

## 6.2 ALGA National General Assembly

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**Report Presenter:** Jack Hanna, Executive Officer Councillor Liaison

**Executive Leader:** Kirsty Pearce, Chief of Staff, Office of Chief Executive Officer

### Executive Summary

11. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) will be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025.
12. The NGA provides an annual forum for local government to discuss and advance issues of national significance to local government. Member councils have the opportunity of submitting motions for consideration and debate in a forum involving local government representatives from across Australia.
13. This report proposes City of Melbourne participation in the 2025 NGA and lodgement of a motion on the topic of current and future productivity of Australian Capital Cities.

### Recommendation from management

4. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 4.1. Nominates Councillors to represent the City of Melbourne at the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025 at an estimated cost of \$3800 per participant.
  - 4.2. Approves the submission of the motion included in Attachment 1 for consideration at the National General Assembly.
  - 4.3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial changes to Attachment 1 prior to submitting it to the Australian Local Government Association.

**Purpose**

5. To seek Future Melbourne Committee approval on City of Melbourne (CoM) participation at the ALGA NGA which will be held in Canberra between 24 and 27 June 2025.

**Background**

6. The ALGA holds an annual NGA in Canberra as a national forum for local government across Australia. The Assembly brings together councillors from across the country and can include addresses from party leaders, ministers and shadow ministers, keynote speakers on a range of topics, discussions on policy issues and debate on motions from councils. Motions from councils guide the ALGA board in its advocacy work to the Australian Government.
7. In previous years, representation has occurred through participation by a number of Councillors to support motions lodged by CoM and in debate on other matters.

**Key considerations**

8. The theme for the 2025 NGA is *National Priorities Need Local Solutions*. The theme recognises that as the closest government to communities, councils offer an understanding of local challenges and opportunities and, if sustainably funded, can provide place-based solutions to a range of national priorities including affordable housing, energy transition, road safety, increasing productivity, and improved health and wellbeing.
9. A Discussion Paper supporting the theme can be found on the ALGA's website [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au).
10. Following discussion by Councillors, it is proposed that a motion be submitted calling on the Australian Government's Productivity Commission to investigate the current and future productivity of Australia's Capital Cities and their competitiveness compared to global peers. The motion, included as Attachment 1, centres around the need to look at the efficiency and appropriateness of current finance and governance arrangements as it relates to infrastructure and service delivery.
11. The 2025 NGA will be held after the Federal election on 3 May and this will also provide the following:
  - 11.1. An ability to focus on opportunities for councils to work with the next Australian Government to deliver local solutions of national priority.
  - 11.2. CoM representatives to advance key advocacy and partnership priorities and opportunities for Melbourne.
12. The cost per participant is estimated at \$3800 and includes airfare, accommodation, registration fees and incidentals.

**Legal**

13. There are no direct legal implications as a result of the recommendation from management.

**Finance**

14. The cost associated with representation in Canberra is estimated at \$3800 per participant. This includes airfare (\$1100), accommodation (\$1000), registration fees for conference and associated activities (\$1200) and incidental costs (\$500).

**Conflict of interest**

15. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

**Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities**

16. The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* as it does not raise any human rights issues.

**Health and Safety**

17. Councillors travelling to Canberra will undertake personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to interstate travel.

**Consultation**

18. In developing this proposal, no consultation was required.

**Relevance to Council Plan and Council Policies**

19. Participation in the NGA will allow representatives to advocate a CoM position on matters included in the program and through ancillary discussions with government representatives.

**Social and environmental impacts**

20. No social and environmental impacts were identified in developing this proposal.
21. The carbon emissions resulting from air travel to Canberra will be offset with the purchase of credits

**Attachment List**

1. Attachment 1 - Proposed CoM motion for 2025 ALGA NGA [6.2.1 - 1 page]

**Proposed City of Melbourne motion – ALGA National General Assembly, June 2025**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Current and future productivity of Australian Capital Cities</b>
<b>Motion</b>	That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government’s Productivity Commission to investigate the current and future productivity of Australia’s Capital Cities and their competitiveness compared to global peers. Specifically, this should include the efficiency and appropriateness of current finance and governance arrangements as it relates to infrastructure and service delivery.
<b>National Objective</b>	<p>This is a national issue because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Capital Cities are facing increased economic, social, and cultural competition internationally as other global cities seek to improve their relevance as global centres.</li> <li>• Nearly 90 per cent of Australia’s GDP is produced in the Capital Cities. Australia’s economic success depends on successful cities.</li> <li>• Funding allocated to Australia’s Capital Cities is often constrained by the discretionary decision making in State and Territory budgets, limiting their ability to deliver essential infrastructure and services which may be more appropriately managed at the Capital City scale.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Arguments</b>	<p>The motion seeks the Productivity Commission – Australia’s principal review and advisory body – to investigate the productivity of Australia’s Capital Cities in their current governance arrangements.</p> <p>Productivity Commission may seek to understand the benefits of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger urban and regional planning</li> <li>• Increased economic competitiveness</li> <li>• Better service delivery</li> <li>• Stronger governance and strategic leadership</li> <li>• More equitable resource distribution</li> <li>• Different models for city governance including Metropolitan Authorities that coordinate infrastructure and services at the Capital City level</li> <li>• Improved efficiency and cost savings</li> </ul> <p>Examples may include the failure to coordinate and align transport, planning, population growth and economic policy to address challenges such as high housing costs and long commute times that reduce productivity and redistribute income and wealth away from the productive sectors of the economy.</p> <p>Australia’s eight Capital cities – Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth – are home to more than 75 per cent of Australia’s population and produce nearly 90 per cent of Australia’s economic output.</p>