

7.4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND'S 130TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

REPORT AUTHOR	Executive Assistant
EXECUTIVE	Chief Executive Officer
DEPARTMENT	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
TEAM	Office of the Chief Executive Officer
DATE	29 September 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. note that the Local Government Association of Queensland's 130th Annual Conference 2026 will be held in Cairns on 19-21 October 2026;**
- 2. nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Council's delegates at the Conference, and Councillors be endorsed as observers; and**
- 3. authorise payment of all reasonable costs incurred by the attendees in relation to attendance at this event, including travel, accommodation and incidentals, noting the estimated cost of attendance is \$700 per delegate and \$2,400 per additional Councillor.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is holding its 130th Annual Conference from 19-21 October 2026 at the Cairns Convention Centre.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS / RESOLUTIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting held 29 July 2025, it was resolved that:

- 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;
- Council nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Council's delegates at the Conference, and Councillors be endorsed as observers; and
- Council authorise payment of all reasonable costs incurred by the attendee/s in relation to attendance at this event, including accommodation and incidentals, noting the estimated cost to council is \$700 per delegate and \$2,700 per additional Councillor.

REPORT/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 year's event will include the following:

- Annual General Meeting, including debate of motions;
- Council Showcases;
- Panel discussions;
- Gala Dinner and networking opportunities.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As a member of LGAQ, Council receives two complimentary delegates registrations to the annual conference. The cost to Council will include accommodation and sundry expenses and is estimated at \$700 per delegate. The estimated cost for each additional Councillor is \$2,400, including conference registration, accommodation and sundry expenses.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

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 2026-2027 Actions:

New project arisen during the financial year.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is holding its 130th Annual Conference from 19 to 21 October 2026 at the Cairns Convention Centre. It is recommended that Council nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as Council's delegates at the Conference and endorse Councillors as observers.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 260702 annual-conference 2026 prelimprogram [7.4.1 - 14 pages]



130th LGAQ Annual Conference

Councils are your every day

19-21 October
Cairns Convention Centre



PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



COFFEE PARTNER



LANYARD PARTNER



Welcome to Cairns – Australia's gateway to the Pacific.

I know what us local government tragics are like. We get excited by street embellishments, rubbish bins, footpaths, park benches, street lighting and playgrounds. Before long, our camera rolls are full of the stuff. It's an occupational hazard.

While you're here, put Cairns through its paces. Explore our streets, parks and public spaces. Borrow our good ideas, and if you spot something we could do better, I'd genuinely love to hear it. That's one of the best things about local government. We all learn from each other.

While you're out doing your "professional research", don't miss the northern end of the Esplanade after dark. The fairy lit trees create a natural cathedral of light and, yes, they're absolutely worth a photo. If you've brought the family, Muddy's Playground is a must. Make time to wander our gallery precinct too. Whether you're interested in public art, heritage buildings, adaptive reuse or city activation, it's well worth a wander.

You've picked a great year to visit. Cairns is celebrating 150 years, and we're looking forward to sharing a little of that milestone with you while you're here.

If you see me over the next few days, don't hesitate to stop me for a chat. Better still, tag me on social media or send me an email. I'm keen to know what you loved, what you think we could do better, and what ideas we should be borrowing from your council.



Mayor Amy Eden

TIME	TOPIC
12:00pm – 4:30pm	Policy Executive Meeting
9:00am – 3:00pm	Peak Services Professional Development Course Planning with purpose for Elected Members: A Councillor's guide to planning Nikki Huddy, Specialist Planning Facilitator This full-day training program equips councillors with the knowledge, strategic mindset, and practical tools needed to make informed, community-focused decisions within Queensland's planning system. Through interactive presentations, group discussions, and hands-on activities, participants explore how strategic planning and development assessment shape the long-term liveability, resilience, and prosperity of their communities. Click here for more information and to secure your spot.
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Registration Delegates, observers, trade, corporate and accompanying persons.



TIME	TOPIC
7:00am	Light Healthy Breakfast and Beach Volleyball on the Cairns Esplanade Conference attendees are invited to hit the beach for a special wellbeing activation. The Cairns Esplanade volleyball courts will set the scene for a short, spirited match featuring Olympic Gold Medallist Nat Cook OAM OLY. After the match, enjoy a healthy breakfast, coffee, and the chance to meet Nat, take a photo and connect with fellow delegates before the conference gets underway. Whether you're keen to play or cheer from the sidelines, everyone is welcome. Player registration details will be released soon. S U P P O R T E D B Y H E A L T H A N D W E L L B E I N G Q U E E N S L A N D
7:30am – 5:00pm	Registration Delegates, observers, trade, corporate and accompanying persons
8:30am – 12:30pm	Roads and Transport Forum
10:00am – 10:30am	Morning Tea
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm – 5:00pm	Indigenous Leaders Forum
1:30 – 2:30pm	Optional Sessions Session 1: Safety and security for local government elected members QPS Assistant Commissioner Charysse Pond, Security, Counter Terrorism and Forensic Services Command Session 2: Beyond the Buzz: AI that Delivers. Tracy Whitelaw, Chief Digital Officer, LGAQ and Matthew Oxlade, Innovation Manager, LGAQ
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Afternoon tea

TIME	TOPIC
3:00pm – 5:00pm	Council Segment Forums Rural and Remote councils Resources councils SEQ councils Coastal councils
5:15pm-7:15pm	Welcoming Ceremony and Networking Event Welcoming Ceremony 5:15pm Welcome to Country 5:20pm Welcome to Cairns Cr Amy Eden, Mayor, Cairns Regional Council 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

TIME	TOPIC
7:00am-8:30am	CEO Breakfast
8:00am – 5:00pm	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: Councils Are Your Every Day Alison Smith, Chief Executive Officer, LGAQ
9:00am	Official Opening Hon David Crisafulli MP, Premier and Minister for Veterans
9.10am	Keynote: Elections and Politics Antony Green, Former ABC Chief Election Analyst
9:50am	Partner Address
9:55am	Raising The Flag Hon Milton Dick MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
10:20am	Mayors assemble in foyer for conference photo
10:30am	Morning Tea

TIME	TOPIC
11:00am	Council Showcases Part 1
12:00pm	Partner Address BRIGHTER SUPER
12:05pm	Lunch
1:05pm	Council Showcases Part 2
2:00pm	State Opposition update Steven Miles MP, Leader of the Opposition
2:15pm	First Term Talkback: Panel discussion with first term mayors. Mayor Jon Raven, Logan City Council; Mayor Nick Dametto, Townsville City Council; Mayor Lisa Scomazzon, Douglas Shire Council; Mayor Helen Blackburn, Bundaberg Regional Council
2:45pm	Would You Rather... Panel discussion and quiz with long term mayors. Mayor John Wharton, Richmond Shire Council, Mayor Tom Tate, Gold Coast City Council, Mayor Tanya Milligan, Lockyer Valley Regional Council
3:15pm	ALGA update President Matt Burnett
3:20pm	Afternoon Tea

TIME	TOPIC
3:50pm	Opening the flood gates Cr Steve Krieg, Mayor Lismore City Council and Queensland panel
4:30pm	Close day 1
6:30pm – 10:30pm	Awards Ceremony and Conference Dinner Birthday Bash The Local Government Association of Queensland is honoured to welcome the 27th Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, to attend the 2026 Local Government Awards Ceremony. Her Excellency's attendance reflects the significance of recognising the outstanding contributions of Queensland's local governments and the individuals who serve communities across the state. Following the Awards Ceremony, the celebrations continue! You are invited to the biggest birthday party of the year! Join us for a relaxed, vibrant evening as we mark two incredible milestones- 130 years of LGAQ and 150 years of the City of Cairns. Colour is the dress code! S U P P O R T E D B Y H A S T I N G S D E E R I N G



TIME	TOPIC
8:15am	Conference Resumes
8:20am	Emerging issue
8:35am	Annual General Meeting – voting overview <u>Darren Leckenby, Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary, LGAQ</u>
8:40am	Motions Debate
10:15am	Partner Address FORGE SOLUTIONS
10:20am	Morning Tea
10:50am	Motions Debate
12:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Motions Debate
3:30pm	Wrap up Look ahead to Mackay 2027 Annual Conference <u>Mayor Greg Williamson, Mackay Regional Council</u>
3:45pm	Close of Conference



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.

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.

Segment Council Forums

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.

Early Bird Registration – prior to and including 2 October 2026

Council or State Government observer	\$1700.00
5 or more observers from one Council/Government Department	\$1550.00
Industry (Tuesday and Wednesday ONLY)	\$3000.00

After 2 October 2026

Council or State Government observer	\$1800.00
5 or more observers from one Council/Government	\$1650.00
Industry (Tuesday and Wednesday ONLY)	\$3400.00

Early Bird One Day Registration – prior to and including 2 October 2026

Council or State Government observer	\$850.00
Industry (Tuesday and Wednesday ONLY)	\$1330.00

Functions

Welcoming Ceremony – Monday evening (19 October 2026) (Accompanying persons, day registrations and additional trade exhibitors)	\$85.00
Conference Dinner – Tuesday evening (20 October 2026)	\$195.00

Please note that the Welcoming Ceremony on the Monday evening is included in the conference fee for delegates, observers and industry 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

Industry

Registration Booking

Attachment 7.4.1

CONFERENCE POLO 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 FIT	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
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**Every Queensland
community** deserves
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



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