



# **GLADSTONE**

## **REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CIVIC CENTRE  
101 GOONDOON STREET, GLADSTONE**

**On Tuesday 15 July 2025**

**Commencing at 9.00am**

**Leisa Dowling**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Table of Contents

ITEM	PAGE
G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE .....	3
G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE .....	3
G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS .....	3
<b>G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 1 JULY 2025 .....	6
G/2.2. CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES FOR 3 JULY 2025 .....	7
<b>G/3. DEPUTATIONS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
G/4.1. LGAQ 2025 CONFERENCE MOTIONS AND ATTENDANCE.....	9
G/4.2. AGNES WATER DRAINAGE STUDY.....	12
G/4.3. E-SCOOTER TRIAL - AGNES WATER & 1770.....	13
G/4.4. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2025 .....	14
G/4.5. REPEAL OF VACCINATION POLICY.....	15
G/4.6. COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT - GLADSTONE AREA WATER BOARD .....	16
G/4.7. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE - AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION.....	17
<b>G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>G/6. URGENT BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS .....</b>	<b>18</b>

**Elected Members**

Councillor - Mayor M Burnett  
Councillor G Churchill (via teams)  
Councillor K Davis  
Councillor M Wagner  
Councillor M Holzheimer  
Councillor N Muszkat  
Councillor S McClintock  
Councillor L Patrick  
Councillor C Cameron

**Officers**

L Dowling (Chief Executive Officer)  
R Millett (Executive Secretary)  
T Whalley (Manager Governance and Risk)  
M Holmes (General Manager Finance Governance and Risk)  
C Quinn (General Manager People and Strategy)  
K Lee (General Manager Community and Lifestyle)  
J Tumbers (General Manager Operations)  
M Francis (General Manager Assets and Environment)  
K Wilson (General Manager Customer Experience)  
K Marxsen (Manager Strategy and Improvement)  
N Kloppers (Manager Asset Planning)  
F Barker (Manager Arts and Entertainment)

**G/0.3.2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

**G/0.3.3. MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE**

Councillor Chris Cameron mentioned the passing of Councillor Glenn Churchill's wife's father, Max and passed on sincere condolences on behalf of Council to Cr Churchill, Sue and family.

**G/0.3.4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**Mayor Burnett**

During the discussion of Agenda Item G/4.1. LGAQ 2025 CONFERENCE MOTIONS AND ATTENDANCE, Mayor Matt Burnett declared a prescribed conflict of interest as he is a director and president of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) who would receive a financial benefit from the councillors' attendance at the LGAQ Conference.

The Officers Recommendation Items 1 and 2 were considered and resolved separately and Mayor Burnett left the meeting room for the discussion and decision relating to Item 2 of the Officers Recommendation, the attendance at the LGAQ conference.

## **G/1. MAYORAL STATEMENT OF CURRENT ISSUES**

On Wednesday 2 July 2025 we had the official opening of Hydrogen Park Gladstone. That's right – hydrogen is happening in the Gladstone region and this project has been operating for 6 months and delivering up to a 10% hydrogen blend into the industrial, residential, and commercial market. The only project of its type doing that in the country and it's happening right here as part of our hydrogen ecosystem. And Sumitomo recently met with Gladstone Regional Council as well and their project is powering ahead. Their hydrogen project is powering ahead at the Rio Tinto site where they will help decarbonise the Rio Tinto alumina refinery and ultimately Queensland Alumina as well through their calcination process. Another world first happening right here in Gladstone. There is a lot of talk about hydrogen, in Gladstone, we're not a one trick pony, we've got a lot more in our community than just hydrogen but there's certainly a number of hydrogen projects happening.

And the Queensland government have spent considerable funds on building a pipeline from the Fitzroy River from Rookwood Weir to Gladstone which will open next year and will deliver a lot of water to our state development area. A project funded by the state and the water users will be industrial users, not Gladstone Regional Council residential rate payers. It's fantastic to see that investment by the Queensland government and I'm sure they'll be looking for customers for that water because the rate payers of Gladstone won't be paying for that pipeline.

We had our Special Budget Meeting on Thursday 3 July 2025 and very pleased to say that it's an average general rate increase of just 2.5%. Well done to Mark Holmes, General Manager Finance Governance and Risk, and the team and to our General Managers and Councillors as well. Just an average rate increase of 2.5% on a \$396 million budget and \$105 million capital works program. One of the exciting projects is from 1 July 2026 for those who currently receive a bin service, we will be implementing a green lid bin service, a garden organic service, and we will be working with our operations team and our CEO to make sure that we deliver that in a sustainable way. We are aiming for the urban centres first (Gladstone, Boyne Island, Tannum Sands, Calliope and Agnes Water) and we will take into consideration that some of our localities that have a bin service right now, like in River Ranch and places that are on acreage may not necessarily need the garden organics bin. As we outwork the contract over the next 12 months, we'll make sure that those who need the service get the service and that those who don't need the service don't necessarily have to have the service. We will start delivering green bins, particularly to the urban centres from January next year.

On Sunday 6 July 2025 to Sunday 13 July 2025, we have been celebrating NAIDOC week, which started with the flag raising ceremony at the front of the Council Chambers. We had the service expo at the Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct, the Elders brunch, the NAIDOC March and the NAIDOC Ball. I'm sure everyone enjoyed their NAIDOC week festivities.

On Thursday 10 July 2025, we visited the Alph HPA facility. Construction on the new plant is well underway. The demonstration plant is operating successfully, and they'll soon be producing high purity aluminium which is a very well sought after product globally on a commercial scale.

I'd like to thank Councillor Leanne Patrick and Councillor Karen Davis who attended the 40 years of tourism celebration in Agnes Water Seventeen Seventy on the same day. Fantastic to see, particularly for the Mergard family and everything they have done in Agnes Water Seventeen Seventy, from Larc Tours to the marina, and everything else, which goes way back to their parents. Congratulations on celebrating 40 years of tourism in the Gladstone Region.

Yesterday, Monday 14 July 2025, I was in Rockhampton and Yeppoon as part of Operation Talisman Saber. Gladstone, Rockhampton, and Livingstone are partnering together to prove to the Queensland and Australian governments, and to the world, that we are central to defence. We're really looking forward to seeing that activity over the next few weeks and making sure the federal government understand that the Gladstone Region and Central Queensland are really powering ahead when it comes to providing space and availability and support for our defence industry.

Upcoming in the Gladstone Region, we have Luminous, which is from Thursday 17 July 2025 to Saturday 19 July 2025. Just \$5 per ticket, so get online and get your tickets now. Under 5 years is free and tickets will also be available at the gate via a QR code. I recommend you get your tickets early because you don't want to be lining up at the gate if you don't have to. Jump the ques and get your tickets via Council's website.

The Boyne Valley 50 is on this Saturday (19 July 2025). Councillor Simon McClintock is doing the 50km event and I'm trying hard to drop out of the 23km event and do the 12km, but we'll see how we go.

PopCon Expression of Interest (EOI) is out for food vendors, store holders, artists, and authors. Applications close at 9am on Tuesday 5 August 2025. If you're wanting to be involved in PopCon this year, another popular event at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre, jump online now.

I want to wrap up by thanking Kay Kirkman who retired on Monday 14 July 2025, after 45 years at Education Queensland. Well done, Kay. On behalf of the Gladstone Region, we thank you for your service and we wish you all the very best in the next stage of retirement, you deserve it and well done.

## **G/2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **G/2.1. CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FOR 1 JULY 2025**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Executive Secretary

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** CM7.2

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**Purpose:**

Confirmation of the minutes of the General Meeting held on 1 July 2025.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the General Meeting of Council held on 1 July 2025 be confirmed.

**GM/25/5507 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Wagner

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## **G/2.2. CONFIRMATION OF SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES FOR 3 JULY 2025**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Executive Secretary

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** CM7.2

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**Purpose:**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting held on 3 July 2025.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of Council held on 3 July 2025 be confirmed.

**GM/25/5508 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

### **G/3. DEPUTATIONS**

Nil

UNCONFIRMED



## **G/4. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **G/4.1. LGAQ 2025 CONFERENCE MOTIONS AND ATTENDANCE**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager People and Strategy

**Prepared By:** Manager Strategy and Improvement

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** GR3.1

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During the discussion of Agenda Item G/4.1. LGAQ 2025 CONFERENCE MOTIONS AND ATTENDANCE, Mayor Matt Burnett declared a prescribed conflict of interest as he is a director and president of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) who would receive a financial benefit from the councillors' attendance at the LGAQ Conference.

The Officers Recommendation Items 1 and 2 were considered and resolved separately and Mayor Burnett left the meeting room for the discussion and decision relating to Item 2 of the Officers Recommendation, the attendance at the LGAQ conference.

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider motions to the Local Government Association Queensland's Annual Conference 2025, and to nominate Councillors to attend the event.

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Submit the following conference motions to the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) for consideration:
  - (a) That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to ensure councils are adequately resourced to meet the additional responsibilities arising from proposed Planning Act amendments, including but not limited to:
    - Funding support for the administration and delivery of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs), to ensure councils can effectively negotiate, prepare, monitor, and report on CBAs in the public interest; and
    - Financial and technical assistance to enable councils to meet expanded compliance, engagement, and reporting obligations, while maintaining quality planning outcomes for their communities.
  - (b) That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to:
    - Acknowledge that many existing wastewater assets continue to provide essential services to communities and that upgrading them to current compliance standards requires a realistic, staged approach;
    - Provide increased and ongoing funding to ensure communities have safe, reliable, and sustainable wastewater infrastructure; and
    - Support a compliance pathway that balances legislative requirements with the need to protect public health and the environment, while ensuring upgrades are delivered in a financially and logistically achievable way.

(c) That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to undertake a review of the current Councillor Register of Interests (ROI) requirements, with the aim of:

- Balancing transparency with the need to protect the personal privacy and safety of individuals and families who serve their communities;
- Ensuring the ROI framework continues to serve the public interest without deterring community members from standing for Council roles; and
- Supporting public confidence in local government through a system that is transparent, fair, and fit-for-purpose.

2. Authorise Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the LGAQ Annual Conference, 20 – 22 October 2025 in Gold Coast as Council delegates, noting Mayor Burnett is scheduled to attend as President of the Local Government Association Queensland.

**GM/25/5509 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Muszkat

Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That Council:

1. Submit the following conference motions to the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) for consideration:

(a) That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to ensure councils are adequately resourced to meet the additional responsibilities arising from proposed Planning Act amendments, including but not limited to:

- Funding support for the administration and delivery of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs), to ensure councils can effectively negotiate, prepare, monitor, and report on CBAs in the public interest; and
- Financial and technical assistance to enable councils to meet expanded compliance, engagement, and reporting obligations, while maintaining quality planning outcomes for their communities.

(b) That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

- Acknowledge that many existing wastewater assets continue to provide essential services to communities and that upgrading them to current compliance standards requires a realistic, staged approach;
- Provide increased and ongoing funding to ensure communities have safe, reliable, and sustainable wastewater infrastructure; and
- Support a compliance pathway that balances legislative requirements with the need to protect public health and the environment, while ensuring upgrades are delivered in a financially and logistically achievable way.

(c) That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to undertake a review of the current Councillor Register of Interests (ROI) requirements, with the aim of:

- Balancing transparency with the need to protect the personal privacy and safety of individuals and families who serve their communities;
- Ensuring the ROI framework continues to serve the public interest without deterring community members from standing for Council roles; and
- Supporting public confidence in local government through a system that is transparent, fair, and fit-for-purpose.

**Mayor Burnett (prescribed conflict of interest) left the meeting room for the discussion and decision relating to Councillor attendance at the LGAQ Conference and did not participate in the decision.**

**Councillor Natalia Muszkat chaired the meeting in the Mayor's absence.**

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Davis

That Council authorise Councillor Muszkat, Councillor McClintock & Councillor Wagner to attend the LGAQ Annual Conference, 20 – 22 October 2025 in Gold Coast as Council delegates, noting Mayor Burnett is scheduled to attend as President of the Local Government Association Queensland.

**WITHDRAWN**

**GM/25/5510 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Wagner

That Councillor Muszkat and Councillor McClintock to attend the LGAQ Annual Conference, 20 – 22 October 2025 in Gold Coast as Council delegates, noting Mayor Burnett is scheduled to attend as President of the Local Government Association Queensland.

**CARRIED**

**For the Motion:** Cr Davis, Cr Patrick, Cr McClintock, Cr Cameron, Cr Churchill, Cr Holzheimer, Cr Wagner

**Against the Motion:** Nil

**Ineligible:** Mayor Burnett

## **G/4.2. AGNES WATER DRAINAGE STUDY**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Assets and Environment

**Prepared By:** General Manager Assets and Environment

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** LU6.2

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**Purpose:**

To seek Council's endorsement of the Agnes Water Drainage Study and provide information on Climate Change scenario modelling.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council endorse the Agnes Water Drainage Study presented as Attachments 1 to 8 to the Officer's Report.

**GM/25/5511 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Cameron

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **G/4.3. E-SCOOTER TRIAL - AGNES WATER & 1770**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Community and Lifestyle

**Prepared By:** General Manager Community and Lifestyle

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** PE1.1

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**Purpose:**

To seek Council direction on the resolution to conduct a trial of e-scooters in Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council abandon resolution GM/23/4985 and no further action be undertaken due to the inability to engage the sole company engaged in the Expression of Interest process to conduct a trial for e-scooters in Agnes Water and 1770.

**GM/25/5512 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill

Seconded Cr Cameron

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

#### **G/4.4. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2025**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Management Accounting Specialist

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** FM15.1

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**Purpose:**

This report seeks Council adoption of the Monthly Financial Statements for the year 2024-25 to date, for the period ended 30 June 2025.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Statements attached to the officer's report for the 2024-25 year to date, for the period ended 30 June 2025 as required under Section 204 Local Government Regulation 2012.

**GM/25/5513 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Davis

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**The meeting was adjourned for morning tea at 10.31am and reconvened at 11.07am.**

#### **G/4.5. REPEAL OF VACCINATION POLICY**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Governance Business Partner

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** CM28.2

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**Purpose:**

This report recommends the repeal of Council's Vaccination Policy with the activity to be managed operationally applying Council's Immunisation Corporate Standard.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council repeal its Vaccination Policy (P-2017-07).

**GM/25/5514 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Davis

Seconded Cr Patrick

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## **G/4.6. COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT - GLADSTONE AREA WATER BOARD**

**Responsible Officer:** General Manager Finance Governance and Risk

**Prepared By:** Manager Governance and Risk

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** CM7.1

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**Purpose:**

To consider the nomination of a Board Member for the Gladstone Area Water Board.

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council nominate Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers as Council's recommendation for appointment to the Gladstone Area Water Board.

**GM/25/5515 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Churchill  
Seconded Cr Muszkat

That a secret ballot be undertaken to inform Council's nomination to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers as Council's recommendation for appointment to the Gladstone Area Water Board.

**CARRIED**

**GM/25/5516 Procedural Resolution:**

Moved Cr McClintock  
Seconded Cr Holzheimer

That the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

**The meeting was adjourned to count the votes of the secret ballot at 11.30am and reconvened at 11.33am.**

**GM/25/5517 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Holzheimer  
Seconded Cr Davis

That Council nominate Councillor Muszkat to the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers as Council's recommendation for appointment to the Gladstone Area Water Board.

**CARRIED**



#### **G/4.7. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE - AUSTRALIAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION**

**Responsible Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Prepared By:** Executive Assistant to the Office of the Chief Executive Officer

**Council Meeting Date:** 15 July 2025

**File Ref:** CM6.1

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**Purpose:**

To seek approval for Councillor Karen Davis to attend the 2025 Australian Cruise Association 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

**Officer's Recommendation:**

That Council approve the attendance of Councillor Karen Davis at the 2025 Australian Cruise Association Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting from 3 to 5 September 2025, in Fremantle, Western Australia.

**GM/25/5518 Council Resolution:**

Moved Cr Holzheimer

Seconded Cr Wagner

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **G/5. COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor Leanne Patrick tabled the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Communique regarding the National General Assembly (NGA) 2025 held on Tuesday 24 June 2025 to Friday 27 June 2025 (refer addendum 1).

## **G/6. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil

## **G/7. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

## **G/8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Nil

There being no further business the Mayor formally closed the meeting.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.35am.**

Addendum 1



## COMMUNIQUE

More than 1,300 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 24-27 June for the 31st National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

We were welcomed to country for the National General Assembly by Ngunnawal woman and Co-Chair of ACT Reconciliation Council, Selina Walker. The Assembly recognised the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognised any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. The Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, formally opened the Assembly and spoke about the role of community leadership and local engagement in building national resilience and unity, including the importance of teaching our younger generation the importance of civic governance.

We heard from a range of Federal Ministers across the Assembly including: The Honourable Kristy McBain MP, Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, The Honourable Julian Hill MP, The Honourable Josh Wilson MP, The Honourable Darren Chester MP, Dr Anne Webster MP and the Honourable Kevin Hogan MP.

There was broad acknowledgement from Ministers that councils play a critical role in supporting their communities and that the role has expanded significantly, as has the financial pressure councils face. That is why local government is calling for urgent action to ensure the financial sustainability of councils.

Delegates heard from Mark Bouris AM and Dr Merriden Varrall who unpacked global economic forces shaping Australia's local economies, including trends in trade, security, and investment.

Jason Clarke, world leading consultant on issues of leadership and innovation, closed Day 1 of the NGA with an energising and practical presentation on how councils can take bold ideas and translate them into tangible, community-focused change.

Day 2 of the NGA featured the launch of ALGA's exciting new research "Adapting Together: Local Government Leadership in a Changing Climate". The report finds that Australia's councils are expected to spend more than \$2 billion over the next five years to future-proof their communities from the changing climate, resulting in up to \$4.7 billion in avoided costs to communities.



ALGA President Mayor Matt Burnett noted “Climate-resilient infrastructure is expensive and takes time to build, so we need sustainable funding from the Federal Government to implement long-term planning and adaptation now and into the future”. That is why “We are asking the Government for a new \$400 million climate adaptation fund, distributed to all Australia’s councils each year, to deliver ongoing and sustainable place-based climate solutions” Mayor Burnett said.

Councils considered the way AI is shaping the future with presentations from Stephen Scheeler, founder of The Digital CEO and co-founder and CEO of Omniscient, and Tim Golsby-Smith, co-founder and CEO of myLot.

The 2025 NGA saw the return of concurrent listening sessions providing an interactive platform for delegates to engage directly with federal agencies and sector experts on key policy issues. The listening sessions included:

- Housing and community infrastructure – where the discussion covered a range of challenges from housing affordability, the prohibitive cost of housing infrastructure, ideas around housing and homelessness.
- Emergency management capacity and capability – where attendees shared examples of what has worked in their communities and highlighted remaining challenges. This included the need for long-term funding certainty and better integration of local knowledge in disaster preparedness and recovery frameworks.
- Local government jobs and skills – where attendees highlighted key issues attracting workers to the regions, promoting council careers to young values-led workers, better access to local training, cost-shifting concerns, migrant workforce support, and housing shortages as a major staffing barrier.
- Safer roads - discussed infrastructure funding and general maintenance, speed management, driver behaviour, and the broader questions of regional vs urban specific problems.

#### **Motions and Assembly Outcomes**

- Almost 190 motions were debated across a range of policy areas including financial sustainability, roads, disaster resilience, health, housing, and climate. Motions passed by the NGA will be referred to relevant Ministers for response and also used by the ALGA Board to inform national policy positions.