



---

**IM1** File No: 1116462-1 Id No: 12907700  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND ATTENDANCE AND  
MOTIONS FOR 123RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION & CITY TRANSFORMATION

*Created: 18/06/2019*

---

## REPORT OVERVIEW

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for the following:

- a) Nomination of delegate/s to attend the 123<sup>rd</sup> Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Annual Conference to be held in Cairns from 14-16 October, 2019.
- b) Motions to be submitted for inclusion on the LGAQ conference agenda.

Criteria: Direction

### CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY

NG - NEXT GENERATION GOVERNANCE

NG3 We use responsible governance and establish strategic relationships in the management of assets and the delivery of services to the city

## REPORT DETAIL

### BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association of Queensland 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre from 14-16 October 2019 and the LGAQ has invited Councils to submit motions for consideration at the conference.

### DISCUSSION

The LGAQ is the peak body for local government in Queensland. Held annually, the LGAQ conference brings together all Queensland councils to debate issues of importance to local communities. The conference is attended by Mayors, Councillors, CEO's and Senior Managers, State Government and peak body representatives from across Queensland. The theme of this year's conference is 'Taking It to the Streets'.

The conference provides participants with the opportunity to:

- Immerse themselves in the challenges facing local government and their communities;
- Debate and vote on new policy; and
- Network and learn.

IM1

File No: 1116462-1

Continued:

**Financial Considerations**

Sufficient funds are available in the Advocacy Program 2019/20 budget to cover conference attendance.

**Conference Motions**

Motions have been called for and are due to LGAQ by Monday, 5 August 2019.

The following motion is recommended to be put forward by Council for consideration. Consultation has been undertaken with all relevant Managers and Directors in identifying and drafting proposed motions.

1. Align the eligibility of State Government grants for regional and remote areas to be consistent with geographical boundaries as determined in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure* (Doc Id: 12904400 - attached as background paper 1 to this report).

**CONCLUSION**

It is proposed that Council sends the Interim Administrator and/or her delegate, as nominated by the City Image and Innovation Committee to attend the 2019 LGAQ Annual Conference in Cairns including voting on behalf of Council and the motion, as outlined above, be considered for submission.

**RECOMMENDATION****IT IS RECOMMENDED:-**

1. That, the motion to align the eligibility of State Government grants for regional and remote areas to be consistent with geographical boundaries as determined in the *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure*, as attached to the report of the Director of Innovation & City Transformation dated 18 June 2019 (Id: 12907700), be endorsed.
2. That the Director of Innovation & City Transformation be requested to ensure that the motions, as detailed in Clause 1 above, be submitted for consideration at the 2019 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference by 5 August 2019.
3. That the Interim Administrator of the Logan City Council and/or her delegate be authorised to attend the 2019 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference to be held in Cairns from 14-16 October 2019, as the approved voting delegate on behalf of Council.
4. That funding for attendance at the 2019 Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference, as detailed in Clause 3 above, be sourced from the Advocacy Program budget.
5. That the Interim Administrator of the Logan City Council be requested to write to the Hon. Cameron Dick MP, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, advising of Council's motion to the Local Government Association of Australia conference and seeking support for the alignment of the eligibility of State Government grants for regional and remote areas, as detailed in Clause 1 above.

*The Interim Administrator of the Logan City Council recommended:*

That the report be received and adopted.

**Adopted by Council at its meeting of 09/07/2019 Minute No 147/2019**

# Background Papers

## LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION – 2019

<b>Submitting council / organisation</b> Logan City Council	
<b>Date of council / organisation resolution</b>	<b>LGAQ Policy Executive district</b> District 2 SEQ (Southern)
<b>Number and title of motion</b>	Align the eligibility of State Government grants for regional and remote areas to be consistent with the geographical boundaries determined by the <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> .
<b>Motion</b>	That the LGAQ advocates to State Government to align the eligibility of State Government grants for regional and remote areas to be consistent with the geographical boundaries determined by the <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> .
<b>Background</b>	<p>Local Governments in Queensland cover large geographic areas often with a mix of urban and regional areas. Logan City Council for example encompasses a total land area of 957 square kilometres. While it is known for its more urbanised areas located along the M1 Pacific Motorway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast such as Springwood and Beenleigh, the city is also made up of large tracts of regional and rural areas located towards the city's southern and western boundaries. The geographic remoteness of these areas limits their access to services and supporting infrastructure such as transport, health services and community facilities.</p> <p>The State Government has a number of grant programs that provide funding for infrastructure to meet the specific needs of regional communities while supporting economic growth and employment generation in regional areas of Queensland. These programs include Works for Queensland and Building our Regions both of which have delivered significant benefits to regional communities across the State.</p> <p>While the eligibility guidelines for these funds refer to the <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> which divides each state and territory into several regional categories providing a measure of remoteness, it does not apply these boundaries as they are intended. The <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> divides Australia into five classes of remoteness on the basis of relative access to services; they are major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote Australia and very remote Australia.</p> <p>The City of Logan is classified in part as a 'major city' and in part 'inner regional' however the State Government eligibility criteria for grants excludes the entire local government area despite this mixed classification. Other local government areas such as Moreton Bay Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Ipswich City Council and Redland City Council are also impacted by the exclusion of the whole of the local government area despite the inclusion of inner regional and remote classifications within their local government boundaries.</p> <p>In contrast the Federal Government in determining eligibility for their regional and remote grants programs such as 'Building Better Regions' applies the <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> boundaries and categories regardless of local government boundaries.</p> <p>These varying approaches referencing the same ABS indicator creates disparity and confusion across levels of government in what is deemed to be regional and remote. It also unnecessarily restricts funding and growth opportunities in communities that have been recognised as having a degree of remoteness due to lack of access to services and infrastructure.</p>
<b>What is the desired outcome sought?</b>	That the eligibility of State Government grant opportunities targeted at remote and regional areas are aligned to be consistent with the boundaries and categories of the

# Background Papers

## LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOTION – 2019

	<p><i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> without regard to local government boundaries.</p>
<p><b>What are the impacts (positive or negative) on local government?</b></p>	<p>Aligning the eligibility of State Government regional and remote grant programs with the <i>Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remoteness Structure</i> will ensure that opportunities for infrastructure funding and economic growth will be available to communities based on a measure of access to services equitably across the State.</p> <p>This will also provide consistent funding parameters between different levels of government and support outcomes sought as part of the State Government Grants Review to ensure programs are simplified and managed consistently. Furthermore, this will increase employment opportunities, lead to the construction of new infrastructure and renew aging infrastructure throughout Queensland.</p>
<p><b>LGAQ comment</b></p>	