



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

20 February 2014

Darebin City Council
PO Box 91
PRESTON VIC 3072

Dear Mayor Tsitas

I am writing to invite you and your colleagues to attend this year's National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 14 - 17 June 2015.

Invitations have been extended to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to address the sector. We will also be joined by other ministers, shadow ministers and leading public figures presenting keynote addresses, which will help to focus our discussions at the NGA.

The theme for this year's NGA is 'Closest to the Community: Local Government in the Federation'. The Australian Government is currently working with all state and territory governments and ALGA to develop White Papers on reform of the Federation and Taxation. The NGA presents local government as a whole with an opportunity to consider the range of issues being raised and to ensure local government's aspirations are addressed in the White Papers. I have been clear that I want to see local government strengthened as a result of any reform and we need your input to advance that objective.

The NGA program will cover a wide range of issues, reflecting the diversity of local government and our interests. There will be opportunities for delegates to interact with not only invited political and keynote speakers, but with panels of subject-matter experts and local government representatives.

Enclosed is the NGA Registration Brochure which contains details of the program, business agenda and associated events. I have also enclosed the NGA 2015 discussion paper and the official call for motions. This year's NGA presents an ideal opportunity to offer your ideas and experience to your local government colleagues and through to the Australian Government as we consider the challenges that lay ahead.

Your council's involvement in the NGA is important in assisting ALGA to maintain the Government's engagement with local government and to drive improved outcomes for the local government sector at the national level.

A number of crucial policy motions will be debated at the NGA and it is essential that every council is represented in these debates to actively contribute to the dialogue as we strategically position the sector within our Federation.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.


Mayor Troy Pickard
President