

7.4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND 129TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 - MOTION SUBMISSION

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Local Delivery of Financially Settled Offsets motion for submission to the Local Association of Queensland annual conference for consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is calling on local governments to submit motions for consideration at the annual conference to be held in October 2025.

BACKGROUND

From Monday, 2 June 2025 until Monday, 28 July 2025, councils are invited to submit motions for consideration ahead of this year's Annual Conference on the Gold Coast, which will take place from Monday, October 20, 2025, to Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

If passed, these motions become resolutions recognised by other levels of government – and, indeed, other peak bodies and stakeholders – as the accepted policy position of the sector and the LGAQ. They are binding on the LGAQ team to progress.

Many of the commitments made for the sector by the new State Government in 2024/25, for example, were based on policy positions local governments raised and voted for at various Annual Conferences in recent years, which were then turned into key asks in the LGAQ State Election platform.

COMMENTS

The Local Delivery of Financially Settled Offsets motion (attachment 1) has been developed for endorsement.

PROPOSAL

That Council endorse the Local Delivery of Financially Settled Offsets motion for submission to the Local Association of Queensland annual conference for consideration.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There is no resource or financial implications applicable with this motion submission.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Financial risk – Environmental offsets from Douglas Shire are used within other areas of Queensland and not within the Shire.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Ensures the ability of Council to ensure environmental offsets are undertaken within the Douglas Shire.

Social: Nil

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 2 - Prosperity

Council plans, builds and maintains the infrastructure required to improve our lifestyle and promote economic growth, working actively to support local businesses.

2.7 - Build strong local, State and Federal relations.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

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. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Councillors

External: Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Environmental Offsets Motion 9 yfb Y O 6 Pc UWQ R 9 p Dc V 7 t A [7.4.1 - 2 pages]



**Every Queensland
community** deserves
to be a liveable one

2025 LGAQ Annual Conference – Motion Template

Who is the key contact for this motion? (required)	Matthew Eastham – General Manager Corporate and Communities – matthew.eastham@douglas.qld.gov.au Leonard Vogel – Manager Environment and Planning – leonard.vogel@douglas.qld.gov.au
Submitting council (required)	Douglas Shire Council
Supporting organisation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Council resolution # (required)	Please provide a reference number for the council resolution/meeting minutes, endorsing this motion.
Date of council resolution (required)	Please provide the date that this motion was endorsed by council.
<p>④ Does this motion have state-wide relevance? For a motion to be accepted, it must have state-wide relevance / this box must be ticked.</p>	
Title of motion (required)	Local Delivery of Financially Settled Environmental Offsets.
Motion (required)	That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to amend the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (2025) to give priority for the local delivery of financially settled environmental offsets.
What is the desired outcome sought? (required) 200 word limit	<p>That the State Government amends Chapter 2 of the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (2025) to give priority for the delivery of financially settled environmental offsets in the following preference order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the same local government area (LGA); or • the same sub-region; or • the same bioregion; or • adjacent bioregion.
Background (required) 350 word limit	At times, local governments and other stakeholders are required to deliver activities that result in significant residual impact on a prescribed environmental matter, and as such, are required to deliver an environmental offset in accordance with the Environmental Offsets Act 2014 (the Act).

	<p><i>Under the Act, individuals can elect to deliver an environmental offset as either:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. a proponent-driven offset; or</i> <i>2. a financial settlement offset; or</i> <i>3. a combination of a proponent-driven offset and a financial settlement offset.</i> <p><i>The Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (2025) (the Policy) provides further guidance on how environmental offsets should be delivered in accordance with the Act.</i></p> <p><i>Under section 2.2 of the Policy, local delivery of land-based proponent-driven offsets is given priority, with the following order of preference:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the same local government area (LGA); or</i> <i>• the same sub-region; or</i> <i>• the same bioregion; or</i> <i>• adjacent bioregion.</i>
<p>Case study/ Example (optional) 350 word limit</p>	<p><i>No similar local delivery preference is provided for a financially settled environmental offset.</i></p> <p><i>Instead, the State Government has the authority to approve the delivery of a financially settled environment offset OUTSIDE of the local area, potentially resulting in the loss of an environmental value from that area.</i></p> <p><i>This policy setting can create challenges for local governments and other stakeholders who, at times, are unable to deliver a proponent-driven environmental offset due to the immediacy of the work required to be undertaken, the approval processes required under the Act and the associated local environmental conditions.</i></p> <p><i>In these instances, individuals are left with no choice other than a financially settled environmental offset, otherwise potentially risking significant delays in project delivery.</i></p>