

MOTION PROPOSED FOR ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 14 to 17 JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: LEADERSHIP IN GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT

MOTION

That the National General Assembly endorse the following transparency and disclosure principles as measures to be considered by local government across Australia to demonstrate leadership in good governance and transparency.

1. Public disclosure on council website of a full lease register detailing the terms of any arrangements with third parties who occupy council-owned land and buildings.
2. Annual public disclosure on council website details of independent valuations of council-owned land and buildings above a threshold of \$1 million.
3. Disclosure in council annual reports the employment terms of their five most senior officers including name, position, remuneration and length of contract.
4. Making an audio recording of council and committee meetings available alongside the formal minutes where practicable and affordable.
5. Allocation of at least 15 minutes each month to unscripted oral public questions at a full council or committee meeting.
6. Periodic disclosure on council website of expense claims made by councillors
7. Pre-approval of interstate and international travel by councillors at an open council or committee meeting.

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE

The 2015 NGA theme is 'Closest to the Community: Local Government in the Federation'. As the tier of government closest to the community, local government has the opportunity to take real and proactive steps to demonstrate leadership in good governance and transparent government.

KEY ARGUMENTS

The proposed measures, if applied in councils across Australia, would further enhance local government's reputation as an accessible, transparent and inclusive level of government. One of the key ways of achieving this is to create opportunities for greater input and awareness in decision-making forums of councils. The measures outlined in this motion would provide communities such opportunities and a layer of transparency in local decision-making.

The measures identified above are those adopted by the Melbourne City Council as part of a program of further strengthening its reputation as an open and transparent organisation. One of the Melbourne City Council's eight goals under its Council Plan 2013-2017 is to provide for '*An accessible, transparent and responsive organisation.*'