



Annual Meeting of Member Councils

MINUTES

Date:	Monday 15 November, 2021
Time:	2:30-3.00pm NSW, VIC 2:00-2:30pm SA 11:30-12:00pm WA

Item	Description				
Attendees					
Cr Carol	Adams	City of Kwinana	Justin	O'Meara	City of Whittlesea
Andrew	Beswick	Wyndham City	Rachel	Pleasant	Wolondilly Shire Council
Gail	Bowman	City of Cockburn	Luis	Puig	City of Armadale
Tony	Brun	City of Cockburn	Michele	Purtle	City of Whittlesea
Sinead	Bullock	City of Gosnells	Cherelle	Pymmer	Mitchell Shire
Elizabeth	Carroll	City of Whittlesea	Cr	Ramsey	Melton City Council
Benish	Chaudhry	City of Whittlesea	Tracey	Roberts	City of Wanneroo
Bronwen	Clark	NGAA	Collin	Ross	Cardinia Shire Council
JAMES	COLLINS	Casey City Council	Sarah	Rowe	City of Whittlesea
Cr Matt	Deeth	Wollondilly Shire Council	Carlie	Ryan	Penrith City Council
Mayor Glenn	Docherty	City of Playford	Greg	Sarre	Mount Barker District Council
Chris	Eddy	City of Whittlesea	Kathryn	Seirlis	City of Casey
Mayor Ann	Ferguson	Mount Barker District Council	Chris	Shannon	Blacktown City Council
Sheena	Frost	Hume City Council	Daniel	Simms	City of Wanneroo
Stephen	Gardiner	Wollondilly Shire Council	Rebecca	Sirianni	Mitchell Shire Council
Vi	Girgis	Camden Council	David	Smith	Liverpool City Council
Cr Joseph	Haweil	Hume City Council	Janet	Takarangi	City of Wanneroo
Pauline	Hobbs	Melton City Council	Grace	Trimboli	City of Playford
Mayor Logan	Howlett	City of Cockburn	Debbie	Tyson	Cardinia Shire Council
Sarah	Kahle	City of Cockburn	Roslyn	Wai	Hume City Council
Sintiya	Khananishoo	Hume City Council	Natalie	Walker	Wyndham
Kate	Lind	Wyndham City Council	Stephen	Wall	Wyndham City Council
Cr Terresa	Lynes	City of Gosnells	Kate	Waters	Wyndham City
Cr Peter	Maynard	Wyndham City Council	Helen	Wells	NGAA
Kate	McCaughey	City of Whittlesea			
Jessica	Monahan	City of Casey			
Daniel	Newman	City of Swan			
Jo	Noesgaard	Casey City Council			

Welcome

Cr Matt Deeth, NGAA Chair opened the meetings at 2.33pmAEDT.

Acknowledgment of Country

Acknowledgement Mayors and Councillors, CEOs and officers from NGAA Member Councils

Apologies were received from

- Cr Rhonda Sanderson, Mayor of Mitchell Shire Council
- Ben Taylor, CEO of Wollondilly Shire Council.

The apologies were noted.

The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated.

Resolution – Accept the Draft minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Mayor Tracey Roberts

Seconded: Cr Peter Maynard

All in favour. Carried.

Strategic Advisory Committee Report

Cr Deeth delivered the Strategic Advisory Committee Report

The financial year 2020-21 was another productive and effective one for the National Growth Areas Alliance despite the extremely challenging circumstances.

Through our advocacy we maintained our profile with political leaders, bureaucrats, the media and likeminded peak bodies. We cemented our role as the 'go to' organisation for expert research and advice on the issues facing local government in outer metro areas.

The growth areas of Sydney and Melbourne proved to be the regions hardest hit by COVID-19 and I would like to commend my fellow elected representatives as well as all staff from NGAA Members who met the extreme challenges of a pandemic with professionalism, compassion and admirable stamina.

At the same time, it was refreshing to hear from colleagues in South Australia and Western Australia that life was continuing 'as usual' – a situation that I sincerely hope continues.

The national response to COVID-19 and in particular the quick pivot to remote working was a turning point for many people living in growth areas. They were suddenly saving many valuable hours by avoiding congestion and lengthy commutes.

NGAA was quick to seize the chance to measure the impact of remote working, and devise new policy positions based on the outcomes of our national survey on the experience of working from or near home in growth areas, which was released in August 2020.

That research, combined with our extensive library, was pivotal in our contribution to Infrastructure Australia's 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan. NGAA was sought out to host and attend Infrastructure Australia workshops and provide extensive feedback on drafts of chapters on Transport, Social Infrastructure and Place-based Outcomes for Communities.

While the Government's attention to Cities policy was diverted by the pandemic this financial year, NGAA nevertheless maintained a strong reputation as a pragmatic and trusted resource to inform policy development and funding decisions.

	<p>Our meetings in Canberra were restricted this year due to travel restrictions, but we were nevertheless able to hold discussions online with Ministers and Shadow Ministers and their advisors.</p> <p>It was wonderful, however, to be able to meet with some of you in person at our Members meeting at ALGA in Canberra in June.</p> <p>I would like to thank the Mayors, Councillors and officers who give their time and expertise to our Alliance’s governance and operations.</p> <p>In particular, I want to acknowledge the time and effort my colleagues on the Strategic Advisory Committee have contributed over the past twelve months, when they were all facing challenging times in their own Councils, but still made the time to contribute to NGAA.</p> <p>On behalf of all Members, I would also like to thank the NGAA Secretariat for their continued dedication and the tremendous value they deliver to our Members. As you look through the annual report and take in the vast amount achieved by NGAA, I am sure you will agree that our small team goes ‘above and beyond’ for all of us.</p>
	<p>Questions from Members No questions were received.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Operational Reports Bronwen Clark delivered the operational report. The Secretariat’s KPIs were set out in 13 strategies that reflected the four goals contained in the 2021-24 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Numerous measurable actions were set out under each strategy, and despite the impact of COVID-19, 90% of those actions were complete, with the remainder impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>Some achievements of the year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government meetings continued during the pandemic resulting in direct requests for NGAA policy formulation from Government and Opposition - New research commissioned on the opportunities arising from working from home in growth areas with significant media coverage - Closer collaboration with Infrastructure Australia including being sought out to contribute to Australian Infrastructure Plan. - Eight submissions to government including Budget submission - Virtual event pivot, with webinar series to replace Symposium resulting in nine events, 20 speakers and over 300 registrations - 2021/22 election campaign strategy was designed with extensive member consultation - All NGAA members continued to be engaged even during extreme economic uncertainty, with increased participation in governance and networks. - Media profile increased through 11 pieces of coverage, six background briefs provided to journalists and 17 media releases - Staffing structure reduced due to COVID, with two staff leaving and five months with an FTE of 1.6 <p>Finance The 2020-21 Budget was revised in December 2020 to take into account the reduced expected income from the postponement of the new Membership fee structure. Staffing, travel and operating costs all came in under budget in 2020-21, with pre-payment of research and event fees for 2022 taking the consultants budget over its forecast level. A surplus of \$13,741 will be carried forward to 2021-22.</p>

	<p>Secretariat Secretariat staffing levels were reduced in response to the uncertain economic environment at the onset of the pandemic, with only the Executive Officer and Communications coordinator (or 1.6FTE) for nearly five months of the year. Our Events Coordinator was transitioned to a casual role in November 2020 and the Research and Policy Coordinator role was filled by Nicola Ward in March 2021 after Melanie Learson's departure in November 2020.</p> <p>Resolution – Accept the Annual Report for 2020-21 Moved: Mayor Glenn Docherty Seconded: Mayor Ann Ferguson All in favour. Carried.</p>
	<p>Questions from Members No questions were received.</p>
4	<p>Looking forward – 2022 Priorities</p> <p>Bronwen Clark outlined the 2022 priorities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roll out of Federal election campaign - New research commissions on the impact of infrastructure delivery and the outcomes of the 2021 Census. - NGAA National Congress to be hosted by Wyndham City Council in March 2022 - NGAA Research Symposium scheduled for mid-2022.
	<p>Questions from Members No questions were received.</p>
5	<p>Meeting close Cr Deeth closed the meeting at 2.57pm AEDT</p>