

7.3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND'S 129TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

REPORT AUTHOR	Executive Assistant
MANAGER	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Office of the Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Council note that the Local Government Association of Queensland's 128th Annual Conference 2025 will be held on the Gold Coast on 20-22 October 2025;**
- 2. Council nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Council's delegates at the Conference, and Councillors be endorsed as observers; and**
- 3. Council authorise payment of all reasonable costs incurred by the attendee/s in relation to attendance at this event, including travel, accommodation and incidentals, noting the estimated cost of attendance per person is \$3,295.00 (GST inclusive).**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) are holding their 129th Annual Conference from 20-22 October 2025 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

BACKGROUND

LGAQ is the peak body for local government in Queensland, and the annual conference is one of the largest events in the local government calendar. Attendees at the conference include Mayors, Councillors, Chief Executive Officers and senior executives from Councils across Queensland.

The program for this years event will include the following:

- Annual General Meeting, including debate of motions;
- Council Showcases;
- Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) update;
- Gala Dinner and networking opportunities.

COMMENTS

As a member of LGAQ, Council receives two complimentary delegates tickets to the annual conference. The cost to Council will include travel, accommodation and sundry expenses, and is estimated at \$1,600 per delegate. The estimated cost per additional Councillor is \$3,295 including conference registration, travel, accommodation and sundry expenses.

PROPOSAL

- 1. Council note that the Local Government Association of Queensland's 128th Annual Conference 2025 will be held on the Gold Coast on 20-22 October 2025;**

2. Council nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Council's delegates at the Conference, and Councillors be endorsed as observers; and

3. Council authorise payment of all reasonable costs incurred by the attendee/s in relation to attendance at this event, including travel, accommodation and incidentals, noting the estimated cost of attendance per person is \$3,295.00 (GST inclusive).

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council receives two complimentary delegates tickets. The cost to Council will include travel, accommodation and sundry expenses, and is estimated at \$1,600 per delegate. The estimated cost per additional Councillor is \$3,295.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Nil

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 5 - Robust Governance and Efficient Service Delivery

Strong governance and financial management are the foundations of the way in which Council will conduct its business and implement the initiatives of the Corporate Plan.

Goal 1 - We will conduct Council business in an open and transparent manner with strong oversight and open reporting.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

Legislative requirement.

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate	Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs.
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Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Nil

External: Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. 129 th-lgaq-annual-conference-preliminary-program-v 5 [7.3.1 - 11 pages]



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

129th **LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Preliminary Program

20–22 October
**Gold Coast Convention
and Exhibition Centre**

Pathways to Liveability

#LGAQ2025

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Welcome to Australia's greatest lifestyle city, the magical Gold Coast.

We are a city on the move, with record population growth and rapid expansion across key employment sectors including sport, screen, light manufacturing, medical research, marine and tourism.

Since 2012, our city economy has grown by 50 per cent, from \$30 billion in 2012-13 to \$45.8 billion today.

Today, the Gold Coast is the second largest local government in Australia, with a \$2.5 billion annual budget.

Like all councils, we are working hard to manage growth while maintaining frontline services. Our motto is to "deliver the services people expect, at a price they can afford".

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference is an opportunity to exchange ideas, build partnerships and engage with industry peers.

Whether it's roads, rubbish, playgrounds or community events, local government has an impact on everyone's lives.

As mayor, I welcome delegates and encourage you to make the most of your time at the conference.

I'm sure there will be robust discussion about the pressures all councils face as we are forced to take on more costs and responsibilities from the State and Federal governments. What I have learned as mayor is that by working together at a local government level, we can collectively advocate for better outcomes for our communities.

I wish delegates and LGAQ officials well throughout the 2025 conference and encourage you to stay a little longer and soak up the fun in Australia's favourite holiday destination.

Mayor Tom Tate





TIME

TOPIC

12:00pm – 4:30pm ➤ **Policy Executive Meeting**

9:00am – 12:00pm ➤ **Peak Services Professional Development Courses**

Media Relations and Community Engagement for Elected Members

Facilitator: Kim Skubris, Media and Communications Specialist

Designed for elected members and council media advisors, this workshop focuses on managing media, gaining coverage and crafting impactful speeches. Led by Kim Skubris, an experienced journalist and media expert with over 30 years in international journalism and a trusted advisor to Queensland councils, this session offers practical, insider knowledge and skills on how to craft compelling messages; how to understand what journalists want; writing and pitching inspiring speeches and managing the media during news events.

1:00pm – 4:00pm ➤ **Conflicts of Interest for Councillors**

Facilitator: Donna Neilson, Senior Local Government Advisor

Our Conflicts of Interest workshop will enable councillors to understand when they need to declare a conflict of interest in a matter being discussed or decided by Council, and their obligations under the *Local Government Act 2009*. This workshop will help clarify the difference between a Prescribed Conflict and a Declarable Conflict, and the actions to be taken in each situation. Topics will also include declaring conflicts; identifying close associates and related parties; duty to report conflicts; offences; unsuitable meeting conduct and outcomes; corrupt conduct; behavioural standards and recent changes to the Code of Conduct explained.

2:00pm – 5:00pm ➤ **Registration**

Delegates, observers, trade, corporate and accompanying persons.

TIME	TOPIC
8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration Delegates, observers, trade, corporate and accompanying persons.
8:30am – 12:30pm	Roads and Transport Forum Queensland's transport network serves as the backbone of our economic vitality and community wellbeing. At this year's Roads and Transport Forum, experts will delve into crucial themes such as sustainability in infrastructure, enhancing disaster resilience and response and the role of technology in modernising our transport systems. Each of these essential topics drives forward the progress of our transport networks to meet the dynamic needs of Queensland's communities.
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Tea
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm – 5:00pm	Indigenous Leaders Forum Since 2011, the Indigenous Leaders Forum (ILF) has been a valuable way for First Nations councils to come together to share their successes, discuss specific challenges and put forward issues they would like the LGAQ's support to address. The Forum is held twice-yearly.
1:30pm – 2:30pm	Optional Sessions Session 1: Governance Unpacked: Balancing Risk, Trust and Accountability Session 2: Disaster Management – Council 2 Council
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Council Segment Forums Rural and Remote councils Resources councils SEQ councils Coastal councils Come and join with your council peers in one of four forums to discuss, share and debate key issues. This is also your opportunity to talk with each other and Policy Executive members about ways the LGAQ can help and support your council.
5:15pm – 7:15pm	Welcoming Ceremony and Networking Event 5:15pm Welcome to Country 5:20pm Welcome to the Gold Coast 5:25pm Response Mayor Matt Burnett, President, LGAQ 5:30pm Sponsor Address Tim Fynes-Clinton, Executive Partner, King & Company Solicitors
5:35pm – 7:15pm	Networking Event in the Trade Exhibition Hall
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Young Councillor Cohort Networking Event Supported by Brighter Super

TIME	TOPIC
7:00am – 8:15am	➤ CEO Breakfast Supported by Telstra
8:00am – 5:00am	➤ Registration Delegates, observers, trade, corporate and accompanying persons.
8:30am	➤ Welcome Master of Ceremonies Tim Cox, Senior Communications Advisor, LGAQ
8:35am	➤ Call to Order and Presidential Address Cr Matt Burnett, Mayor, Gladstone Regional Council and President, LGAQ
8:45am	➤ Presentation of the Policy Executive
8:55am	➤ Setting the Scene: Leadership and Pathways to Liveability Alison Smith, Chief Executive Officer, LGAQ
9:00am	➤ Official Opening
9:10am	➤ The Road Ahead: Futures Thinking and Leadership in Action
9:40am	➤ The AI Intersection of Risk vs Opportunity
9:55am	➤ Sponsor Address – Telstra
10:00am	➤ When Life Imitates Art
10:30am	➤ Morning Tea
11:00am	➤ Council Showcases Part 1
12:00pm	➤ Sponsor Address – Brighter Super
12:05pm	➤ Lunch
1:05pm	➤ Council Showcases Part 2
2:05pm	➤ Politics, Death and Religion – Let's Start the Conversation
2:35pm	➤ State Opposition Update

TIME	TOPIC
2:45pm	➤ The 2032 Olympics & Paralympics – Will They Change Everything?
3:15pm	➤ Peak Services Update
3:25pm	➤ Afternoon Tea
3:50pm	➤ ALGA Update President Matt Burnett
4:00pm	➤ Policy Update
4:30pm	➤ Close Day 1
6:15pm	➤ Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner – Supported by Hastings Deering Dinner theme/dress code: Surfs up–Beach Gala Get ready for a relaxed yet stylish evening! This year we embrace the laid-back charm of the Gold Coast with a touch of elegance. Ideas on What to Wear: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For women: Flowy dresses, linen or resort-wear sets, dressy wedges. Think tropical prints, light fabrics, and a bit of glam.• For men: Lightweight shirts (linen), tailored pants or chinos. Jackets are optional, ties not required.• Accessories: Sunglasses, hats, and beach-inspired jewellery are welcome—but keep it elevated and evening-ready.
11:30pm	➤ Dinner Concludes

TIME	TOPIC
8:15am	➤ Conference Resumes
8:20am	➤ The Cost Shift Gridlock
8:35am	➤ Annual General Meeting – Voting Overview Darren Leckenby, Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary, LGAQ
8:40am	➤ Motions Debate
10:15am	➤ Sponsor Address – Oly Homes
10:20am	➤ Morning Tea
10:50am	➤ Motions Debate
12:30pm	➤ Lunch
1:30pm	➤ Motions Debate
3:00pm	➤ Emerging Issue
3:10pm	➤ Motions Debate
4:10pm	➤ Close of Conference

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (GST incl)

Registration prices are per person.

Early Bird Registration – prior to and including 3 October 2025

Council or State Government observer	\$1700.00
5 or more observers from one Council/Government Department	\$1550.00
Corporate (Private Sector)	\$3300.00

After 3 October 2025

Council or State Government observer	\$1800.00
5 or more observers from one Council/Government	\$1650.00
Department Corporate (Private Sector)	\$3400.00

Early Bird One Day Registration – prior to and including 3 October 2025

Council or State Government observer	\$850.00
Corporate (Private Sector)	\$1330.00

After 3 October 2025

Council or State Government observer	\$1060.00
Corporate (Private Sector)	\$1760.00

Functions

Welcoming Ceremony – Monday evening (20 October 2025) (Accompanying persons, day registrations and additional trade exhibitors)	\$85.00
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Dinner

Gala Dinner – Tuesday evening (21 October 2025)	\$195.00
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Please note that the Welcoming Ceremony on the Monday evening is included in the conference fee for delegates, observers and corporates attending the full three days of conference.

Accompanying persons are welcome to attend the Welcoming Ceremony and Gala Dinner.

Register via links below or online at www.lgaq.asn.au under the Events Tab 129th LGAQ Annual Conference.

Delegate/Observer Individual

► Registration Booking

Delegate Observer Group

► Registration Booking

Corporate

► Registration Booking

Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 July 2025

CONFERENCE SHIRT (Council delegates/observers only)

Council delegates and observers will be issued with **ONE** shirt whilst at conference. These need to be ordered online as part of your conference registration. Please select your size carefully, as there won't be the opportunity to change your size once at conference.

The sizing is as follows:



Mens Modern Fit ▶ S M L XL 2XL 3XL 5XL



Ladies Modern Fit ▶ 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24



**Every Queensland
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to be a liveable one

CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ENQUIRIES

MEMBERS HOTLINE:

1300 542 700

EMAIL:

events@lgaq.asn.au

ADDRESS:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE
25 EVELYN STREET
NEWSTEAD, QLD 4006



x



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK



LINKEDIN

@LGAQ

@localgovqld

/localgovqld

local-government-association-of-queensland/