

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday 9 April 2013  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Level 6, Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde  
**Time:** To commence at the conclusion of the reconvened Council Meeting of 26 March 2013

**NOTICE OF BUSINESS**

**Item** **Page**

**LATE ITEMS**

13 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 16 to  
19 June 2013 ..... 1

**LATE ITEMS****13 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 16 to 19  
June 2013**

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**Report prepared by:** Councillor Support Coordinator  
**File No.:** CLR/07/8/73/1 - BP13/521

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**REPORT SUMMARY**

The 2013 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference will be held in Canberra between Sunday, 16 June and Wednesday, 19 June 2013. This report is provided to Council for consideration of attendance by the Mayor (or his nominee), noting the Acting General Manager (or her nominee) will be attending the Conference.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council consider the attendance of the Mayor (or his nominee) and other Councillor/s to attend the National General Assembly of Local Government held in Canberra from Sunday, 16 June and Wednesday, 19 June 2013.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Program for the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra from 16 to 19 June 2013
- 2 Councillor Attendance at Conferences Guidelines

Report Prepared By:

**Carol Mikaelian**  
**Councillor Support Coordinator**

Report Approved By:

**Roy Newsome**  
**Group Manager - Corporate Services**

## ITEM 13 (continued)

### Discussion

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is convened by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). The NGA attracts around 850 participants from Councils across Australia. The Assembly is the premier event in the local government calendar and is an opportunity for representatives from local government to debate policy and strategic issues of national significance and hear from political and academic speakers on current issues.

Previously, the Mayor and the General Manager (or their nominees) attended the NGA. In 2012, the Mayor, Councillor Etmekdjian attended the Conference with Council's then General Manager, John Neish and Terry Dodds, then Group Manager – Public Works.

The theme for the Conference this year is “Foundations for the Future: Twenty 13”, with the focus on local government's future including the financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

A notice was placed in the Councillor Information Bulletin dated 14 March 2013 inviting interested Councillors to indicate their interest to attend the Conference by Tuesday, 26 March 2013. The Mayor, Councillor Petch has expressed an interest to attend this Conference.

A copy of the NGA program is **ATTACHED**.

At the Council Meeting on 12 March 2013 Council endorsed three motions to be submitted for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

### Policy Implications

The Policy on the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Mayor and Other Councillors sets out the entitlements for Councillors attending such Conferences.

**ATTACHED** are the Guidelines for Councillor Attendance at Conferences. The Guidelines provide that in addition to the Local Government Association Conference and the Australian Local Government Conference, every Councillor is entitled to attend a conference in NSW, Canberra, metropolitan Brisbane or metropolitan Melbourne. The Guideline provides that a Councillor can attend more than one conference per year but this determination will be dependent on budgetary constraints and with an emphasis on ensuring that all Councillors have equal access to attend conferences.

### Financial Implications

The early-bird registration cost for the Conference is \$899. The early-bird registration date closes on 22 April 2013, after which the cost is increased to \$999 if received by 31 May 2013 and \$1,200 if received after 31 May 2013.

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Three night's accommodation and travel expenses will be approximately \$1,150 per attendee.

Registration to attend the Buffet Dinner on 17 June 2013 and the General Assembly Dinner on 18 June 2013 will be \$230.00 per person.

The total cost for attending this conference is approximately \$2,279 per attendee.

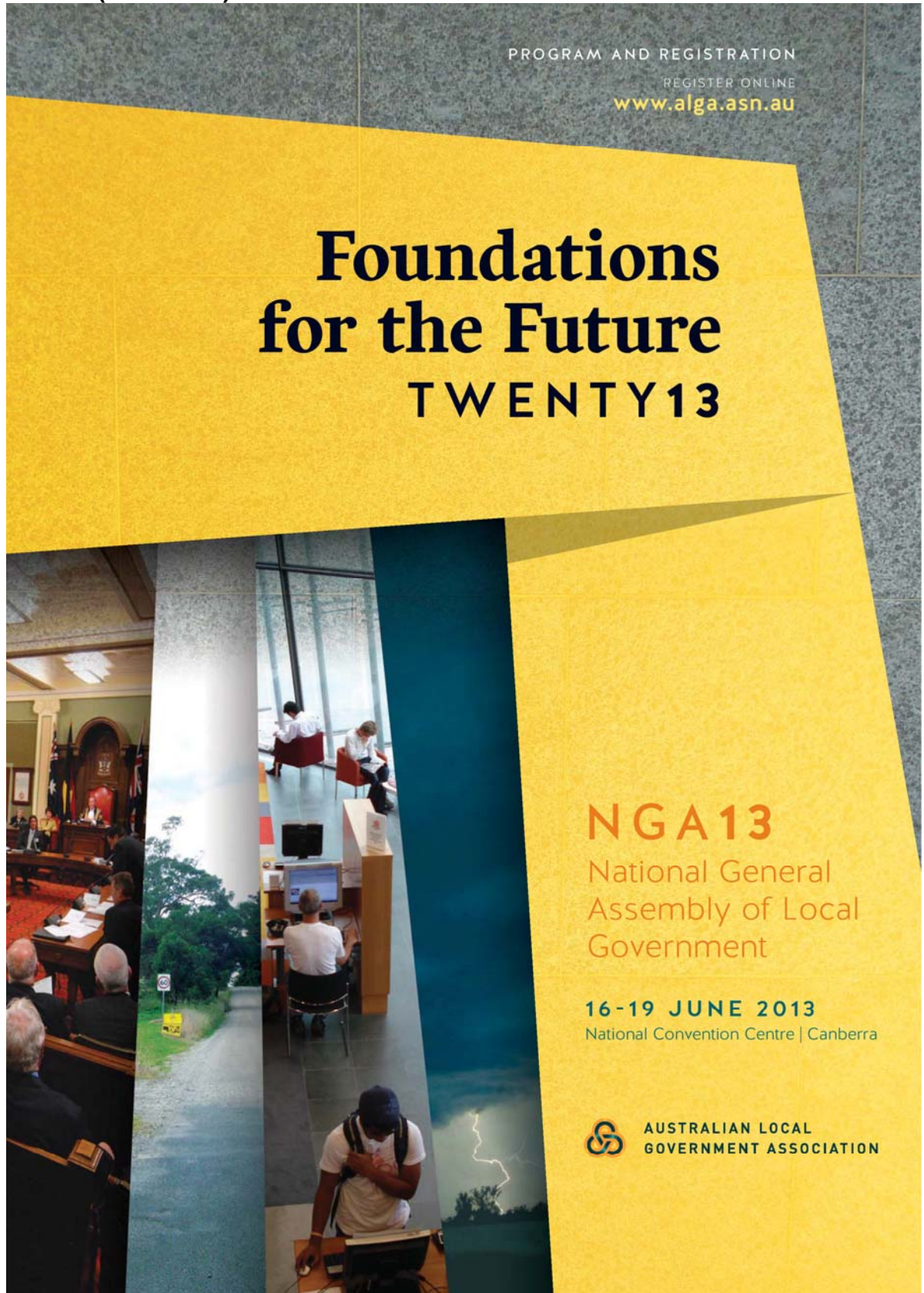
There is an allocation of \$30,000 in the 2012-2013 budget for Councillor attendance at conferences. The following table outlines an estimation of the balance remaining.

Date of Resolution	Item	Average cost per attendee	Councillors	Balance
<b>Budget for 2012/2013</b>				<b>\$30,000</b>
25/09/2012	Local Government Association - Dubbo	\$1766.00	The Mayor, Councillor Petch and Councillors Chung, Etmekdjian, Laxale, Pickering and Yedelian OAM	\$19,404
25/09/2012	Bike Futures Conference - Melbourne	\$1309.50	Perram and Maggio	\$16,785
26/03/2013	National Community Safety and Security Conference	\$1600.00	Maggio and Yedelian OAM	\$13,585
<b>Balance</b>				<b>\$13,585</b>

The estimated balance remaining is subject to Council's resolution on Councillor attendance to the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) National Congress and Business Expo, which is also listed on the Agenda. The total estimated cost for a Councillor to attend the Conference is \$2,325 for LGMA members and \$2,625 for non-members.

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**ATTACHMENT 1**




PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION  
REGISTER ONLINE  
[www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au)

# Foundations for the Future TWENTY13

**NGA13**  
National General  
Assembly of Local  
Government

**16-19 JUNE 2013**  
National Convention Centre | Canberra

 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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**PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

Colleagues,

I invite you to attend this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) in Canberra from 16-19 June.

The NGA is the premier local government event bringing together more than 700 mayors, councillors and senior officers from councils across Australia to develop local government policy ideas, meet with key federal politicians and hear from renowned experts on the key issues affecting local government in Australia.

This year there will be a federal election on 14 September. The election provides an important opportunity to seek commitments from all federal political parties about the way in which they will work with and support councils in meeting community needs.

I have invited the Prime Minister, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water, the Leader of the Nationals and the Leader of the Australian Greens to address the NGA and to engage directly with you.

The theme for this year's NGA is *Foundations for the Future: Twenty 13*. The theme and the political climate this year focuses our attention on our future as a nation. At a political level it will be a year that determines who will govern Australia for the next term of parliament. At a local level we need to build the resources and capacity to strengthen our communities and position our communities into the future. The ALGA Board recently called for Notices of Motions for the NGA and these will set out the framework for debate. I would encourage you and your council to think

through ideas or initiatives you would like to see debated at the NGA and to submit these as motions for the NGA.

I am pleased to inform you that the keynote speakers at this year's NGA are well known and highly respected Australians Fred Chaney AO, Geraldine Doogue AO and Peter FitzSimons AM. These speakers will join a number of other subject matter experts in steering the discussions at the NGA.

As you know, we are currently in the middle of a major campaign to gain financial recognition for local government in the Australian Constitution. Many councils have provided submissions to the current Joint Select Committee (JSC) on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government. By the time we meet in Canberra at the NGA the JSC will have finished and the Government will have responded to the Committee's report. We may well be on the road to a referendum at the end of the year. This year's NGA will include a comprehensive report on the status of constitutional recognition.

The NGA is your opportunity to make sure that your council's view is reflected in the national priorities identified for local government. I invite you to be part of this important event by joining your colleagues in Canberra from 16-19 June 2013.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

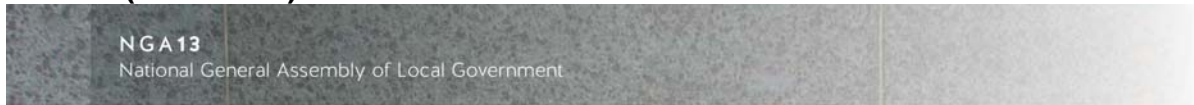


**Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis**  
ALGA PRESIDENT

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		Voting procedures		Venue + dress code		

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**NGA13**  
National General Assembly of Local Government

**PROGRAM**

**SUNDAY 16 JUNE**

5:00–7:00 pm Welcome Reception

**MONDAY 17 JUNE**

9:00 am OPENING CEREMONY

9:20 am ALGA President’s Welcome  
9:50 am Prime Minister  
**The Hon Julia Gillard MP (invited)**

10:30 am MORNING TEA

11:00 am Keynote Speaker: **Geraldine Doogue AO**  
11:45 am Election Priorities—Twenty 13

12:30 pm LUNCH

1:30 pm The Debate—The Big Issues

3:00 pm AFTERNOON TEA

3:30 pm Debate on Motions  
4:30 pm Leader of the Opposition  
**The Hon Tony Abbott MP (invited)**

5:00 pm CLOSE  
7:00 pm BUFFET DINNER

**TUESDAY 18 JUNE**

9:00 am Keynote Speaker: **Fred Chaney AO**  
9:45 am Debate on Motions

10:30 am MORNING TEA

11:00 am Leader of the Australian Greens,  
**Senator Christine Milne**  
11:30 am National Awards for Local Government  
12:00 noon Leader of the Nationals  
**The Hon Warren Truss MP**

12:30 pm LUNCH

1:30 pm National Awards for Local Government  
2:00 pm Financial Assistance Grants Review—  
Commonwealth Grants Commission

3:00 pm AFTERNOON TEA

3:30 pm Debate on Motions  
4:30 pm Shadow Minister for Local Government,  
**Senator Barnaby Joyce**

5:00 pm CLOSE  
7:00 pm OFFICIAL DINNER, PARLIAMENT HOUSE

**WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE**

9:00 am Keynote Speaker: **Peter FitzSimons AM**  
9:45 am Debate on Motions

10:30 am MORNING TEA

11:00 am Debate on Motions  
12:00 noon Minister for Regional Australia, Regional  
Development and Local Government  
**The Hon Simon Crean MP (invited)**

12:30 pm PRESIDENT’S CLOSE  
1:00 pm CLOSE

**KEY DATES**

Submission of Motions for Debate <b>FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2013</b>	<b>Early Bird Registration on or before</b> <b>MONDAY 22 APRIL 2013</b>	Standard Registration on or before <b>FRIDAY 31 MAY 2013</b>	Late Registration after <b>FRIDAY 31 MAY 2013</b>
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**Foundations  
for the Future  
TWENTY13**

THEME OVERVIEW

**Foundations  
for the Future  
TWENTY13**

**NGA13**

National General  
Assembly of Local  
Government

The National General Assembly (NGA) is a significant opportunity for local government to meet and discuss the issues facing local government and to develop agreed positions which can inform the development of ALGA's policies in the coming year. Through the NGA, local government representatives can engage directly with key federal politicians, move and debate motions, hear from a range of subject matter experts, and network with local government colleagues from around Australia.

This year's NGA is themed *Foundations for the Future: Twenty 13*. The theme has been selected because it looks forward and captures the opportunities of the federal election to be held on 14 September 2013.

Local government plays a critical role in Australia's democratic system of government. It represents local communities and plays a key role in planning, coordinating, facilitating and providing services, infrastructure and programs that meet community and regional needs.

While councils can do a lot themselves, many local governments are constrained by lack of resources, expertise and adequate support from other levels of government (and the private sector) to meet all of their communities needs. There has never been a more important time to fight for our local communities and the capacity of local government to serve them. This year's election will determine the Government for the next three years, and set the nation's direction for the future. It is essential that Australia has a strong national economy, an adequate social safety net and appropriate national support systems and that it plays an active role in the international community. But it is also vitally important that the Australian Government also creates the environment for regions and local communities to prosper.

The lead up to the federal election is an opportunity to seek commitments from all federal political parties about the way in which they will work with and support councils in meeting community needs. ALGA actively advocates on behalf of the

sector in the lead up to every election. ALGA does this by engaging directly with all the major political parties, documenting local government initiatives and communicating these to federal politicians. In doing this ALGA draws heavily on the discussions and outcomes of the NGA and on initiatives contained in the NGA Resolutions.

Local government is a richly diverse, highly responsive, accountable and dynamic level of government. Local government's national significance is underlined by the fact that it employs around 195,000 Australians (just over 10 per cent of the total public sector work force), owns and manages non-financial assets worth over \$250 billion, raises around 3.5 per cent of Australia's total taxation revenue per annum and has an annual expenditure of around \$29 billion (2010-11) —just under 6 per cent of total public sector spending.

Most of local government's expenditure is directed towards the provision of local services, which include: housing and community amenities; transport and communications; recreation and culture; and social security and welfare.

At an aggregate level local government undertakes its work while being more than 80 per cent self-funded. However, many rural and regional communities have limited financial capacity which means those councils are much more reliant on external funding sources. Higher grant levels are absolutely critical to these councils to equalise services and infrastructure availability across the communities. Considerable local government funds are spent on vital additional work that relates to broad national issues.

As the level of government closest to Australians, local government is aware of and understands the myriad of challenges faced by local and regional communities as they live, work and interact in an increasingly complex domestic and global environment. Local and regional communities require support to respond and adapt to factors they cannot control, such as climate change, drought, natural disasters and economic upheavals.



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NGA 13  
National General Assembly of Local Government



**Financing Local Government**

In 2006 ALGA commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) to undertake a national study into the Financial Sustainability of Local Government. This study built upon a number of studies that were conducted by state and territory local government associations. The PWC Report was a vital body of research that underpinned a rigorous assessment of the financial sustainability of councils across Australia. The Report found that up to 30 per cent of councils were facing financial sustainability challenges and recommended a twin track approach (of internal reforms and changes to intergovernmental funding) to addressing some of these problems.

**Financial Assistance Grants**

On 9 December 2012 the Commonwealth Treasurer provided Terms of Reference to the Commonwealth Grants Commission for a Review on Improving the Impact of the Financial Assistance Grants on Local Government Financial Sustainability. The Terms of Reference require the Commission to provide a report to the Australian Government by 31 December 2013 on issues such as identifying tangible measures for improving the impact of the Local Government FAGs on the effectiveness of local governments and their ability to provide services to their residents within the current funding envelope, the appropriateness and impacts of FAGs, and identifying any enhancements to the effectiveness of local government through changes to the FAGs distribution process.

**Expenditure Priorities**

Over the past 30 years the roles and functions of local government have changed significantly.

In 2001 the Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC), in a Review of the Operation of the *Local government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, observed that the composition of services provided by local government had changed markedly over the last 30 to 35 years. The CGC noted there had been substantial changes such as a move away from property-based services to human services, a decline in the relative importance of roads, an increase in the relative importance of recreation and culture, and housing and community amenities and an expansion of education, health, welfare and public safety services.

These trends reflect changes in local communities, growing demand and councils' willingness to meet the emerging challenges of their local municipality. The trend was also encouraged by the Commonwealth and State Governments who, over the period, increasingly offered programs to local communities e.g. aged care and children's services, on the

condition of matched funds or limited growth funds. As a consequence, by accepting additional responsibilities without significant new funding for these services, councils were required to change existing priorities and shift funding between existing programs. The trend has been confirmed by the state local government associations which also report that the costs of increased service provision have been met by delaying maintenance and replacement infrastructure activities.

**Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**

Since the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government in November 2012, the pace of developments has increased dramatically. ALGA lodged a detailed submission with the committee in December 2012 and a supplementary submission on 31 January 2013 in response to issues raised at a parliamentary committee hearing on 16 January 2013.

The ALGA Board is meeting regularly to determine and drive the agenda. ALGA welcomed the Parliamentary Committee's preliminary report on 24 January 2013 which recommended that the Commonwealth begin all necessary preparatory activities to ensure a successful referendum in 2013. ALGA has indicated strong support for constitutional change as soon as possible to secure continued direct funding. However, we have reiterated our concern about the lack of progress on the preconditions identified for a successful referendum and the short timeframe available for a campaign in 2013.

ALGA wants to make sure that the referendum proceeds when the chances for success are at their best, although we stand ready once the government announces a referendum. The Committee's final report is due in March 2013 and the Government has indicated that it will wait until that time before giving its response on the referendum. ALGA is concerned that the delays and moving timeframes have hampered efforts to finalise arrangements for a referendum and ALGA has redoubled its efforts to seek commitments from both the Government and the Opposition to support the referendum.

Constitutional Recognition remains a priority for the ALGA Board. Given the pace of developments and an expected announcement of the Government's intentions in March/April 2012, we are not seeking council motions on constitutional recognition for this year's NGA. A comprehensive update will be given to delegates at the NGA, based on the responses of the Government, the Opposition and State Premiers to the Committee's final report.

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**Foundations  
for the Future**  
TWENTY13

**SPEAKER  
PROFILES**



**GERALDINE DOOGUE AO**

Whilst originally planning a career as a schoolteacher after completing her Arts degree, in 1972 Geraldine applied on an impulse for a journalism cadetship with *The West Australian* instead. Since then she has thrived on that impulsive decision.

Within the first ten years of her career, Geraldine had carved out a reputation in print, television and radio, including two years at the London Bureau working for the Murdoch group's Australian papers.

Her entrance into television was unexpected. Whilst covering a story for *The Australian*, an ABC Television reporter interviewed her for a *Four Corners* program. When the head office executives saw the interview, they were so impressed with her on-camera presence that they offered Geraldine the Perth compere's position for ABC Television's then new program *Nationwide*.

In 1992 Geraldine began presenting *Life Matters*, a new ABC Radio National program which set out to cover the full gamut of social issues in everyday life. In 1998, she also became host of ABC TV's *Compass* program, which looks at issues of spirituality, philosophy and belief every Sunday evening. After 11 years with *Life Matters*, she moved to Saturday mornings to host a program focusing on international politics, Australia's role on the world stage, and business, called *Saturday Extra*.

In 2000 Geraldine was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for social and cultural reporting. In 2003, she was recognised with an Officer in the Order of Australia for services to the community and media. In March 2011, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by her alma mater, the University of Western Australia.

**FRED CHANEY AO**

Fred Chaney was born in Perth in 1941. He practised law in New Guinea and Western Australia, including time in-house with the Hancock-Wright prospecting partnership, and subsequent private practice with emphasis on mining related work until he entered the Senate in 1974.

Fred was involved in the Aboriginal Legal Service in a voluntary capacity in the early 1970's. He was a Senator for Western Australia from 1974 to 1990 and was Leader of the Opposition in the Senate from 1983 to 1990. He was Member for Pearce in the House of Representatives from 1990 to 1993. Among his Ministerial appointments were Aboriginal Affairs, Social Security and Minister Assisting the Minister for National Development and Energy.

After leaving Parliament he undertook research into Aboriginal Affairs policy and administration as a Research Fellow with the Graduate School of Management at the University of Western Australia from 1993 to 1995. He was appointed Chancellor of Murdoch University in 1995 and continued in that capacity until 2003.

In 1994 Fred was appointed as a part-time Member of the National Native Title Tribunal, a full-time Member in April 1995 and was Deputy President from 2000 to 2007. In January 1997 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia.

He served as Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia Ltd from 2000 to 2005 and continues as a Director on the Board. In 2005 he was appointed chairman of Desert Knowledge Australia. In 2007 he chaired the Consultation Committee on a Human Rights Act for Western Australia and in 2011 was a member of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians.

**PETER FITZSIMONS AM**

Peter FitzSimons is a well respected columnist for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Sun-Herald*, television presenter on *Fox Sports*, speaks four languages, has played rugby for Australia, co-hosted radio shows with Mike Carlton and Doug Mulray, interviewed famous people around the globe from George Bush to Diego Maradona and written eighteen best-selling books. He is the biographer not only of World Cup winning Wallaby captains, Nick Farr-Jones and John Eales, but also former Opposition Leader Kim Beazley, war heroine Nancy Wake and magazine queen, Nene King. In 2001 he was Australia's biggest selling non-fiction author, and duplicated that feat in 2004, with his book on Kokoda.

Born on a farm in Peat's Ridge, Peter went to Knox Grammar School, before accepting an American Field Service Scholarship to go to Ohio for a year. He returned to complete an Arts degree at Sydney University majoring in government and political science. In 1984 he broke into the Wallabies under the coaching of Alan Jones, then lived in France and Italy playing rugby for the next five years whilst learning both languages as well as Spanish. Upon his return to Australia he again played for the Wallabies, under Bob Dwyer, going on to play seven tests.

In 1989 he joined *The Sydney Morning Herald* full-time, and has been one of their most popular columnists since. Andrew Denton has called him "Australia's finest sports journalist."

Peter boasts an impressive list of interview credits including ex-president George Bush, Sir Edmund Hillary, Jodie Foster, Nicki Lauda, Joe Montana and Carl Lewis as well as all the major Australian sporting figures from Shane Gould to Lionel Rose and Allan Border. He has interviewed every Australian Prime Minister from Gough Whitlam through to Kevin Rudd.

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**THE HON SIMON CREAN MP**

**Federal Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Local Government; Federal Minister for the Arts**

Simon Crean is Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Local Government and Minister for the Arts.

Prior to his appointment to these portfolios in September 2010, Mr Crean was Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations from June 2010 to September 2010 and Minister for Trade from December 2007 to June 2010.

Mr Crean has also held a range of Shadow Ministerial positions and was Leader of the Opposition from November 2001 to December 2003.

Following his election to Federal Parliament in March 1990, Mr Crean went to the front bench as Minister for Science and Technology in the Hawke Labor Government and later served as Minister for Primary Industries and Energy and Minister for Employment, Education and Training in the Keating Government.

**SENATOR BARNABY JOYCE**

**Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water; Leader of the Nationals in the Senate**

Barnaby is one of a family of eight from a cattle and sheep business in southern New England. After graduating with a degree in accountancy, Barnaby spent three years with a chartered accountancy firm then a short period with an American multinational in cost accounting before completing five years with a major regional bank.

With a choice between a senior role in banking or starting his own business Barnaby chose the latter and owned and operated Barnaby Joyce and Co for ten years. His role in the National Party had concurrently taken him to Acting Treasurer of the Queensland Nationals. In 2004 he was elected to head of the National Senate team and won back the previously lost Senate seat.

He is the Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water. In that role he developed a policy to provide tax concessions to major infrastructure projects, to help unlock the \$1.4 trillion Australians have invested in superannuation. Barnaby has also developed a policy to revamp Australia's zonal taxation system to provide real incentives for Australians to move to the remote, undeveloped parts of our nation.

**SENATOR CHRISTINE MILNE**

**Senator for Tasmania, Leader of the Australian Greens**

Christine Milne, Senator for Tasmania and Leader of the Australian Greens, is one of Australia's most experienced and respected environmental and community activists with a career spanning 30 years. After leading the successful campaign to protect farming land and fisheries from the Wesley Vale Pulp Mill, Christine was elected to the Tasmanian Parliament in 1989, and became the first woman to lead a political party in Tasmania in 1993. She was elected to the Senate in 2004 and to the Leadership in 2012 following the retirement of Senator Bob Brown.

Christine's vision to address climate change and her unparalleled experience with power-sharing minority governments led to the establishment of the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee and its successful negotiations to design the Clean Energy Future package. The package has placed innovation, opportunity and clean energy at the forefront of the transformation of the Australian economy for the 21st century.

**THE HON WARREN TRUSS MP**

**Leader of the Nationals, Federal Member for Wide Bay, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**

Warren Truss is a third generation farmer from the Kumbia District near Kingaroy, Queensland. He entered Federal Parliament in March 1990 as a National Party member representing the electorate of Wide Bay.

Following the Coalition Government's election defeat in 2007, he was elected Federal Parliamentary Leader of The Nationals. He is also Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

Mr Truss was a Minister in the Howard Coalition Government for 10 years.

He was appointed Minister for Customs and Consumer Affairs in October 1997, and a year later, Minister for Community Services. In July 1999 he assumed the position of Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, where he served for six years. He became Minister for Transport and Regional Services in July 2005 and in September 2006 Minister for Trade.

**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Foundations  
for the Future**  
TWENTY13

**MOTIONS  
FOR DEBATE**

- ▶ **The NGA is your opportunity to contribute to the development of national local government policy.**

The ALGA Board is calling for motions for the 2013 NGA under the theme *Foundations for the Future: Twenty 13*. To assist Councils in preparing motions a Discussion Paper has been prepared and is available at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au).

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers motions must follow the principles:

1. Fall under the NGA theme;
2. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally; and
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of state and territory associations.

Motions should be submitted electronically via the online form on the website [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au) and should be received by ALGA no later than 26 April 2013.

Motions submitted will be reviewed by a committee of the ALGA Board as well as by State and Territory Local Government Associations to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers. When reviewing motions, the Committee considers the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

Please note that motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued. Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state/territory local government association, and will not be included in the Business Papers.

Motions that are agreed to at the National General Assembly become Resolutions. These Resolutions are then considered by the ALGA Board when setting national local government policy and when the Board is making representations to the Federal Government at Ministerial Councils, during meetings and in ALGA publications. The ALGA Board is not bound by any resolutions passed at the NGA.

**VOTING  
PROCEDURES**



Each council is entitled to one voting delegate in the debating session. Councils will need to determine who their voting delegate will be. Voting cards can be collected at the Assembly. Councils do not need to advise ALGA of the name of the voting delegate prior to collecting voting cards.

**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**



REGIONAL COOPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:  
IT'S TIME TO INNOVATE**

Sunday 16 June 2013 • National Convention Centre • Canberra



Includes the launch of the:  
*2013–14 State of the Regions Report*

2013 presents significant opportunities for Australia's regions and the local government authorities governing those regions

According to the 2012–13 State of the Regions Report—commissioned by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and prepared by National Economics—a new approach to regional development is required in order to address inequality across Australian regions exacerbated by the mining boom and patchwork economy. Local governments need to be involved in decisions concerning Commonwealth investment in regional infrastructure and development.

This year's Regional Cooperation and Development Forum will present the policy findings that build on the work commenced by National Economics in 2012 rethinking regional development. This work will incorporate the latest Census data and also examine the implications of how Australia is dealing with the ever growing threats arising from climate change and natural disasters.

The Forum will continue to allow the sharing of ideas and opportunities through both a mix of academic and practitioner insights, as well as hearing the latest positions from Commonwealth politicians and senior officials, including the Regional Australia Institute.

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAM**

9:30 am	Welcome: ALGA President, <b>Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis</b>
9:35 am	Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, <b>The Hon Simon Crean MP</b> (invited)
10:00 am	Keynote address: <b>Professor John Martin</b> , Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities, La Trobe University, <i>Local Governance and Sustainable Rural Community Development: A Comparative Study of Canadian and Australian Experiences</i>
10:30 am	MORNING TEA
11:00 pm	State of the Regions Launch: <i>Regional Development: It's Time to Innovate</i>
11:30 pm	Regional Development Australia Update
12:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm	Panel Discussion: <i>Regional implications of managing natural disasters</i>
2:30 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3:00 pm	Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Water, <b>Senator Barnaby Joyce</b> (invited)
3:30 pm	Questions and wrap-up
4:00 pm	CLOSE

▶ Regional Forum Registration is **\$395** (INC GST) or **\$195** when you also register to attend the National General Assembly

**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Foundations  
for the Future**  
TWENTY13

**ASSOCIATED  
EVENTS**

BREAKFAST

**ICLEI OCEANIA BRIEFING  
BREAKFAST: 'PATHWAYS TO  
THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS'**

▶ MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013  
7.15AM-8.30AM

Many local governments have been implementing sustainability projects for some years. So what can Australian local governments use that is practical and useful, but also works within the broader sector to develop a joint approach to local sustainability?

Local governments are the sum of their neighbourhoods—and we want them to be thriving! What does a thriving neighbourhood look like? What examples are there, here and around the world? What are the policy and operational steps that we can take to enable our neighbourhoods to thrive?

Bookings are essential on: (03) 9639 8688  
or [oceania@iclei.org](mailto:oceania@iclei.org)

For further information contact:  
Martin Brennan [martin.brennan@iclei.org](mailto:martin.brennan@iclei.org)



BREAKFAST

**AUSTRALIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION INC**

▶ MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013  
7.30-8.30 AM

National Convention Centre, Canberra

Following the overwhelming success of the ALGWA 60th anniversary celebrations in 2011, the ALGWA National President Darriea Turley, invites you to breakfast this year as part of the National General Assembly.

Members, friends and colleges will be warmly welcomed. Seating is limited, so please book early. Register your interest at [www.algwa.net.au](http://www.algwa.net.au)



**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

NGA13  
National General Assembly of Local Government

**REGISTRATION  
DETAILS**

**General Assembly Registration Fees**

**REGISTRATION FEES EARLY BIRD \$899.00**

*Payment received by Monday 22 April 2013*

**REGISTRATION FEES STANDARD \$999.00**

*Payment received on or before Friday 31 May 2013*

**REGISTRATION FEES LATE \$1,200.00**

*Payment received after Friday 31 May 2013*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION  
INCLUDES**

- Attendance at all General Assembly sessions
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as per the General Assembly program
- One ticket to the Welcome Drinks, Sunday
- General Assembly satchel and materials

**DAY REGISTRATION FEES**

**MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013 \$470.00**

**TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2013 \$470.00**

**WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013 \$260.00**

**DAY REGISTRATION INCLUDES**

- Attendance at all General Assembly sessions on the day of registration
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea as per the General Assembly program on that day
- General Assembly satchel and materials

**Accompanying Partners Registration Fees**

**ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS  
REGISTRATION FEE \$240.00**

**ACCOMPANYING PARTNERS  
REGISTRATION INCLUDES**

- 1 ticket to the Welcome Reception, Sunday 16 June
- Day tour Monday 17 June
- Day tour Tuesday 18 June
- Lunch with General Assembly Delegates on Wednesday 19 June

**Sunday Regional Development Forum  
SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2013**

**FORUM ONLY \$395.00**

**NGA DELEGATE \$195.00**

**Payment Procedures**

Payment can be made by:

- Credit card – MasterCard, Visa and American Express
- Cheque made payable to ALGA
- Electronic Funds Transfer: Bank: Commonwealth  
Branch: Curtin BSB No: 062905 Account No: 10097760.  
Note if paying via EFT you must quote your transaction reference number on the registration form.

**Cancellation Policy**

All alterations or cancellations to your registration must be made in writing and will be acknowledged by post, facsimile or email. Notification should be sent to:

Conference Co-ordinators  
PO Box 139, CALWELL ACT 2905

Facsimile (02) 6292 9002  
Email [conference@confco.com.au](mailto:conference@confco.com.au)

An administration charge of \$110.00 will be made to any participant cancelling before Monday 22 April 2013. Cancellations received after Monday 22 April 2013 will be required to pay full registration fees. However, if you are unable to attend, substitutes are welcome at no additional cost.

By submitting your registration you agree to the terms of the cancellation policy.

**Privacy Disclosure**

ALGA collects your personal contact information in its role as a peak body for local government. ALGA may disclose your personal contact information to the sponsors of the event for the purposes of commercial business opportunities. If you consent to ALGA using and disclosing your personal contact information in this way, please tick the appropriate box on the registration form.

Importantly, your name may also be included in the General Assembly List of Participants. You must tick the appropriate box on the registration form if you wish your name to appear in this list.

**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**



**Foundations  
for the Future**  
TWENTY13

**SOCIAL  
FUNCTIONS**

**Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening**

SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2013

National Convention Centre

5:00-7:00 pm

\$44.00 per person for day delegates and guests  
No charge for full registered delegates  
No charge for registered accompanying partners

DRESS CODE smart casual

**Buffet Dinner**

MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013

The Ballroom, National Convention Centre

7:00-11:00 pm

\$100.00 per person

DRESS CODE smart casual

Coaches will depart Assembly hotels (Except Crowne Plaza) at approximately 6:45 pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:15 pm.

**General Assembly Dinner**

TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2013

The Great Hall, Parliament House

7:00-11:00 pm

\$130 per person

DRESS CODE lounge suit/collar and tie for men and cocktail style for women

Tickets to the prestigious General Assembly Annual Dinner at Parliament House are always highly sought after. Due to the size of the Great Hall places are limited and therefore booking early is highly recommended to ensure your place.

Coaches will depart all Assembly hotels at approximately 6:45pm with return shuttles commencing from 10:30pm.

Note: Bookings are accepted in order of receipt.

**CANBERRA  
WEATHER  
IN JUNE**



Winter days in Canberra are characterised by clear sunny skies but the days are cool at around 12-15°C and temperatures do drop to 1°C on average in the evenings, so be sure to bring a warm jacket. Mornings can be foggy so keep this in mind when booking flights. It is best to avoid early arrivals or departures in case of delays due to fog.

**VENUE + DRESS CODE**

**Exhibition Opening and Welcome Reception**

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City

DRESS CODE Smart casual

**General Assembly Business Sessions**

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City

All plenary sessions will be held in the Royal Theatre at the National Convention Centre

DRESS CODE Smart casual

**Exhibition**

VENUE National Convention Centre, Constitution Ave, Canberra City

The exhibition is being held in the Exhibition Hall of the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual

**Buffet Dinner**

VENUE The dinner is being held in the Ballroom at the National Convention Centre.

DRESS CODE Smart casual

**General Assembly Dinner**

VENUE Parliament House

The General Assembly Dinner is being held in the Great Hall.

DRESS CODE Lounge suit/collar and tie for men and cocktail style for women



**DINNER ENTERTAINMENT**

Melbourne based a cappella group, **Suade**, will entertain and delight delegates

Suade has performed extensively around Australia at festivals, concerts, workshops and masterclasses, and has represented the country regularly overseas. Suade first started back in 1998 as a group of high school buddies singing barbershop tunes and over the next decade and a half, the group has developed into Australia's undisputed #1 male a cappella group, with a huge vocal sound, an energetic stage performance and a downright wicked sense of humour.



**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**

NGA13

National General Assembly of Local Government

**PARTNER'S PROGRAM**

**DAY 1 MANNING CLARK HOUSE AND 'TURNER FROM THE TATE'**

**MANNING CLARK HOUSE**

Manning Clark House is one of Canberra's most historically significant homes. The roof-top study is where the six volumes of "A History of Australia" and his other works were written.

Designed by Robin Boyd in 1952, the house is where Manning and Dymphna Clark lived and worked from 1953 until their deaths in 1991 and 2000 respectively. Inside Manning Clark's unique library of 10,000 volumes lines many of the walls. Dymphna Clark's collection of texts in many European languages reminds us of her scholarly translations and linguistic interests.

The piano Manning Clark played stands in a corner of the sitting room, and his records and player line a wall of the dining room dominated by the 1972 portrait of Manning Clark by Arthur Boyd.

Outside, the tall trees and the lawns designed for bat and ball, tell us of some of the family's interests. All this remains as it has for nearly fifty years, the scene of so much significant personal and professional scholarship and activity.

**'TURNER FROM THE TATE'**

The Turner Exhibition at the National Gallery is one of the most important exhibitions to visit Australia in 2013. J. M. W. Turner (1775-1851) is one of Britain's greatest artists and a key figure of the Romantic generation. "Turner from the Tate" includes many of the artist's most famous paintings. It provides a comprehensive overview of Turner's monumental landscapes and atmospheric, light-filled seascapes, while offering extraordinary insights into his working life and practices.

**DAY 2 FROM GARDENS AND FLOWERS TO ENDANGERED FORESTS**

**THE EMBASSY PRECINCT**

Canberra is home to nearly 100 embassies and high commissions. The most established and stunning diplomatic residences are in Yarralumla. This morning's tour will take you on a leisurely drive to view the traditional gardens and modern architecture of the most significant diplomatic posts. You'll pass the spectacular traditional design of the Chinese Embassy and the long-house style of the High Commission of Papua New Guinea. You'll view the Mexican Embassy's giant shingle roof and the United States Embassy built in a modified Georgian style. The traditional Cape Dutch style architecture of the South Africa High Commission contrasts with the striking design of the Thai Embassy Royal. A tour to one of the Embassies will also be included.

**NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA**

From there you will travel to Australia's newest national iconic attraction, the \$70m National Arboretum Canberra. Home to 100 of the world's most endangered and significant trees, the 250 hectare site also boasts one of the most striking visitors centre's in the country. It is here you will enjoy a superb luncheon whilst appreciating the breathtaking views of Australia's national capital.

**ACCOMMODATION**

▶ To book your accommodation at the rates listed below complete the appropriate section of the registration form. Bookings are subject to availability and should be made prior to Friday 17 May 2013.

All cancellations or amendments must be made in writing to Conference Co-ordinators and will be acknowledged by facsimile or email.

Please note your credit card details are required to guarantee your room. Neither Conference Co-ordinators nor the hotel will make any charges against your credit card unless you fail to give 21 days notice in writing of your cancellation. Full payment of your account will be required at the time of your departure.

**CROWNE PLAZA**

*1 Binara Street, Canberra*

Renovated in 2007 the Crowne Plaza is adjacent to the Convention Centre and only a short walk from restaurants, bars and the main shopping district. Featuring a contemporary design, the Crowne Plaza provides guests with an outdoor pool, sauna, health/fitness centre, 24-hour reception, Concierge, undercover parking and onsite dining at the RedSalt Restaurant. All rooms are non-smoking and include iron/ironing board, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and Room Service is available.

Superior King Room: **\$295** per night single/twin/double  
Deluxe King Room: **\$345** per night single/twin/double

**WALDORF**

*2 Akuna Street, Canberra*

Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, the Waldorf is only a four minute walk from the National Convention Centre. This hotel has 24-hour reception and provides guests with a gymnasium, indoor heated lap pool and onsite dining at the Waldorf London Restaurant. All rooms have kitchen and laundry facilities, in room safe, dining table and chairs, complimentary cable TV, pay per view movies, high speed internet service (for a fee) and Room Service is available. One bedroom apartments also offer a separate lounge/dining area.

Studio Room: **\$210** per night single  
Studio Room: **\$225** per night twin/double  
One Bedroom apartment: **\$230** per night single  
One Bedroom apartment: **\$245** per night twin/double

**DIAMANT**

*15 Edinburgh Place, Canberra*

Opened in June 2008 this boutique 80 room hotel is located at the intersection of Marcus Clarke and Edinburgh Ave, 15-20 minutes walk from the Convention Centre. The Diamant Hotel features 24-hour reception, a restaurant and a bar. The rooms have a mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, plasma TV, CD and DVD players, broadband (for a fee), and in-room safe.

Standard Room: **\$270** per night single/twin/double

ACCOMMODATION CONTINUES OVER THE PAGE

**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 1**



**Foundations  
for the Future  
TWENTY13**

**HOTEL REALM**

*18 National Circuit, Barton*

Hotel Realm is one of Canberra's 5-star hotels and is located walking distance from the popular shopping and restaurant villages of Kingston and Manuka. Hotel Realm has two restaurants and a bar, a Day Spa, Hairdresser and Health Club located on-site. The rooms are modern and have king sized beds, high speed internet (for a fee) LCD TV, pay movie channel, Foxtel and 24-hour room service.

Standard Room: **\$265** per night single/twin/double

**MANTRA**

*84 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra*

Mantra on Northbourne (formerly the Saville) offers stylish accommodation centrally located approximately a ten minute walk from the National Convention Centre. The hotel features a heated indoor pool, sauna, fully-equipped gymnasium and the Zipp restaurant bar on site. All rooms offer voice mail, individually controlled air-conditioning, pay per view movies, mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and complimentary toiletries. One and two bedroom apartments also offer a separate lounge and dining area, fully-equipped kitchen and a laundry with washing machine, dryer, iron and ironing board.

Hotel Room: **\$209** per night single/twin/double

One bedroom apartment: **\$249** per night single/twin/double

**MEDINA EXECUTIVE JAMES COURT**

*74 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra*

The Medina Executive James Court is approximately a seven minute walk from the National Convention Centre and is close to cafes, restaurants, gyms and shopping. The hotel offers reception, undercover parking, outdoor heated swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium and a restaurant delivery service. All rooms feature private balconies, climate controlled air conditioning, separate lounge/dining areas, broadband access (for a fee), spa bath, mini bar, fully equipped kitchen facilities and an in-room safe.

Note: Reception operates between the hours of 6.30 am and 11.30 pm.

One bedroom apartment: **\$200** per night single/twin/double

Two bedroom apartment: **\$250** per night single/twin/double

**RYDGES LAKESIDE**

*1 London Circuit, Canberra*

Over the last two years the area surrounding Rydges Lakeside has undergone major changes with office developments, apartments, bars and restaurants opening. Rydges Lakeside is a 15-20 minute walk to the National Convention Centre. This property has 24-hour reception, room service and two on site restaurants. All rooms have balconies and offer high speed internet (for a fee), pay per view movies, mini bar, hairdryer, iron and ironing board.

Note: This hotel has an absolute no-smoking policy.

Standard Room: **\$249** per night single/twin/double

**CLIFTON SUITES**

*100 Northbourne Avenue*

Quality Clifton Suites is approximately a 30 minute walk from the Convention Centre and is located on Northbourne Avenue. The property and has an onsite pool, gymnasium and restaurant. All the rooms have reverse cycle heating and air conditioning, fully equipped kitchen, movies on demand, washing machine, dryer and a private balcony.

One bedroom apartment: **\$240** per night single/twin/double

**COACH TRANSFERS**

**Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening  
Sunday 16 June 2013**

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 4:45 pm. The return coaches will depart at 7:00 pm.

**Daily Shuttles to and from the National  
Convention Centre**

A shuttle service between all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) and the National Convention Centre will operate between 8:00 am and 8:30 am. Return shuttles will depart the National Convention Centre at 5:30 pm.

**Buffet Dinner • National Convention Centre  
Monday 17 June 2013**

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (except Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 6:45 pm. A return shuttle service will commence at 10:15 pm.

**General Assembly Annual Dinner  
Parliament House • Tuesday 18 June 2013**

Coaches will collect delegates from all General Assembly hotels (INCLUDING Crowne Plaza Canberra) at approximately 6:45 pm. A return shuttle service will operate between 10:30 pm and 11:45 pm.

**CAR PARKING**

Parking for delegates is available underneath the National Convention Centre for a cost of approximately \$16.00 per day. Alternatively, voucher public parking is available across the road at a cost of approximately \$13.00 per day. The voucher machines are coin operated.

**ITEM 13 (continued)**

**ATTACHMENT 2**



## Councillor Attendance at Conferences Guideline

**Related Policy**

This guideline sets out the criteria to determine the attendance of Councillors at Conferences. It relates to the Policy on the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Mayor and Other Councillors.

**Guidelines**

Council acknowledges the value of Councillor attendance at conferences to enable them to be both knowledgeable and current on issues affecting the City of Ryde. In order to ensure that attendance at Conferences is equitable, transparent and consistent, attendance will be limited as follows:

1. Local Government Association Conference – the number of voting delegates plus one. Details of the delegates and attendee to be determined by resolution of Council.
2. Australian Local Government Association Conference.
3. In addition, to 1 and 2 above, every Councillor is entitled to attend one conference in either NSW, Canberra, metropolitan Brisbane or metropolitan Melbourne. The conference must directly relate to the business of Council. More than one Councillor may attend the same conference if Council resolves that this will be beneficial for both Council and the Councillors concerned.
4. Within 2 months after the conference the attending Councillor must report to Council on the proceedings of the conference. That report will be included in the Councillors Information Bulletin.
5. No Councillor can attend a Conference without the prior approval of Council. Reports to Council are to include details of the Conference and an estimate of the associated costs including registration, transport and accommodation.
6. Council may resolve that a Councillor can attend more than one conference per year but this determination will be dependant on budgetary constraints and with an emphasis on ensuring that all Councillors have equal access to conferences.
7. Each year, as part of the review of the Policy on the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Mayor and Other Councillors, Council officers will provide a full report of expenditure and Conference attendance by Councillors.

<b>Councillor Attendance at Conferences guideline</b>		
Owner: Governance Unit	Accountability: Mayoral and Councillor support service	
Trim Reference: D10/77193	Policy: Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Mayor and other Councillors	One Page only