



Redland
CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

LATE ITEM

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 20 July 2022
commencing at 9:30am

The Council Chambers
91 - 93 Bloomfield Street
CLEVELAND QLD

Order Of Business

- 14 Reports from Advocacy, Major Projects and Economic Development3**
 - 14.1 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference and Motions..... 3

14 REPORTS FROM ADVOCACY, MAJOR PROJECTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

14.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MOTIONS

Objective Reference: A6775755

Authorising Officer: Christopher Isles, General Manager Advocacy, Major Projects and Economic Development

Responsible Officer: Christopher Isles, General Manager Advocacy, Major Projects and Economic Development

Report Author: Allan McNeil, Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. Conference Motions [↓](#)

PURPOSE

To advise Council of the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference to be held in Cairns from 17-19 October 2022, nominate Councillors as official delegates and endorse motions to be put forward.

BACKGROUND

The LGAQ's Annual Conference is to be held in Cairns from 17-19 October 2022. It is the principal conference in Queensland relating to local government. The conference brings together delegates from all tiers of government, external stakeholders and the media, to consider the challenges facing local governments and their communities.

A diverse group of speakers will be presenting at the conference on a range of topics.

ISSUES

As a full member of the LGAQ, Council can send two official delegates to the conference.

Other attendees are also welcome to attend.

Council is entitled to vote on any motions put forward by members. Council has six votes at the conference, which can be wholly exercised by one delegate or split in any proportion that Council determines between two delegates.

Local governments are also invited to put forward motions for discussion on any subject pertaining to matters of common concern to members (local governments). Council proposes to put forward the attached motions.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Legislative Requirements

There are no legislative requirements associated with this report.

Risk Management

Non-attendance by Council at the conference results in a lost opportunity for Redland City Council to voice its views in matters being considered (voted on) at the conference and sharing current issues and proposals relevant to local government.

Financial

This recommendation does not require any change to the current year's budget as funds have already been allocated. There are no conference fees for Council's official delegates, as the cost of attendance for two representatives is included in Council's annual membership to the LGAQ. Accommodation and travel costs for the conference are included in the 2022-2023 operational budget.

People

Council's representation at the conference provides the opportunity for Councillors to keep well-informed of contemporary and emerging issues in local government and to network with leaders within local government and other elected representatives from across Queensland.

Environmental

There are no environmental issues associated with this report.

Social

Attendance at the conference supports Councillors to provide the highest level of leadership to the organisation and the Redlands Coast community.

Human Rights

There are no human rights considerations associated with this report.

Alignment with Council's Policy and Plans

The recommendation primarily supports Council's *Our Future Redlands – A Corporate Plan to 2026 and Beyond* – Goal 7: Efficient and Effective Organisation.

CONSULTATION

Consulted	Consultation Date	Comments/Actions
Councillors and Executive Leadership Team	18 July 2022	Workshop.
Councillors, Executive Leadership Team, Senior Leadership Team and Operational Leadership Group	22 June and 5 July 2022	Email sent to call for motions for the conference.

OPTIONS**Option One**

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To nominate the Mayor and Councillor Peter Mitchell as official delegates at the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.
2. To split the voting rights at the conference equally between the two official delegates.
3. To endorse the attached motions for submission to the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.

Option Two

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To nominate one Councillor as the official delegate at the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference with full voting rights.
2. To endorse the attached motions for submission to the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.

Option Three

That Council is not represented at the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves as follows:

1. To nominate the Mayor and Councillor Peter Mitchell as official delegates at the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.
2. To split the voting rights at the conference equally between the two official delegates.
3. To endorse the attached motions for submission to the 2022 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference.



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

2022 LGAQ Annual Conference – Motions template

Please use this template to prepare and submit your motion using the link below.
Please use text only – no images or tables.

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Allan McNeil
Do you have a contact at the LGAQ for this motion? (optional)	
Submitting council (required)	Redland City Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	
Council resolution # (required)	14.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MOTIONS
Date of council resolution (required)	20/07/2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Does this motion have state-wide relevance? Yes	
Title of motion (required)	A COORDINATED PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES INCREASED FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR QUEENSLAND'S KOALA POPULATION
Motion (required)	The LGAQ calls on the Federal and State Governments to work with it to develop and implement a coordinated program that provides increased support for on-the-ground Council activities aimed at protecting Queensland's koala population.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	<p>The health of Queensland's koala population is the responsibility of all levels of government, along with the broader community. Many Councils across the State have a suite of on-the-ground koala conservation programs, including partnering with community and academic partners to better understand and protect their local koala population.</p> <p>While these individual programs share a common goal of protecting local koala populations, their content, funding and structure differ across Local Government Areas, often as a result of available funding and access to specialist services.</p> <p>A coordinated program developed with input from the three levels of Government and</p>



	<p>academic partners would help deliver a consistent and coordinated program of support across the State.</p> <p>Such a program should include State and Federal Government funding to Council's to coordinate the delivery of projects to combat disease and increase community awareness and the understanding of koala population dynamics. Funding support for on ground actions of this nature will allow more work to be done at the source while delivering wider conservation benefits across the State and Nationally.</p>
<p>Background (required) 350 word limit</p>	<p>Koalas were officially classed as endangered under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> (EPBC Act) 1999 on February 11, 2022, with then Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley announcing the species has a higher risk of extinction. The impact of prolonged drought, followed by the black summer bushfires, and the cumulative impacts of disease, urbanisation and habitat loss over the past twenty years led to the advice. The reclassification is supported by evidence in Queensland Government reports that highlight a decrease in koala numbers by 80% in parts of the species range in South East Queensland.</p> <p>In response, the then Federal Government announced an additional \$50 million investment in koalas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20 million in grants and funding for larger projects led by Natural Resource Management groups, NGOs, and Indigenous groups, coupled with supporting state and territory governments to build on existing work, guided by the outcomes and findings of the National Koala Monitoring Program. • \$10 million to extend the National Koala Monitoring Program to fill critical knowledge gaps and increase the use of citizen science based projects. • \$10 million in grants for small-scale community projects and local activities including habitat protection and restoration, managing threats, health and care facilities, and citizen science projects. • \$2 million in grants to improve koala health outcomes through applied research activities and the practical application of research outcomes to address fundamental health



challenges such as koala retrovirus, koala herpes viruses and Chlamydia.

- \$1 million to expand the national training program in koala care, treatment and triage.

It is noted that money has not been specifically directed toward Local Governments to help enhance current or planned koala conservation initiatives and actions.

In June 2022, the Queensland State Government's response to the koala's endangered listing was a \$24.647 million investment that would underpin critical actions to stop the decline in south-east Queensland koala populations and protect and restore key koala habitats. This included doubling funding to south-east Queensland's wildlife hospital network over the next two years, in addition to the \$1.5 million per annum currently provided to the network.



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Date of council resolution (required)	20/07/2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Does this motion have state-wide relevance? Yes	
Title of motion (required)	A TRIAL TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE VOTE CANVASSERS AND THE HANDING OUT OF INDIVIDUAL HOW TO VOTE CARDS AND OTHER MATERIAL AT POLLING LOCATIONS.
Motion (required)	<p>The LGAQ calls on the Queensland Government and the Electoral Commission of Qld to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a trial at the 2024 quadrennial local government elections of the continued use of public health measures brought in for the 2020 quadrennial council elections – such as increased early voting options and the removal of face-to-face vote canvassing at polling venues. • Allow individual local government areas to opt in to the trial within that LGA. • Consider the results of this trial with a view to amending the <i>Local Government Electoral Act 2011</i> to allow individual LGAs to adopt Polling Place Operations suitable to their local government area at future quadrennial elections.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	The State Government and ECQ are encouraged to make the necessary legislative changes to allow individual Local Government Areas to trial elections with reduced (or eliminated) vote canvassers and the distribution of individual How to Vote cards.



	<p>Feedback received over several election periods suggests the voter experience and process - particularly for vulnerable individuals or new voters - is tarnished by the claustrophobic and emotionally intense environment. This does not serve democracy well.</p> <p>Furthermore, that the current resourcing required at polling locations is placing undue pressure on the social, human and financial resources of the average candidate, further reducing the capacity for the average person to stand for office.</p>
<p>Background (required) 350 word limit</p>	<p>During the 2020 local government elections, the canvassing of votes with candidates and volunteers handing out "How to Vote Cards" at polling places was banned and early voting options were extended. The feedback received by the community, Candidates and the Electoral Commission of Qld was that voters preferred the ease of voting, including not requiring volunteers and candidates handing out election material at polling places. There is consistent input from voters and volunteers that the voting experience is chaotic and confrontational.</p> <p>Other countries including the United Kingdom and New Zealand have arrangements that better manage or restrict election material and canvassing of votes at polling places. This accepted practice operates in a more orderly and effective manner, which enhances the voter experience and protects volunteer's safety.</p> <p>Freedom of political expression would not be eroded given that people have a number of opportunities over a six week period to access information and engage with candidates.</p> <p>Popularity of the move towards postal and online options and avoiding election day "business" also suggests voters are seeking better alternatives. Running the volunteer gauntlet of How to Vote Cards and loud intimidation is neither popular nor necessary.</p> <p>Extending early voting opportunities and managing the number of vote canvassers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public health benefits due to reduced anxiety in vulnerable voters. • Improve voter turnout.



- Reduce financial and human resourcing cost to candidates, making elections more democratic.
- Mitigate intimidating actions by candidates and third parties.
- Improve the mental and physical health of ECQ staff and election workers.



7



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Date of council resolution (required)	20/07/2022
<input type="checkbox"/> Does this motion have state-wide relevance? Yes	
Title of motion (required)	BETTER RECOGNITION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR "REGIONAL" CHALLENGES.
Motion (required)	<p>That the Local Government Association of Queensland makes representations to the State Government to develop a financial support program that responds to the social, demographic and economic challenges of Queensland communities on a 'needs basis' rather than purely a geographic basis that excludes some communities based on their location.</p> <p>The new financial support system should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying specific communities within Local Government Areas (LGAs) with social, demographic and economic challenges unique to the rest of the LGAs. Not excluding larger LGAs or South East Queensland communities with demonstrated social, demographic and economic challenges.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	A targeted financial support program that responds to the needs of Queensland communities based on need rather than geography.
Background (required) 350 word limit	The State Government currently has a number of regional funding programs designed to support regional Local Government Areas. These programs exclude South East Queensland LGAs



such as the Redlands and include programs such Works for Queensland.

Redland City Council has long advocated for our island communities to be considered regional under State Government funding allocations in recognition of their regional challenges, including the following from the 2021 Census:

- 26.5% of SMI residents were aged between 60 and 69 compared to 10.9% for the State.
- 13.4% of the residents on the SMI's had core assistance needs – requiring assistance due to a severe or profound disability, compared with 5.9% across the State.
- 47% of SMI residents experienced one or more long term health conditions compared to 29% for the State.
- Arthritis (20.2%), Mental health conditions (16.6%), Other Long term health conditions (14.4%) and Asthma (10.4) were the top responses in relation to long term health conditions in SMI.

In addition, Redlands Islands (including SMI, NSI and Coochiemudlo) had an unemployment rate of 13.9% in March quarter 2022, which is four times higher than the rest of the city which had an unemployment rate of 3.1% in the same period.

While the challenges faced by Redlands Coast islands are significant, there are also other LGAs across South East Queensland and State that experience significant disadvantage and which would also benefit from a targeted "needs-based" funding program that specifically responds to these challenges.

In June 2020, the State Government extended the Works for Queensland funding to South East Queensland as a one off to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. Following this the SEQ Community Stimulus program was established. While these funding sources were welcome, they do not fulfil the need for a targeted long-term funding source for communities with regional needs.