

ORDINARY MEETING 18 AUGUST 2015	5.3
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119TH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE - CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Rebecca Assman, Manager Governance #462655:
Darryl Crees, General Manager Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as the Douglas Shire Council Delegates at the 2015 Annual Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Conference in Toowoomba on 19-21 October 2015. Further, that all Councillors be given the opportunity to attend the conference.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The LGAQ's 119th Annual Conference is to be held in Toowoomba from 19-21 October 2015. The theme of this year's conference is – "Taking Control of our own Destiny".

Douglas Shire Council has two votes for voting purposes at the conference and therefore Council is eligible to nominate two Councillors as formal delegates.

BACKGROUND:

This is the second LGAQ Conference that the newly formed Douglas Shire Council will have an opportunity to nominate delegates for attendance and for voting purposes.

PROPOSAL:

The LGAQ Annual Conference provides an opportunity for all Queensland councils to meet once a year to debate issues of importance to local communities. The conference is the largest yearly event for LGAQ and brings together Federal, State and local government as well as external stakeholders and media.

The Douglas Shire Council is eligible to send two delegates but additional Councillors can attend as observers. The conference provides an avenue for professional development and networking as well as the opportunity to debate and vote on new policy.

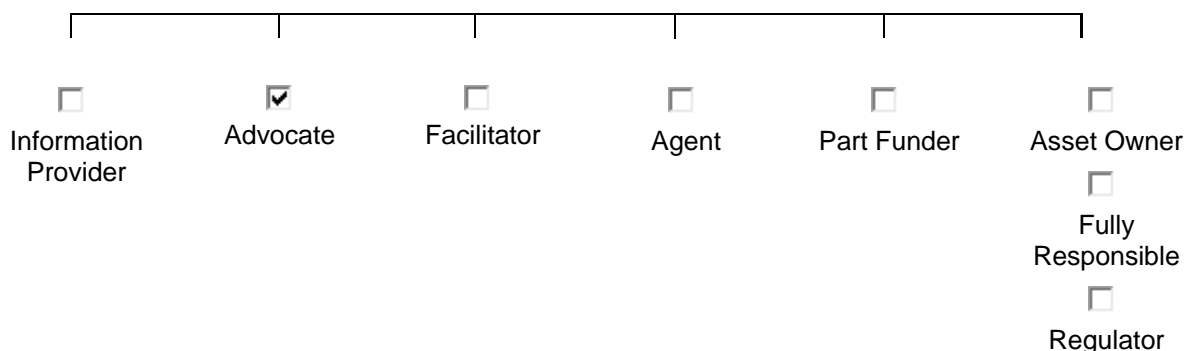
CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Expenses Reimbursement Policy for Elected Representatives

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:

Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government).

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The registration fee for each of the Council's two delegates is complimentary.

Early bird registration fee (by 11 September 2015) for Council observers is \$1,430 per person.

Accommodation rates vary from \$140-\$425 per night depending on venue and availability. Airfares from Cairns to Toowoomba also vary in price according to availability and fare flexibility – initial enquiries estimate return airfares in the vicinity of \$450 per person.

Provision for Council attendance at conferences is contained within the 2015/16 Annual Budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

There are no risk implications to this proposal however from a reputational point of view it is imperative that Douglas should send its Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the most significant annual local government event in Queensland.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. LGAQ Conference Program – provided as separate attachment.