

ORDINARY MEETING	7
27 JULY 2022	

COUNCIL MOTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE 2022 LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CAIRNS 17–19 OCTOBER 2022

Kylie Arantz | 65/9/3-01- | #7005545

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 1. Endorse and table the motions attached to this report to the 2022 Queensland Local Government Association Conference;**
- 2. Appoint Mayor Manning and Deputy Mayor Cr James as delegates for the 2022 LGAQ Annual Conference;**
- 3. Give delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to make amendments if required to the motions.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the following draft motions; and the appointment of two Councillors as delegates at the 2022 LGAQ Annual Conference

Motion 1 – Visitor Levy – Funding the Future of Queensland Tourism

Motion 2 – Body Corporate Fees and Sale of Land Process

Motion 3 – Continuation of the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Program (RRTAP)

Motion 4 – State waste levy revenue hypothecation transparency

Motion 5 – Non-competitive funding to harmonise kerbside bin collection services

Motion 6 – Roadmap and non-competitive funding to implement actions from Regional Waste Plans

Motion 7 – Social and Affordable Housing - Additional Measures to Reduce Housing Stress for Vulnerable Residents

BACKGROUND:

The LGAQ Annual Conference will be held 17-19 October 2022 at the Cairns Convention Centre. The event brings together Councils from all parts of the state for professional development and networking, and to debate issues of importance to their communities.

Motions for the LGAQ Conference are required to be with the Association by 10 August 2022 and will be submitted using the LGAQs LG Online system.

The theme for this year's conference is "Liveability" – liveability of our communities is at the heart of what we do as Councils every day. Every Queensland community deserves to be a 'liveable one'.

COMMENT:

Officers will conduct a briefing session to be held with Councillors on the consolidated list of motions once the agenda has been released from the LGAQ.

As Cairns Regional Council has two votes at the LGAQ annual conference it is eligible to send two delegates but additional Councillors can also attend as observers. This report requests that two delegates are appointed to attend the LGAQ annual conference and vote on behalf of Council on motions.

Council's General Policy Conference / Meetings require that for any conference where delegates are required to vote on Council's behalf, authorisation to attend and act as Council's delegate is a decision of the full Council.

OPTIONS:

Option 1:

That Council:

1. Endorse and table the motions attached to this report to the 2022 Queensland Local Government Association Conference;
2. Appoint two Councillors as delegates for the 2022 LGAQ Annual Conference; Mayor Manning and Deputy Mayor Cr James.
3. Give delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to make amendments if required to the motions.

or

Option 2:

That Council:

1. Does not adopt the recommendation in its entirety and makes recommendations to change any or all of the three points.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The General Policy prescribes what expenses are allowable and there is adequate budget provision in the 2022/2023 budget for conference attendance by Councillors.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

In addition to acting as Council's representatives, this will also be a professional development and networking opportunity for the Councillors who attend. This will have a flow on positive impact on Council's ability to understand and deliver outcomes for the community.

Natural Environment:

The draft motions will ensure that appropriate strategies are in place to protect human health and the environment.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Council's activities are consistent with Corporate Plan Focus 5 – Focused Council:
"Build an effective partnership with community and governments."

Statutory:

Council representation at the LGAQ conference is in accordance with the Councillors responsibilities as defined within the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Policy:

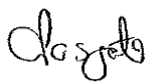
Councillor representation at this conference is in accordance with Council's general policy on Conference Attendance by Councillors

CONSULTATION:

The decision regarding Council delegates to attend the LGAQ conference and the draft conference motions is to be determined by the full Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

List of Council motions to be submitted to the LGAQ.



Christine Posgate
 General Manager Human Resources & Organisational Change

Motion 1

Visitor Levy – Funding the Future of Queensland Tourism

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Nick Masasso, Director Economic Development & Advocacy
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	Paul Cranch, Lead – Trade & Investment
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	TTNQ
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
Does this motion have state-wide relevance? Yes	
Title of motion (required)	Visitor Levy – Funding the Future of Queensland Tourism
Motion (required)	That the LGAQ calls on the Queensland Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact legislative change within section 94 of the Local Government Act to provide local governments with the ability to implement a visitor levy ('opt-in' model), with resulting funds to go directly back into the local tourism sector, driving more visitors, more spending and more jobs. • Establish a visitor levy Advisory Group through which Councils who wish to pursue the levy can work with the State to determine a pathway forward.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	Legislative change within section 94 of the Local Government Act to provide local governments with the ability to implement a visitor levy guided by the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor pays; • 'Line-of-sight' expenditure – revenue raised is hypothecated for tourism purposes; and • Locally (by destination) determined charging basis and amount/rate. <p>The visitor levy recognises that while new funding sources are required by the tourism sector for destination marketing purposes, one model for the</p>

	<p>whole state is unlikely to work and any mechanism needs to be flexible/able to be varied at the local council/ destination level to suit local circumstances.</p>
<p>Background (required) 350 word limit</p>	<p>On 21 June 2022, the State-appointed independent Tourism Industry Reference Panel released its final report, <i>Towards 2032 - Action Plan for Tourism Recovery</i>, which includes a recommendation for legislative change to provide local governments with the ability to implement a visitor tourism levy (recommendation 65).</p> <p>During the first half of the decade to 2019, Queensland lost significant market share to overseas beach competitors such as Bali, Thailand, Hawaii and Fiji while domestically, in 2019 Victoria overtook Queensland for total overnight visitor expenditure for the first time.</p> <p>If Queensland was to restore its market share to 2019 levels and maintain this through to 2032, it is estimated the sector would generate an additional \$12 billion annually by 2032.</p> <p>In its report, the Panel noted that achieving this ambition requires a mix of complementary and sustainable funding sources for destination marketing, including user-pays revenue, to extend the core investment made by the State to regional tourism bodies.</p> <p>To restore market share to pre-2019 levels, the Panel recommended the State consider the levy as a means of securing additional sustainable funding, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any levy is entirely voluntary for local councils to adopt and exclusive to their local government area; • the basis of any levy or charges would be determined by local government to suit dynamics of the local market; • funds raised are dedicated to supporting the promotion and/or development of the visitor economy within the specified Council area; and • any levy must be transparent and 100% reinvested into tourism development and marketing. <p>The rates power in the Local Government Act (section 94) provides a model for the introduction of the levy, which stipulates that:</p> <p>(1) <i>Each local government—</i></p>

- (a) *must levy general rates on all rateable land within the local government area; and*
- (b) *may levy—*
- i. special rates and charges; and*
 - ii. utility charges; and*
 - iii. separate rates and charges.*

It is proposed that the levy be structured as an 'opt-in' model in the style of section 94(1)(b).

By way of example, in the Cairns LGA alone it is estimated a visitor levy of 2.5% on short term accommodation would raise more than \$16 million per annum for destination marketing and tourism industry development, delivering an estimated \$176 million incremental impact to GRP.

Motion 2

Body Corporate Fees and Sale of Land Process

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Lisa Whitton – Chief Financial Officer
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
✓ Does this motion have state-wide relevance? Yes	
Title of motion (required)	Body Corporate Fees and Sale of Land Process
Motion (required)	That the LGAQ request the Attorney General to commit to directly resolving the long-standing body corporate debt and sale of land issue as a stand-alone issue, and that, at a minimum, require the Working Group to give urgent and high priority to addressing the issue of debt recovery recommendations.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	A commitment to resolve the legislative ambiguity in the <i>Local Government Regulation 2012</i> and the <i>City of Brisbane Regulation 2012</i> regarding the sale of land for overdue rates recovery where unpaid body corporate contributions exceed the value of the sale proceeds.
Background (required) 350 word limit	<p>There is a conflict between Body Corporate legislation and Local Government legislation in that Local Government legislation, requires Council to transfer a property sold under the arrears of rates provisions free of encumbrance, yet the incoming owner in fact risks incurring a continuing encumbrance via the unpaid body corporate fees under Body Corporate legislation.</p> <p>LGAQ and affected Councils have been making representations seeking a solution to this issue since at least 2014.</p> <p>Prudent purchasers are not prepared to take the risk of purchasing property which is potentially subject to onerous Body Corporate fee debt.</p>

Equally, Councils do not want to incur the costs and consumption of resources involved in repeated sale of land for arrears of rates action where there is no prospect of a sale.

This contrasts with the treatment of registered mortgages. When the mortgage is dissolved by the legislated Local Government sale of land process, the loan agreement with the defaulting ratepayer remains but is unsecured by the mortgage. The financier is able to continue to pursue the borrower for any unpaid monies as an unsecured debt, and the purchaser does not inherit the debt.

Motion 3

Continuation of the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Program (RRTAP)

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Steve Cosatto
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	Robert Ferguson
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Does this motion have state-wide relevance? (This is a required field)	
Title of motion (required)	Continuation of the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Program (RRTAP)
Motion (required)	That LGAQ lobby the State Government to reintroduce the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Program (RRTAP)
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	Reintroduce of the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Program (RRTAP) and for the program to be maintained until viable local markets for secondary materials are developed
Background (required) 350 word limit	<p>The Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package (RRTAP) was released in 2019 to provide \$6 million in funding to support resource recovery and recycling in regional Queensland.</p> <p>Grants of up to \$250,000 were available to regional businesses, councils and charities to help fund the transport cost component of sending recyclable material from regional Queensland to facilities (within QLD or interstate), where it can be recovered or processed and turned into new products.</p> <p>There were 32 successful projects transporting an estimate 80,000 tonnes of material for recycling.</p> <p>The RRTAP funding period ended on 30 June 2021.</p>

There are unique challenges when recycling and re-using waste in Queensland's regional communities and this package was designed to assist with the cost of accessing recycling services.

The program seeks to:

- provide interim support for regional Queensland to divert more resources from landfill and recycle additional material
- facilitate recycling which is currently unviable due to transport costs
- reduce the environmental and social impacts of waste on regional communities

Motion 4

State waste levy revenue hypothecation transparency

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Steve Cosatto
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	Robert Ferguson
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
✓ Does this motion have state-wide relevance?	
Title of motion (required)	State waste levy revenue hypothecation transparency
Motion (required)	That LGAQ lobby the State Government to commit to full public and auditable transparency on the 70% hypothecation of revenue raised by the state waste levy.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximising reinvestment back into the waste and resource recovery industry 2. Development of non-competitive funding structures to facilitate long term investment beyond the development of Regional Waste Management Plans 3. Establishing direct strategic pathway to draw clear links between the anticipated impact of the reduction in local government advance payment and the flow of future grant funding commitments 4. Increased focus of funding priorities beyond infrastructure construction towards non-infrastructure strategic projects such as business case development and implementation, building behaviour change models / delivering education campaigns and collaboration / joint contract development and delivery

Background

(required) 350 word limit

The waste disposal levy commenced on 1 July 2019 and applies to 39 local government areas, covering more than 90 per cent of the state's waste generation and population. The levy is paid by landfill operators on waste disposed to landfill.

The 2021/22 State Budget highlights that revenue from the waste disposal levy is estimated to be \$331 million in 2021–22.

This revenue is forecast to grow to in excess of \$400 million per year in subsequent financial years reflecting regulated levy rate increases and reduced payments to local councils. Estimated revenue over 5 years is \$1,930 million.

The explanatory notes states that 70% of proceeds from the waste levy will be used for resource recovery and other programs that reduce the impact of waste and protect the environment and local communities.

The government is providing funding of \$964.2 million over 5 years for Queensland's Resource Recovery Sector Transformation, including implementation of the South East Queensland Waste Management Plan, Regional Waste Management Plans, payments to councils to reduce the household impact of the waste levy as well as state wide programs and regulatory activities.

Allocation of the 70% hypothecation of funds is not identified in the Budget Papers.

Motion 5

Non-competitive funding to harmonise kerbside bin collection services

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Steve Cosatto
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	Robert Ferguson
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
✓ Does this motion have state-wide relevance? (This is a required field)	
Title of motion (required)	Non-competitive funding to harmonise kerbside bin collection services
Motion (required)	That LGAQ lobby the State Government to commit to a non-competitive funding program for local governments to facilitate harmonisation of kerbside bin collection services.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of detailed funding programs to support the move towards standardised one, two or three bin systems (for example funding for red lids, bins, kitchen caddies, education and engagement) 2. Development of better practise kerbside collection services guidelines to present options for kerbside collection services (for example bin size, collection frequency, implementation, communications, monitoring and evaluation) 3. Flexibility to recognise that different local governments have particular characteristics that will influence decisions around collection systems options 4. Development of state-wide education campaign and programs to support local community transition to new collection systems

Background

(required) 350 word limit

The National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019 identified the importance of a coordinated approach to waste and recycling initiatives across Australia.

In 2021, the Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM) agreed to a suite of actions to meet the National Waste Policy Action Plan targets, including nationally consistent municipal kerbside waste collections, in principle support a roll-out of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste collection services and to implement standards within each state jurisdiction for kerbside recycling.

Recognising that harmonisation will potentially be very expensive for local government, funding reform is required to ensure actions are driving positive change in waste management to ensure the National Waste Policy Action Plan targets are achieved.

Motion 6

Roadmap and non-competitive funding to implement actions from Regional Waste Plans

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Steve Cosatto
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	Robert Ferguson
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
✓ Does this motion have state-wide relevance?	
Title of motion (required)	Roadmap and non-competitive funding to implement actions from Regional Waste Plans
Motion (required)	That LGAQ lobby the State Government to commit to a roadmap and non-competitive funding program for local governments to implement actions from Regional Waste Plans.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	Introduction of non-competitive funding programs for local governments to implement actions from the Regional Waste Plans.
Background (required) 350 word limit	<p>The State Government is providing funding of \$964.2 million over 5 years for Queensland's Resource Recovery Sector Transformation, including implementation of the South East Queensland Waste Management Plan, Regional Waste Management Plans, payments to councils to reduce the household impact of the waste levy as well as statewide programs and regulatory activities.</p> <p>The State Government are providing \$500,000 to establish a joint Project Management Office with CoMSEQ to drive delivery of the South East Queensland Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>No funding commitment has been made by the State Government for investment beyond the development of other regional waste management plans.</p>

Motion 7

Social and Affordable Housing - Additional Measures to Reduce Housing Stress for Vulnerable Residents

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Rachel Wicks
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	
Submitting council (required)	Cairns Regional Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	
Date of council resolution (required)	27/07/2022
✓ Does this motion have state-wide relevance?	
Title of motion (required)	Measures to Reduce Housing Stress for Vulnerable Residents
Motion (required)	That the Local Government Association of Queensland lobby the State Government to implement additional measures aimed at addressing the housing crises for vulnerable residents across Queensland
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	Commitment to implement additional measures to alleviate acute housing stress particularly among vulnerable Queenslanders until such a time that conditions ease.
Background (required) 350 word limit	<p>Queensland is facing unparalleled levels of housing stress due to a highly competitive market. As supply outstrips demand, vulnerable households on low to moderate incomes face unaffordable rent increases coupled with record low vacancy rates and are effectively squeezed out of the market.</p> <p>In a 2021 survey of ten social service sectors in Cairns, 76% of service users identified the key reason for seeking help was due to inadequate housing/accommodation. Of those presenting for other reasons, 75% were also experiencing housing stress and instability as an underlying issue. Further, in a recent online survey of 595 residents across Cairns, almost a quarter of respondents said their housing</p>

situation was worse off compared to the previous 12 months, with 15.5% describing their current situation as 'poor'. Across Queensland, specialist housing and homelessness services describe how the 'unprecedented housing crises' is driving unsustainable demand for assistance.

This situation highlights the urgency to bring forward commitments with the potential to increase supply for vulnerable groups and sustain existing tenancies in the immediate to short-term. Until conditions ease, through partnerships with the social services sector interim measures may include:

- An immediate and substantial increase in the number of head leasing subsidies.
- Expansion of the number of providers to administer increased subsidised headleases, across both Community Housing Providers and specialist and Homelessness services.
- Targeted strategies to attract private lessors to offer rental properties to headleasing organisations.

Sector partnerships with REIQ members to increase supports available to vulnerable tenants in the private rental market.