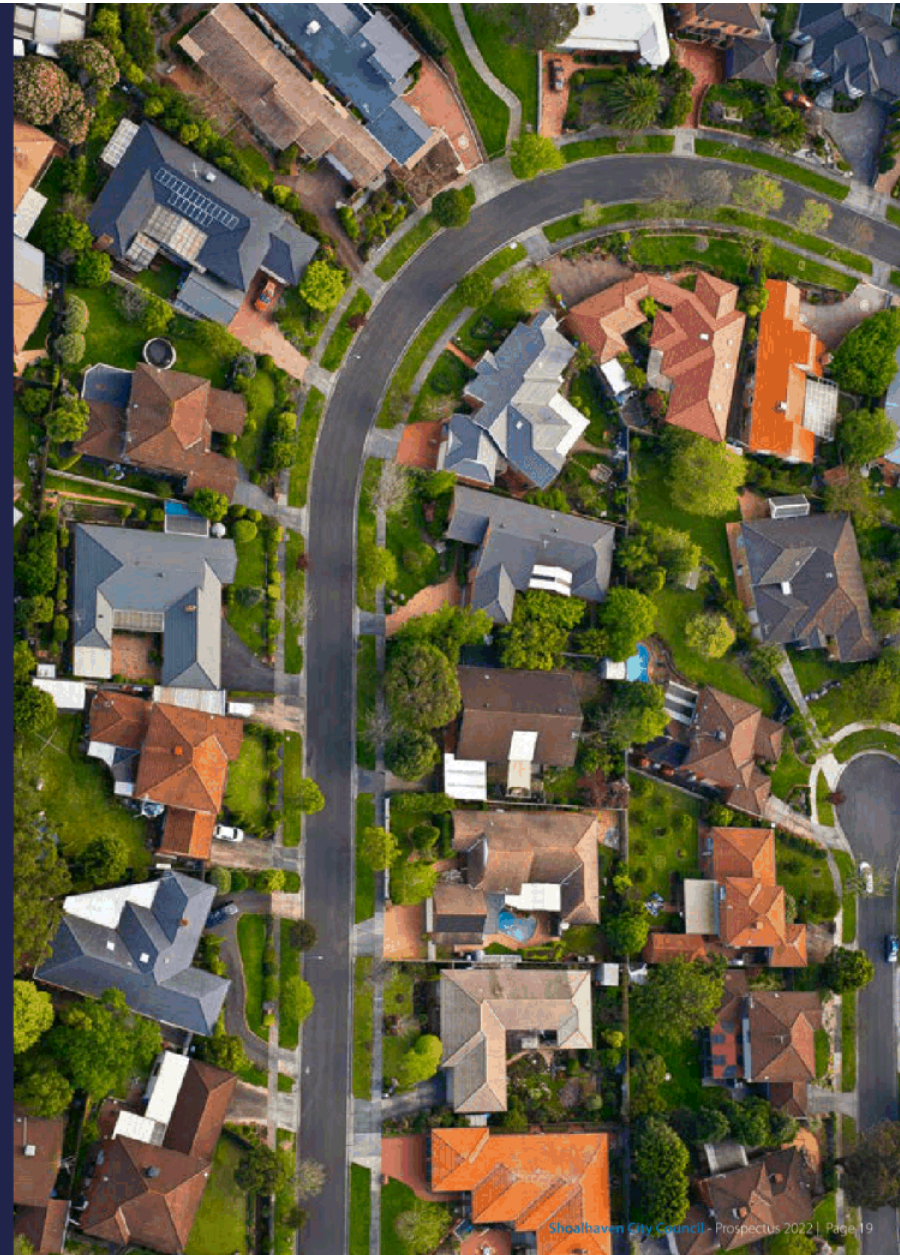
### Bomaderry Urban Renewal Planning

Creating linkages from housing, shopping and communities

**Funding Request: \$200,000**

Bomaderry is the last point of contact by rail to Shoalhaven and the town shopping strip has been identified as a key revitalisation project. With a passionate and active community wanting to engage, there is a real opportunity to plan for the future health and wellbeing of our communities. Future linkages, open spaces and shopping precincts. Cross-government collaboration is needed to address social, rail, open space and jobs growth on this project to assist with broader renewal planning.

Building on the planned affordable housing project that is already underway, an investment of \$200,000 in a new master planning exercise for this key precinct considering retail, housing, transport linkages and place making would involve community and cross government consultation and collaboration. This will deliver a blue print for future revitalisation activities and associated infrastructure delivery.





IMPROVING RESILIENCE - \$101.3 MILLION



## Masterplan for the Integrated Emergency Centre

Prepared for the worst and working together

**Funding Request: \$2.8 million**

Development of Shoalhaven City Council's Integrated Emergency Management Centre in Nowra has progressed incrementally in line with the 2015 Masterplan.

Currently, the site accommodates the Shoalhaven Rural Fire Service Fire Control Centre (FCC), West Nowra RFS Brigade, SES Nowra Unit, Surf Life Saving and the region's primary Emergency Operations Centre.

For the past decade, the facility has been command central for responses to numerous events including storms, tornados, bushfires, structure fires, mass cattle deaths, equine disease outbreaks and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Support to implement future stages of the Master Plan would realise:

- Enhanced EMC cooperation by facilitating co-location and consolidated facilities for other emergency response agencies
- The construction of a helicopter landing pad to enhance emergency operations in response to fires and major floods
- Improved logistics management



## Shoalhaven Reclaimed Water Management Scheme (REMS) Stage 2

Improved water recycling for sustainability outcomes

**Funding Request: \$26 million**

Stage 1 of the northern Shoalhaven Reclaimed Water Management Scheme (REMS) reclaims 14 million litres of high-quality water from 6 sewage treatment plants every single day.

With infrastructure improvements, bulk storage (600 million litres) and a wastewater treatment facility, Stage 1 has maximised water efficiency at farms, sporting fields and golf courses, while heavily reducing river and ocean outfall.

Stage 2 will build on this achievement by adding another 900 million litres (total 1.5 billion) of underground storage, reducing demand on of potable water and building a war chest against certain drought and fires.

### The benefits of REMS Stage 2:

- Address agricultural demand for additional water needed for increased economic activity
- Provide a reserve of water for emergency use including bushfires like Currowan in 2019/2020
- Future proof-water supply for a growing population. Identified as crucial in strategies including: the Environmental Impact Statement - Shoalhaven Northern Regional Effluent Management Scheme – 1997; Shoalhaven Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) 2021/22; and the Draft Review of Environment Factors 2021
- Stimulate the economy by increasing the amenity of sporting facilities, parks and gardens for community and visitors alike
- Council has committed \$8 million in the 2022/2023 draft budget for this project

IMPROVING RESILIENCE - \$91.3 MILLION



### Shoalhaven 'Circular Economy' Model of Waste

A fresh start - Improving environmental and financial sustainability

**Funding Request: \$2.5 million**

Lots of plastics from the recycling bin are dirty and still covered in food or waste. If it is not sorted and cleaned then it's not ready to be reused. Shoalhaven have plans for a plant that will shred, flake and wash the plastics so that they will be readily sorted and sold to produce plastic pellets suitable for manufacturing plastic products. Working towards long term sustainability will provide an opportunity for Council to secure income, even in the most difficult times.

- Council has committed \$2.5 million in funding for the \$5 million project budget
- Strategically aligned, this project is supported by cross-government strategies including; NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041; DPIE June 2021 (particularly the target to triple plastics recycling rate by 2030). It's also supported by the Federal Government Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, in particular addressing the ban on the export of plastic waste in July 2021



### Bewong to Milton Water Pipeline

Securing water to the south

**Funding Request: \$70 million**

A 20km long water supply trunk main is proposed from Bewong to Milton. This extension to the previously constructed main from Bamarang to Bewong will provide water supply security and added resilience to the growing southern Shoalhaven area.

Identified in the Shoalhaven City Council Water Supply Augmentation Strategy Report – 1993, a recent feasibility study has been completed and a preferred alignment identified. Council has committed \$35 million in future budgets towards this project.

### Shoalhaven Community and Recreational Precinct (SCaRP)

Wellness hub for a community in need

**Funding Request: \$81 million**

The Shoalhaven Community and Recreation Precinct (SCaRP) aims to provide open space and community facilities in one location. This includes a community pavilion, rugby league, soccer and synthetics athletics facility and community support and wellness facilities.

SCaRP is intended to meet the needs of a growing community now and in the future. The project enhances the potential for the Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan (2008) with the development of the Moss Vale Road North and South Urban Release areas progressing currently.

**The objectives of the Precinct are to:**

- Deliver a precinct which meets today's community needs and growing demands
- Create spaces that address community needs
- Provide a safe community meeting place and quality sports facilities in one location
- Deliver community services which integrates with sporting groups

The net present value of the project is estimated at \$16.5 million over a 30-year period and represents a benefit-cost ratio of 1.18:1. The project will result in an increase in the level of participation in sport,

recreational and community activities. This benefit is estimated at \$41 million, around 37% of total benefits.

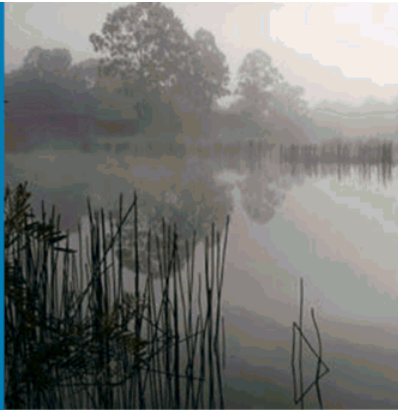
- Council secured \$8 million for the southern precinct from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Package, with the total spend to date \$43 million
- Stage 1 delivery is well underway assisted by Federal and NSW funding. The new Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre is complete and officially open, plus construction works are underway on new AFL, cricket and croquet facility, including fields, amenities, landscaping, carparking and more! The planning and design options for the refurbishment of the original Bomaderry Basketball Stadium are also at an advanced stage
- Stage 2 requires an \$81 million investment for a new community pavilion including a 50m indoor pool, children's play areas, and a community hub to deliver health, fitness, education, rehabilitation and wellbeing services facilities. This stage also includes a regional synthetic athletics facility and a NRL senior competition standard rugby league facility - completing the vision for a true community wellness hub.



IMPROVING FACILITIES - \$128.8 MILLION



IMPROVING FACILITIES - \$128.8 MILLION



### Danjera Dam Camping Facility and Refuge

Making the great outdoors even greater

**Funding Request: \$2.8 million**

Currently, camping at Danjera Dam is unregulated and unsupervised, with the site prone to overcrowding, environmental degradation and vandalism during peak times. The project would transform this unique natural setting into a recreational draw, while providing a focal hub for the surrounding rural community and infrastructure to help enhance bushfire resilience.

**The project includes:**

- Communications tower and building to double as a community meeting room and bushfire refuge facility
- Basic camping ground with caretaker's residence, camper amenities and community meeting room/emergency refuge
- Access road upgrade, car park, amenities block, pedestrian paths and boat ramp for day visitation
- Recreational facilities including two floating pontoons, picnic tables, seating, communications tower, walking trails to heritage sites and interpretive displays
- This project has DA consent and is ready to go. It is identified in the Shoalhaven 2021/22 Delivery Program Operational Plan (DPOP) Council has committed \$1.4 million in the 2022/23 financial year for this project



### Sanctuary Point Library

A sanctuary for learning and community

**Funding Request: \$14 million**

A safe, accessible and conducive environment for people of all ages to commune, learn and relax. The new library, to be located in the heart of the Sanctuary Point on the corner of Paradise Beach Road and Kerry Street will provide district-level library facilities, space for community activities, and help address high levels of socioeconomic and health disadvantage in the region.

**The project would deliver:**

- For every \$1 invested, the project will generate \$1.12 in economic and community benefit
- On-site spending and increased economic activity in the library's vicinity
- On-site job creation
- Access to essential IT resources which users may not have at home and are essential for students and jobseekers
- This project aligns with the following regional strategies: the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan; A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW and the NSW State Library Strategic Plan
- This project is "shovel ready" to DA stage

View flyover here: [tinyurl.com/2jv2d37c](https://tinyurl.com/2jv2d37c)

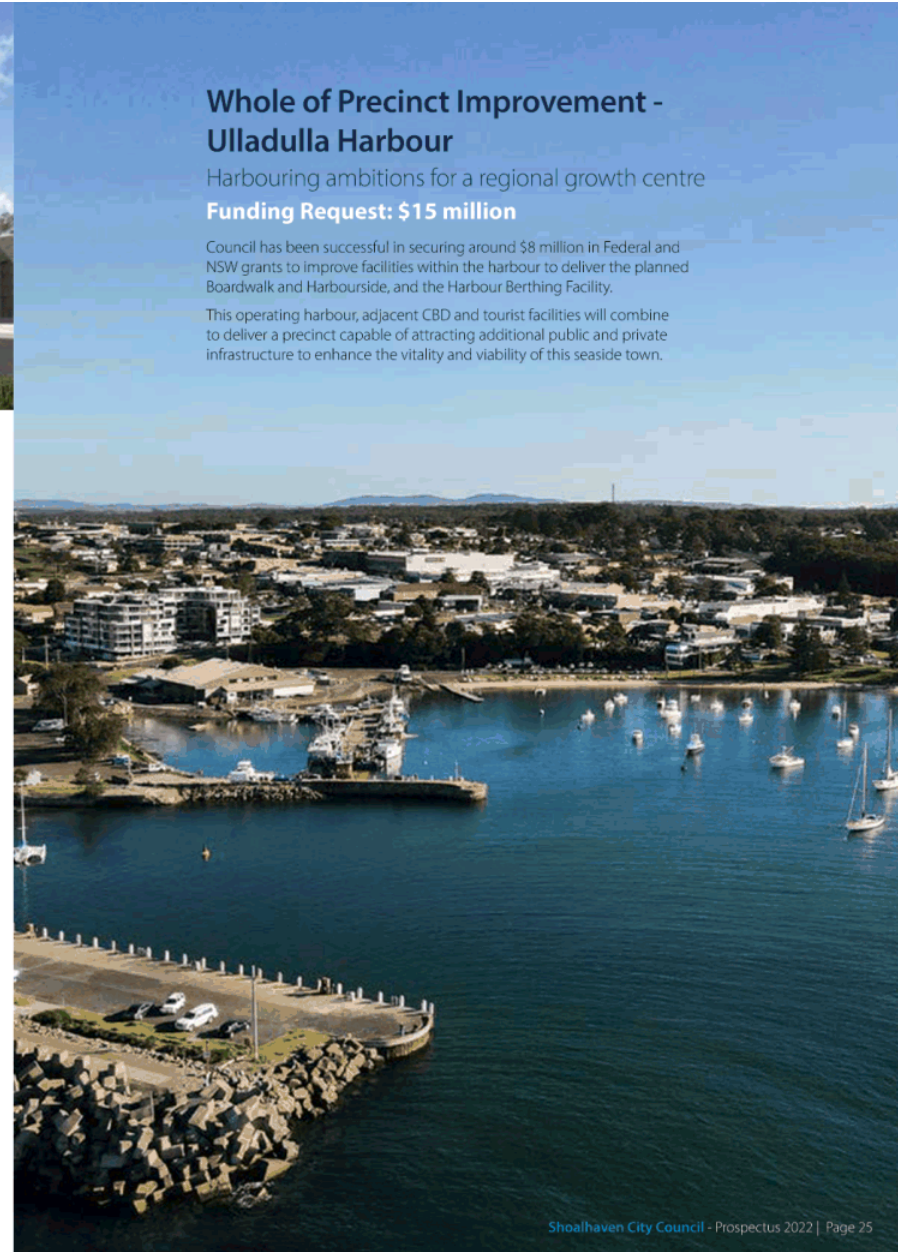
### Whole of Precinct Improvement - Ulladulla Harbour

Harbouring ambitions for a regional growth centre

**Funding Request: \$15 million**

Council has been successful in securing around \$8 million in Federal and NSW grants to improve facilities within the harbour to deliver the planned Boardwalk and Harbourside, and the Harbour Berthing Facility.

This operating harbour, adjacent CBD and tourist facilities will combine to deliver a precinct capable of attracting additional public and private infrastructure to enhance the vitality and viability of this seaside town.



IMPROVING FACILITIES - \$128.8 MILLION

## Marriott Park Nowra

Green space for a growing CBD

**Funding Request: \$6 million**

Marriott Park is located within the growing Nowra CBD. Council has created a Master Plan to create a green calming space in a strategic location.

As part of the precinct, Council received funding through Variety, the Children's Charity, to design the playground in alignment with the Everyone Can Play guidelines. Concept design for the play space involved extensive consultation with the community and is now endorsed by Council.

Council has also secured \$300,000 from the NSW Government and further cross-government collaboration will be sought.

The project aims to identify opportunities to increase the use of the Marriott Park, create a safe and welcoming atmosphere and to provide the necessary infrastructure to service the site into the future.



## Boongaree Precinct – Later Stages

Transforming how we plan for sports and play

**Funding Request: \$10 million**

Boongaree is identified as one of Shoalhaven City Council's Destination Parks within the historical town of Berry, most recently a hub for new housing development, creating significant pressure on local open space. Boongaree aims to transform the existing local sporting and recreational area into an integrated nature-based youth, family, sports and recreation facility that provides a gateway attraction to the Shoalhaven Local Government Area.

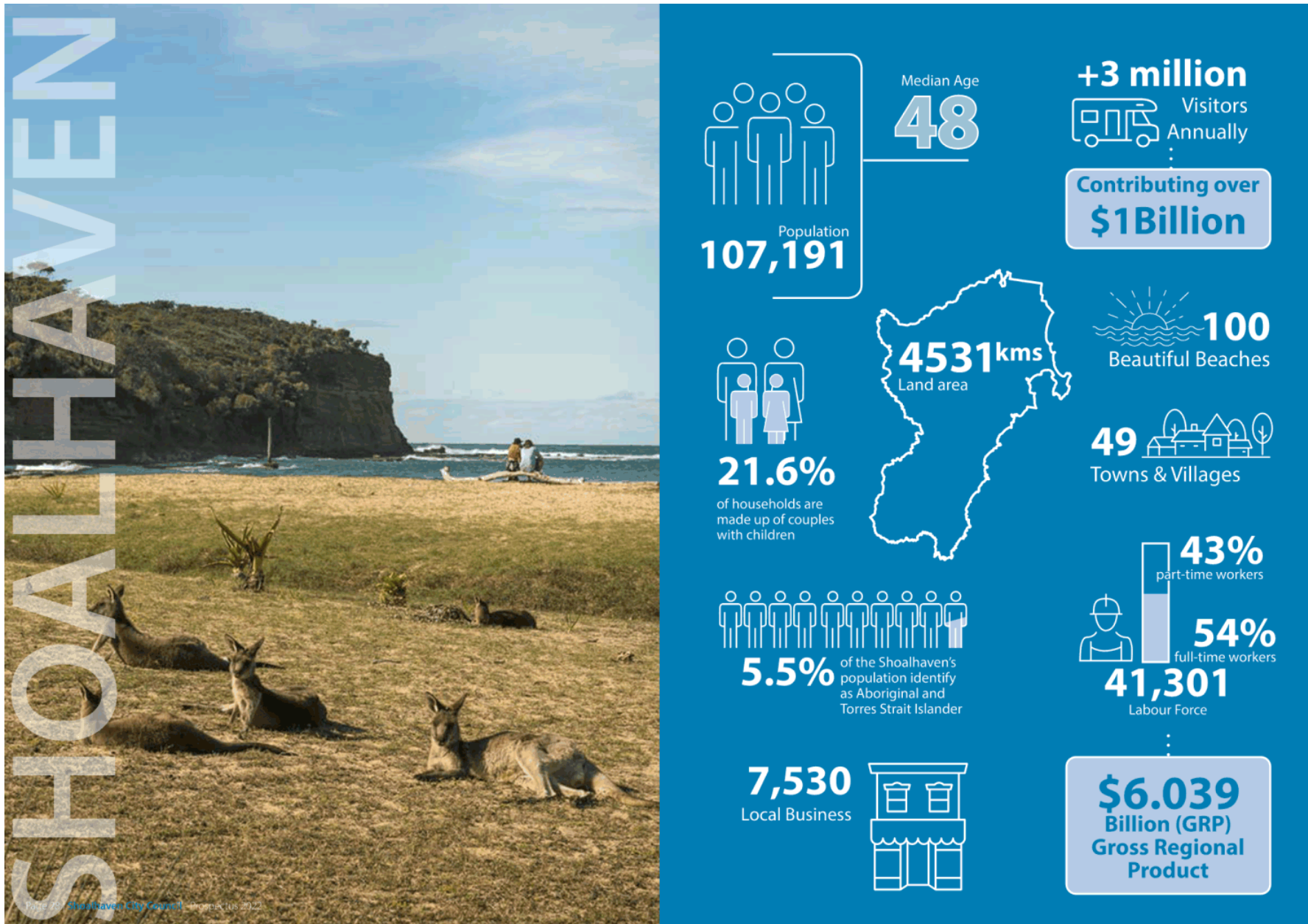
The Rotary Nature Play Park and Learn to Ride facility formed stage 1 of the project, which opened in January 2022. Future stages include a skate park and pump track, cricket nets, netball courts, reconciliation garden, upgrades to fields and a dog off leash area.

The net present value of the project is estimated at \$24.7 million over a 20-year period, with a cost-benefit ratio of \$2.73 based on a 7 per cent discount. This means that for every \$1 invested, the project is expected to generate \$2.73 of economic and community benefit.

This project will create an asset to the sporting, recreational and community needs of the region, generating a range of economic and social benefits:

- A four-fold increase in visitation to the site - from around 46,000 to almost 175,000
- An increase in localised expenditure of more than \$4 million - money that directly benefits the myriad of businesses within the Berry area and surrounding economies
- The expenditure will create new jobs in the order of 41 full-time equivalent positions - sustained over the longer-term, and including 32 direct, as well as a further 10 indirect jobs
- Non-quantifiable benefits of social interaction, well-being, and inclusion





**SOUTH NOWRA INDUSTRIAL LANDS - \$30 MILLION**



## South Nowra Industrial Lands

More growth, more jobs, help secure our future

**Funding Request: \$30 million (out of \$150 million)**

An additional 110 hectares of land at South Nowra was rezoned to Industrial in 2014 by Shoalhaven City Council.

To bring this land to a marketable state approximately \$150 million is required in infrastructure build - roads, drainage, water, sewer and electricity.

An infrastructure facilitation fund needs to be established by all 3 levels of government to kick

start this vital employment precinct. Capable of being reimbursed and delivering further infrastructure Council will be seeking seed capital loans to enable the facilitation of this project.

If northern Shoalhaven is to increase in population by 50,000, then approximately 10,000 jobs need to be generated at South Nowra. The future of Shoalhaven is dependent on this project which needs to commence roll out within five years.

**REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - \$520 MILLION**

## Regional Opportunities

Supporting Shoalhaven

**Funding Request: \$520 million**

**As the second major trade gateway for Greater Sydney, enhanced connectivity with Western Sydney and regional NSW is critical to attracting manufacturing and service industries to the Shoalhaven to create jobs and capitalise on the visitor economy.**

Road and rail linkages to Sydney, Western Sydney and Canberra are key enablers – promoting the transport of goods to key markets or export ports and facilitating the movement of people into commercial centres and leisure locations.

These future-building road and rail linkages are the foundation for other transformative infrastructure which will be required as population booms down the coast.



REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - \$520 MILLION



## Improving Main Road 92 Inland Freight Corridor

Securing heavy vehicle freight route – Nerriga to Tarago

**Funding Request: \$150 million**

Currently, the movement of HML (Higher Mass Level) vehicles is being limited by the requirement of a 15-tonne weight limit on certain sections of the route between Nerriga and Tarago.

An upgrade to this 55km stretch would allow both general access freight and HML vehicles to cross the Illawarra escarpment between Nowra and Goulburn/Yass/Canberra via Nerriga and Tarago.

The project builds on improvements made to the Nowra-Nerriga section Main Road 92, with the goal to be established as a heavy vehicle freight route from the NSW mid-South Coast to the inland national road network of the Hume Highway and the Federal/Monaro Highway.

Fulfillment would improve efficiency and save costs, growing the regional and national economies and providing business with the opportunity to expand.

## Picton Road Upgrade

South west to the coast

**Funding Request: \$150 million**

Although outside the Gilmore electorate, Picton Road is a critical transport corridor linking the Illawarra-Shoalhaven region with Sydney's South West and the inland highways.

Picton Road forms part of what is currently the only crossing of the Illawarra escarpment for HML vehicles and all freight out of Nowra and the Shoalhaven region uses Picton Road to enter Victoria and southern NSW.

Picton Road links the region to Port Kembla, the rapidly expanding industrial precincts of Western Sydney, and the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal, and is critical in the movement of goods and people to and from Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and western NSW.

It is also a vital connection to the lucrative tourism markets of north-western Sydney and the new Western Sydney Airport.

With all classes of vehicles sharing this National Key Freight Route, the safety aspects of this link are paramount.

## Princes Highway Continuous Upgrades

Nowra to the border

**Funding Request: \$20 million per year**

Relied upon by more than half a million locals and a welcome mat for almost 4 million visitors each year, the Princes Highway should be recognised as a 'Road of National Significance' demonstrated by being a critical component of a thriving South Coast NSW, which is the NSW State's third-largest regional economy.

Since 2011, the Australian and NSW Governments have invested \$2.5 billion upgrading the Princes Highway to create safer and more efficient journeys. This has transformed and better-connected communities, employed thousands of locals, improved safety, eased traffic congestion and grown regional economies.

The focus is now on the future, with the Australian and NSW Governments committing \$1.5 billion to upgrade the Princes Highway between Nowra and the Victorian border. An ongoing commitment of 80/20 Federal and NSW State funding is needed to maintain this important asset. Five priority projects have already progressed to the design phase including Jervis Bay Road and Princes Highway intersection, Jervis Bay to Sussex Inlet Road upgrade, Milton Ulladulla Bypass, Burrill Lake to Batemans Bay upgrade and Moruya Bypass.

A program of continuous safety improvements is required to be delivered annually south of the Shoalhaven River. Council seeks a commitment by all candidates to support projects and programs that deliver safety improvements to the Princes Highway and major arterial roads across the Gilmore electorate and adjoining regions.

## South Coast Rail Upgrades

Passing loop and Bomaderry yard extension

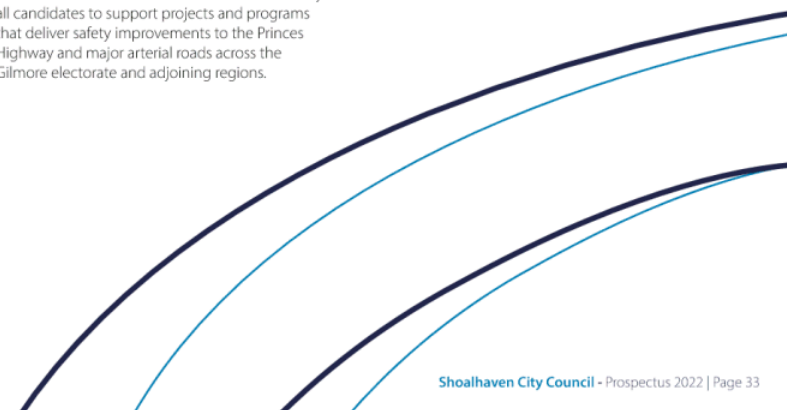
**Funding Request: \$200 million**

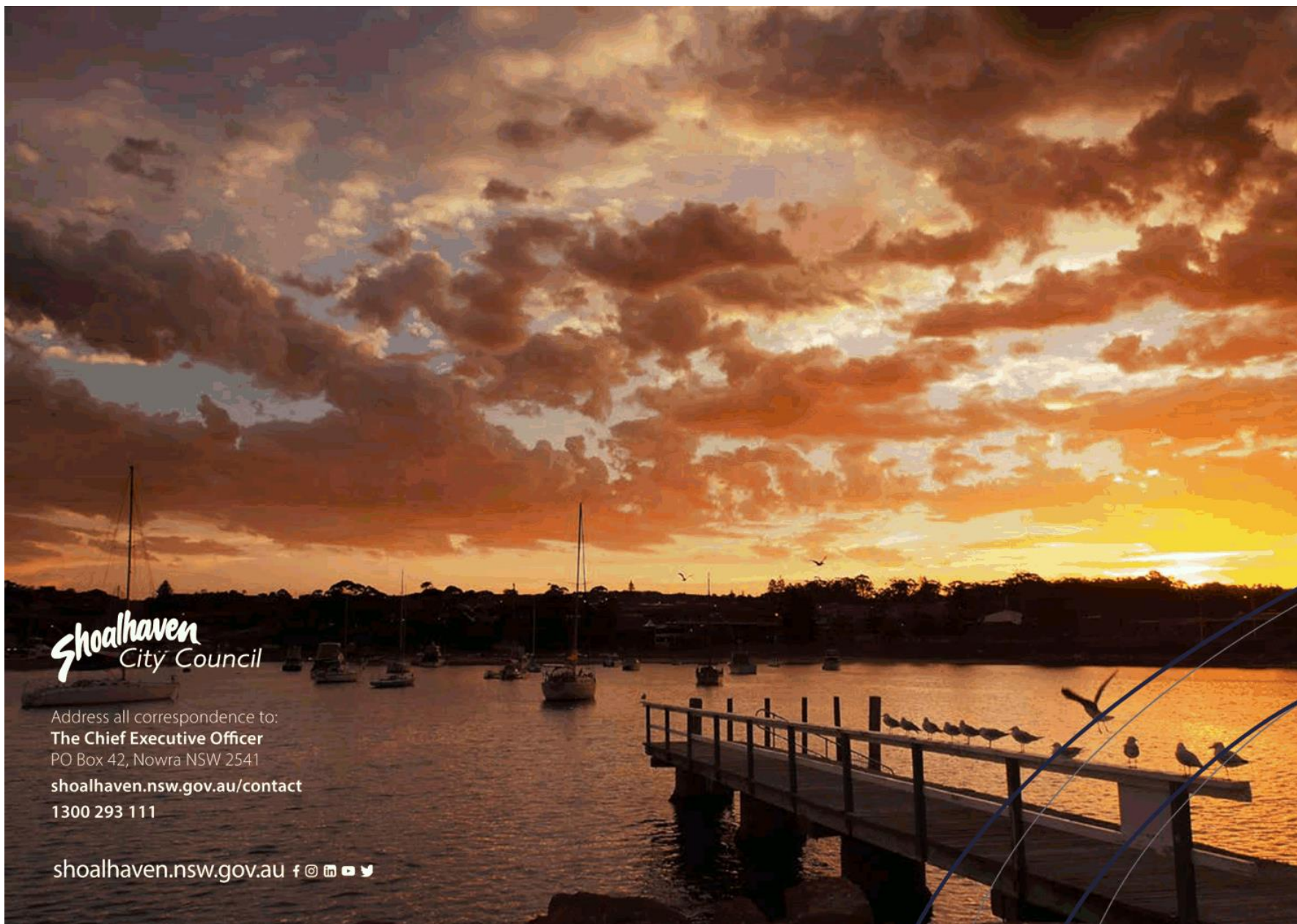
Several upgrades are essential to optimise the efficiency of rail services to and from Bomaderry.

A crossing passing loop near Toolijooa to duplicate the rail line between Berry and Gerringong would result in a greater frequency of both freight and passenger services for South Coast commuters.

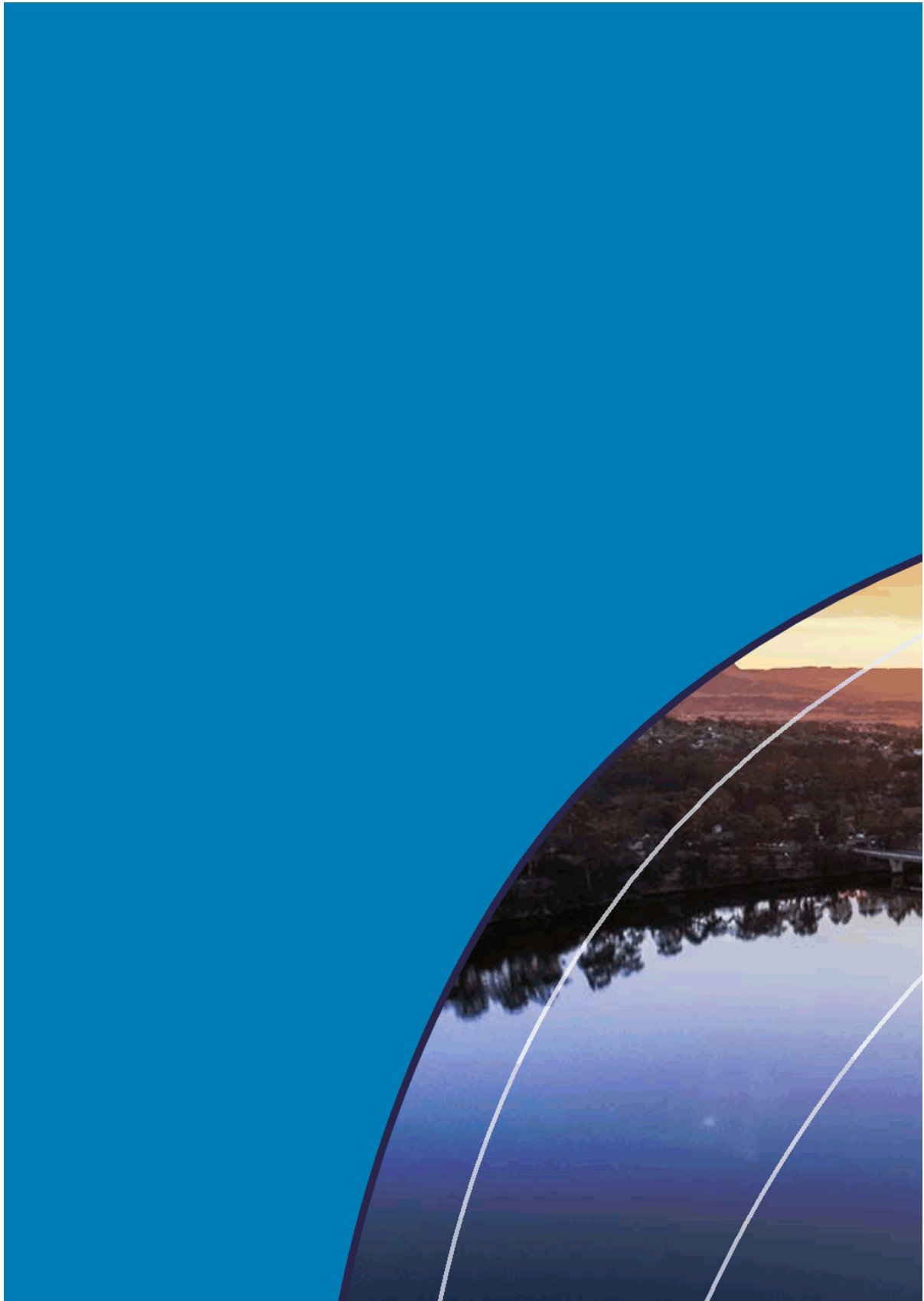
At Bomaderry Station an additional platform is required so that a train can arrive before another departs. The home yard needs to be extended to the north to enable a 1200m freight train to arrive at Bomaderry and be off the main South Coastline.

A train turnaround facility on the South Coast rail line between Unanderra and Coniston Junction would improve freight productivity to and from Bomaderry.









CL22.141 - Attachment 5