

Advocacy Action Plan 2026

Because every Queensland
community deserves to be
a liveable one



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

**The Local Government Association of Queensland
acknowledges Australia's First Nations Peoples as the
Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters on
which we work and live, and gives respect to Elders past and present.**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples should be aware that this
publication may contain the images of people who have passed away.**

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A message from LGAQ President,
Matt Burnett



This Advocacy Action Plan is, at its core, a reflection of councils.

Queensland's councils are the heartbeat of their communities. Every day, they show what true community leadership looks like. Listening to residents, confronting challenges head-on, and fighting for the services, infrastructure, and opportunities their communities deserve.

This Advocacy Action Plan is, at its core, a reflection of councils. It captures the issues they have raised, the pressures they are facing, and the priorities they have identified through resolutions, consultations, and countless conversations across the state. These are the real-world needs of councils and communities from the Torres Strait to the Coast and every place in between.

As the level of government with the smallest share of national funding yet some of the most frontline responsibilities, local government cannot afford to face these challenges alone. We must partner, we must collaborate, and we must speak with a united voice to secure the outcomes Queensland communities rely on.

That is the role of the LGAQ. This plan is a megaphone, an amplification of Queensland council priorities, experiences, and their community's needs. It sets out the actions we, the LGAQ will take on Queensland councils behalf, the reforms we will pursue, and the commitments we will seek from State and Federal governments so councils can continue delivering the essential services Queenslanders depend on.

To my Queensland council colleagues, thank you for the passion, dedication, and leadership you bring to your communities every day. Together, we will continue to champion the issues that matter and ensure local government, and the Queenslanders you serve, are heard loud and clear.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Burnett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cr Matt Burnett

Mayor, Gladstone Regional Council
President, Local Government Association of Queensland



A message from LGAQ CEO,
Alison Smith



Liveability looks different in every corner of Queensland.

It's the streetlights that keep kids safe walking home from sport in Charleville.

It's the community pool that stays open through the summer heat in Normanton.

It's the pothole repairs across Brisbane, the footpath upgrades in Redland, the water and sewerage at Palm Island, the flood levees in Rockhampton and the childcare service that keeps a small town alive in Winton.

These are the everyday investments that make communities liveable, and they're delivered by councils.

As the level of government closest to the community, councils know better than anyone what their people need to feel safe, connected and proud of where they live. Their work goes well beyond roads, rates and rubbish. Councils maintain the parks where families gather, the libraries that connect people to learning and the local disaster teams that respond first and stay the longest. Often, they step in as the provider of last resort when other levels of government fall short.

That's why the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) exists, to give Queensland's 77 councils a strong, united voice on the issues that matter most to their communities.

The 2026 Advocacy Action Plan captures that collective voice. It sets out the key policy positions and funding priorities councils identify as being essential to keeping Queensland's communities liveable, from better roads and housing to resilient energy systems and fairer funding.

These priorities are shaped by 122 member-endorsed motions from the 2025 LGAQ Annual Conference, supported by years of resolutions that continue to guide our advocacy on your behalf.

Queensland councils deliver more than 280 unique community services, yet receive just 3 per cent of total government revenue, while managing more than a third of the nation's public infrastructure. That equation doesn't add up and it's why collaboration between local, State and Federal governments is critical if we're serious about improving liveability.

The 2026 Advocacy Action Plan will guide the LGAQ's engagement with State and Federal governments to secure practical outcomes, fair funding for regional roads, investment in housing and infrastructure, and support for local energy and disaster resilience projects that communities rely on every day.

Informed by councils from Cape York to Coolangatta, the 2026 Advocacy Action Plan is also a tool for members to strengthen their own advocacy. Use it to leverage local priorities, amplify your community's voice and hold other levels of government to account.

Together, we can deliver the services, infrastructure and investment Queenslanders deserve, because every Queensland community, no matter how big or small, deserves to be a liveable one.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Smith

CEO, Local Government Association of Queensland

ABOUT

The Advocacy Action Plan

The LGAQ is driven by member-led advocacy, ensuring the priorities of Queensland's 77 councils are front and centre in every conversation with State and Federal decision-makers.

Grouped by policy theme and aligned to the levels of government best placed to act, the 2026 Advocacy Action Plan (AAP) sets out the key priorities identified and endorsed by councils to help create safe, liveable and resilient communities.

It also incorporates the 122 resolutions passed at the 2025 LGAQ Annual Conference, clear calls to action to the State and Federal governments on the issues that matter most to local government and the communities we serve.

Together, these priorities highlight both the breadth of the sector's advocacy agenda and the vital role councils play in every aspect of Queensland life.

Our 2026 policy themes reflect the real, on-the-ground challenges councils face every day:

- + Reducing the cost of living
- + Energy that works for Queensland
- + Better local infrastructure
- + Planning, development and housing for the future
- + Building safe, resilient and liveable communities
- + Empowering First Nations Peoples
- + Stronger councils
- + Protecting the environment

Throughout the year, the LGAQ's Advocacy team will work together with members to advance these priorities through targeted engagement, including meetings, submissions, correspondence, working groups, forums and public campaigns.

By representing the interests of local government across a wide range of forums, the LGAQ continues to strengthen the sector's collective voice and deliver practical solutions to the complex issues shaping Queensland's liveability.

Our advocacy is always strongest when members speak with one voice. The LGAQ encourages councils to use this AAP to guide and amplify your own advocacy ensuring a consistent, united message.

As the peak body for local government in Queensland, the LGAQ remains committed to working alongside our members to build stronger, more resilient and more liveable communities everywhere across our state.

Should you wish to discuss any of the points contained within this document, or have any further feedback, please contact:

Sarah Vogler

Head of Advocacy

Phone: 0438 447 370

Email: sarah_vogler@lgaq.asn.au



Advocacy Priorities

The LGAQ advocacy priorities highlight the top policy positions and funding needs that councils have identified as **critical** and are calling on the Federal and State governments to deliver, ensuring Queensland flourishes and our local communities **thrive**.

Reducing the Cost of Living



Australia is in the grips of a cost-of-living crisis – and Queenslanders everywhere are feeling the pinch. Councils are doing what they can to alleviate the burden, but they are also using their limited resources to fund services that are not their responsibility. The LGAQ calls for strategic economic partnerships between all levels of government that support Queensland local communities to grow and thrive, and ensure no one is left behind.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Enhance community liveability by increasing untied funding to all councils to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, indexed annually, and with payment timing certainty.

State priorities

- ➔ Undertake an inquiry into local government cost-shifting – an unfair burden impacting ratepayers – with a focus on supply chain pressures and delivering infrastructure and services in local communities.
- ➔ Provide certainty for ratepayers through legislative changes to the *Land Valuations Act 2010*, including a reduction to the maximum number of years between valuations of land for local governments to three years and, annual valuations for urban councils.
- ➔ Improve access to transport in rural and regional Queensland by expanding the coverage, frequency and affordability of public and community transport services through targeted subsidies and flexible service models, and provide a fuel subsidy for communities without access to regular public transport.
- ➔ Bring forward a review of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) to ensure the subsidies are fit for purpose and patients have access to suitable accommodation and transport options on discharge from hospital following unplanned, emergency treatment.

Federal and State priorities over page >

Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Implement measures to ensure greater transparency, availability and affordability of insurance premiums, to alleviate the financial burden on households, small businesses and strata titled developments statewide.
- ➔ Develop a policy and process to support local governments whose rate base is going to be severely impacted by the loss of a major ratepayer or change in rateability. This support should be targeted towards local governments with limited or no capacity to offset the ratings loss, to assist in managing the transition and mitigating the impact to councils' activities and responsibilities.
- ➔ Investigate and establish a financial assistance scheme for freight-related cost-of-living pressures across Queensland's remote communities.
- ➔ Support sustainable regional aviation by increasing funding and subsidies for regulated long-distance air services, while guaranteeing the continuity of regional airline networks. Ensure any changes to contract arrangements are accompanied by comprehensive consultation with regional, rural, remote and First Nations communities to protect access to essential services such as health, education and employment.



Energy

that works for Queensland

Queensland communities are changing as our economy grows and modernises to meet future energy needs. The shift towards cleaner, more reliable energy presents both opportunities and challenges, and it's essential that local communities are at the centre of shaping those outcomes. Locally led, practical solutions will ensure the benefits of new energy investment are shared across Queensland and that every community has a strong and sustainable future.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Enable place-based economic and community transition planning by working closely with councils and providing direct funding to support councils to manage the impact of large-scale renewable, critical minerals, mining and energy projects on local host communities.
- ➔ Overhaul the major project approval process to reform the way major projects are assessed, how social impacts are mitigated and the enforcement of conditions to ensure current and cumulative impacts are regulated at all stages of the project lifecycle.
- ➔ Ensure the Net Zero Economy Authority includes local government representation and engagement, allowing the perspectives and experiences of local communities are incorporated into national policy-making, as Australia advances towards its net zero goals.
- ➔ Develop, in partnership with local government, a mandatory code of conduct for renewable energy proponents, with a focus on ensuring legacy community benefits and addressing current community concerns.

State priorities

- ➔ Enhance the economic and social sustainability of resource communities through a transformation policy framework, including the establishment of a Regional Transformation Authority in Queensland, and allocate adequate funding and resources to Co-Existence Queensland to enhance community and industry engagement, education and information on land access.
- ➔ Ensure host communities benefit from the development of large-scale industry by establishing a consistent social licence framework for new and existing resource and energy projects, including but not limited to a financial contribution for ongoing community benefits.
- ➔ Establish a dedicated regional transition fund to invest in critical infrastructure, develop the workforce needed to enable the transitioning energy sector and support councils to navigate the energy transition and meet the needs of local communities.



Energy that works for Queensland

State priorities continued

- ➔ Expand the legislation for renewable energy providers that requires legacy projects to be delivered for impacted communities, to ensure community benefits are delivered from all energy projects, including generation, transmission and storage, and to include council referral requirements.
- ➔ Investigate and support the repurposing of existing and decommissioned mines for energy production and storage, including funding for projects and infrastructure development to support the mine conversion and diversification process.
- ➔ Through Ergon Energy, develop a new customer charter for local government in collaboration with the LGAQ and Queensland councils. The charter should provide clearer costs and timeframes for power connections, improve responsiveness to councils and communities, and foster collaboration on road lighting and electrical design to deliver projects faster and more efficiently.

Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Ensure baseload production of energy is sufficient to meet current and future energy needs of all Queensland residents and businesses, considering all available technologies.
- ➔ Support the local government sector to transition to net zero emissions through targeted operational and capital grants programs for councils to establish and maintain corporate emissions inventories, invest in capital projects and supplement operational expenses.

Better Local Infrastructure

Across Queensland, local governments own, operate and maintain approximately \$178 billion worth of assets, including over 150,000 kilometres of roads, 480 water and wastewater treatment plants and 82,000 kilometres of water and sewerage mains. From the clean drinking water in your tap to the safe, driveable roads in your community – local infrastructure is a vital issue requiring collaboration and partnership between all the levels of government.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Provide funding certainty for all Queensland councils to support the provision of job-creating projects, across every local community, by restoring the highly successful Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program to \$500 million per year nationwide (indexed annually), or establishing a new allocative, permanent funding program for councils to build and maintain essential community infrastructure.
- ➔ Make the national Active Transport Fund permanent by allocating \$150 million per year on an ongoing basis for the design, construction and upgrade of new and existing bicycle and walking pathways.
- ➔ Enhance road safety by increasing the road Black Spot Program to \$200 million over four years.
- ➔ Ensure supplies can get to our communities by addressing first and last mile regional freight capacity through an additional \$300 million per year (indexed annually) for the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program.
- ➔ Improve access, reliability and resilience of telecommunication services and digital connectivity by increasing funding under the Regional Connectivity Program and Mobile Black Spot Program for mobile infrastructure and fixed broadband investment in regional, rural, remote and First Nations communities that are underserved by telecommunications providers.

State priorities

- ➔ Support key recommendations made in [Queensland's State of the Assets Report](#) produced by the LGAQ including:
 - Establish an infrastructure renewal framework, co-designed with Queensland councils, to guide reinvestment into 'at-risk' asset categories, such as timber bridges, unsealed roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as community and active transport infrastructure.
 - Improve road safety by committing to a permanent funding boost of \$100 million per year, indexed annually, for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS).
 - Establish a dedicated, long-term, allocative water and wastewater infrastructure upgrade and renewal funding model for local government, co-designed with Queensland councils. This includes supporting councils to assess network risks, co-designing a dedicated renewal and replacement program for high-risk assets, providing ongoing funding for essential water and wastewater projects, and expediting the release of the Urban Water Risk Assessment results.
 - Develop a dedicated timber bridge renewal program with councils to progressively replace or modernise ageing timber bridge assets statewide.

Better local infrastructure

State priorities continued

- › Provide increased, untied funding for the renewal and expansion of active transport infrastructure across Queensland.
- › Reintroduce a standalone infrastructure pipeline planning program for local governments to enhance project delivery and support Queensland councils in preparing shovel-ready projects.
- ➔ Increase funding allocated to Road Maintenance Performance Contracts (RMPC) throughout Queensland.
- ➔ Continue to support councils in addressing the cost and compliance challenges associated with temporary traffic management.
- ➔ Support and implement the findings and recommendations made in the LGAQ's 2024 Fixing Queensland's Trunk Infrastructure Funding Framework research report, including establishing an expert panel to develop permanent solutions for a more equitable trunk infrastructure funding and charging framework across Queensland.
- ➔ Undertake a comprehensive audit of Queensland's recycling and waste infrastructure gaps and develop a clear State investment plan that aligns with recycling targets.
- ➔ Partner with local governments and review Queensland's stock route network program to ensure that the integrity of the network and its values are maintained, while avoiding further burdens on rural and remote councils and their communities.
- ➔ Provide funding for dam safety improvement projects and upgrade works to referable dams throughout Queensland.

Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Work in collaboration and partnership with Queensland councils to ensure a new National Water Agreement, including ongoing National Water Grid funding that recognises the critical role and concerns of local government in the provision of water and wastewater services, and does not result in any water reforms that adversely impact on local communities.



Planning, Development and Housing for the future

Good planning is central to ensuring every Queensland community is a liveable one. Planning and development play vital roles in supporting affordable living, community safety and resilience, and in protecting local values while enabling new opportunities. But with responsibilities split across all levels of government, it is essential that all parties work together in the public interest.

In recent years, crippling housing shortages have been felt in all communities, with each part of the state facing its own unique challenges. All levels of government need to work together to ensure Queenslanders have access to safe, affordable and reliable housing – no matter where they live.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Establish a permanent funding program to support local governments in delivering and upgrading trunk infrastructure to unlock housing supply and accommodate population growth.
- ➔ Address 'post code discrimination' in regional, rural and remote Queensland by supporting regional home ownership in communities where banks currently require inflated deposits.
- ➔ Establish industry incentives to activate existing development approvals already issued by councils.
- ➔ Ensure the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council includes local government representation and engagement to ensure fit-for-purpose housing and homelessness solutions for local communities.
- ➔ Dedicate additional, permanent funding to support affordable, temporary and emergency housing in partnership with local government, and resolve barriers to funding take-up where these exist.

State priorities

- ➔ Continue the collaborative review of Queensland's planning system that is currently underway, with a view to working with councils to ensure the system is efficient, effective, transparent, coordinated and accountable. Particular focus should be given to:
 - Streamlining processes for local government.
 - Aligning land use, infrastructure and transport planning.
 - Coordinating planning for cemeteries.
 - Ensuring State Government planning and approval processes are executed in tandem with local government.
 - Rectifying concerns raised by councils with respect to the *Planning Regulation 2017*, including definitions, prohibitions, planning for natural hazards and assessment benchmarks for prescribed accepted development.
 - Ensuring Queensland's new community benefit framework is extended to Battery Energy Storage Systems.
 - Integrating State and local government ePlanning systems.
- ➔ Undertake a collaborative review of current processes to make or amend a local planning instrument, under the *Planning Act 2016* and

Planning, development and housing for the future

State priorities continued

the Minister's Guidelines and Rules, with the objective of reducing unnecessary red tape and improving the responsiveness of Queensland's planning system.

- ➔ Invest, unlock, activate and implement solutions to the housing crisis, as identified by Queensland councils, in support of the LGAQ Local Government Housing Roadmap.
- ➔ Continue to invest in social and affordable housing, and in increases for crisis and temporary accommodation and homelessness support services in areas of need.
- ➔ Provide funding for councils to implement local housing plans, action plans and strategies.
- ➔ Work with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to progress permanent solutions that modernise Queensland's trunk infrastructure funding framework.
- ➔ Streamline the process for a local government to amend its planning scheme, including local government infrastructure plans.
- ➔ Support councils' call to address the planner and building certifier shortages.
- ➔ Expand eligibility criteria for the First Home Owner Grant to allow for the purchase of properties requiring substantial renovation.
- ➔ Revise the definition of 'affordable housing' and 'affordable housing component' in consultation with local government, to provide clarity and consistency, and amend the *Land Title Act 1994* to remove barriers to councils conditioning affordability covenants when approving affordable housing proposals.
- ➔ Manage the growth and impacts of short stay accommodation (SSA), including through a data sharing agreement with SSA providers and a code of conduct with SSA users.
- ➔ Review existing State Government property fees, taxes and duties to ensure these are fit for purpose.
- ➔ Modernise the regulation of houses and secondary dwellings, by updating relevant parts of the Queensland Development Code.



Building Safe, Resilient and Liveable Communities

Every Queensland community deserves to be a liveable one. Creating safe, resilient places means ensuring people can stand strong, stay connected and thrive, no matter what challenges arise. Councils step in to provide extra services to ensure our communities prosper and often assume the responsibility of other levels of government when they fail to fulfill their obligations.

Federal priorities

- Permanently provide \$200 million per year for targeted disaster mitigation and to future-proof community infrastructure.
- Accelerate the transition of Queensland's Flood Warning Infrastructure Network (FWIN) from local governments to the Bureau of Meteorology and eliminate cost-shifting by guaranteeing no-cost data access agreements remain available.
- Guarantee Council to Council (C2C) support arrangements remain eligible expenses under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).
- Improve regional banking services by preventing the further closures of banks and take immediate action to address discriminatory lending practices that unfairly target regional and remote areas based on postcode.
- Commit to the sustainable provision of aged care and NDIS services in remote and regional communities.
- Reform childcare regulation and funding models to ensure the long-term viability of early childhood education and care in rural and remote communities, including reviewing how the Community Child Care Fund can better support childcare services operated by local governments, and creating incentives to attract and train qualified childcare staff to work in regional areas.

- Reduce the reliance on water buy-backs in the Murray-Darling Basin and deliver targeted funding programs to support the liveability and economic transition of communities affected by the implementation of targets under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

State priorities

- Continue to implement community safety initiatives to address the concerns of Queensland communities, including support for the LGAQ's nine-point [Juvenile Crime Action Plan](#) and increased long-term investment in preventative and early intervention programs for young people, with a focus on improving mental health, wellbeing and community connection.
- Improve rural and remote health services with a summit that generates a standalone health plan, developed with benchmarked service outcomes that are regularly monitored and measured.
- Introduce statewide statutory disclosure provisions, similar to the approach taken in other jurisdictions, requiring detailed property sale disclosure statements that include flood and other natural hazard information.

Building safe, resilient and liveable communities

State priorities continued

- ➔ Make changes to the Blue Card system to not preclude people who have historic offences that would not endanger children or put anyone at risk. This would allow people to take up jobs at council, volunteer for emergency services or take on mentoring roles in their communities.
- ➔ Progress further reviews of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs Act) 2008* that also consider the findings of the statutory review of the *Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) Act 2009*, to ensure an appropriate regulatory framework that reduces red tape and addresses the broader issues experienced by local governments in managing domestic animals.
- ➔ Provide increased and indexed funding to the State Library of Queensland to support:
 - The development and implementation of the proposed Queensland Digital Library initiative.
 - Councils operating Independent Libraries, Rural Libraries Queensland and Indigenous Knowledge Centres to deliver library services aligned to local priorities and support physical library collections.
 - The delivery and expansion of the First 5 Forever program, in partnership with Queensland councils.
 - Other digital inclusion programs.

Federal and State priorities

- ➔ Ensure disaster management preparedness, response and recovery works effectively for councils and communities by:
 - Improving delivery of disaster operations, including community funding packages.
 - Restoring essential public assets in a timely manner, post-emergency event, with funding certainty.
 - Reducing red tape by simplifying claims processes under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to reduce red tape and make substantiation processes fairer for essential public assets like roads and drainage, including photographic evidence.
 - Supporting enhanced access to recovery capabilities (personnel and equipment) when local and district capacity has been exceeded, including additional support for Council to Council (C2C) arrangements.
 - Fund a coordinated, cross-agency program that uses creative expression and cultural partnerships to help communities to document, interpret and share the ecological and lived experiences of disasters and significant events through response, recovery and resilience.
 - Provide funding to aid councils to improve the resilience of community infrastructure used as evacuation centres or places of refuge.
- ➔ Invest further in the resilience of Queensland's energy networks to minimise the impact on communities of power supply disruptions caused by disasters.
- ➔ Introduce an additional funding stream under DRFA for disaster mitigation on the following bases:
 - The new stream provides funding to local governments for post-disaster activities that reduce or mitigate future risks in disaster affected areas.
 - The maximum amount of funding available is equivalent to 25 per cent of the Category B restoration of public assets funding received from a disaster event; and
 - The funding may be used to top up repairs to damaged assets (betterment) or construction of new disaster mitigation infrastructure to reduce identified future disaster risk.
- ➔ Commit to expanding the joint Federal and State government Resilient Homes Fund by allocating an additional \$741 million to support improved housing resilience across Queensland, including house raising, retrofits and a statewide voluntary home buy-back program.

Building safe, resilient and liveable communities

Federal and State priorities continued

- ➔ Support the health and long-term sustainability of Australia's vital ground water systems by ensuring the ongoing protection of the Great Artesian Basin, including from carbon capture and storage projects.
- ➔ Support the development of more Regional University Study Hubs with ongoing funding to enable opportunities to expand services, improve liveability and address workforce challenges in rural and remote communities.
- ➔ Collaborate on innovative solutions and investment to urgently address healthcare shortages, including mental health support and services in rural and remote Queensland.
- ➔ Close the digital divide by boosting access and infrastructure in a new formal partnership approach across all three levels of government
 - to get infrastructure to where connectivity is needed.
- ➔ Invest in addressing the root causes of homelessness, and in homelessness prevention and response through:
 - Increased resourcing of relevant State and Federal agencies, tenancy services/programs and community providers across Queensland.
 - Regular and transparent auditing, assessing and reporting on funding committed to addressing homelessness.
 - Financial assistance for local governments that are having to manage and respond to associated challenges, including public nuisance, illegal camping, illegal dumping and community safety.
 - An increase in supported accommodation models.



Empowering

First Nations Peoples

Queensland's 17 First Nations councils – and the remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities they represent – are a crucial part of the cultural, social and economic fabric of our state. This is why it is critical for all levels of government to join forces in providing the support and resources needed.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Address overcrowding and support economic development in remote and discrete communities by establishing a new bilateral funding agreement with the Queensland Government to substantially increase investment in First Nations housing.
- ➔ Guarantee digital connectivity levels across Queensland's remote and discrete communities that are comparable to the rest of Australia, by ensuring these communities receive their fair share of digital connectivity funding.
- ➔ Re-establish funding for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Native Title Respondents Scheme under the *Native Title Act 1993*, until all claims within Queensland are determined.

State priorities

- ➔ Deliver on the strategic partnership and formalised agreement (Queensland Indigenous Council Leaders Accord) with Queensland's 17 discrete First Nations councils to provide improved access to government decision-makers to better influence the priorities, design and implementation of public policy, with respect to discrete First Nations communities and Closing the Gap.
- ➔ Permanently extend the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program to deliver and manage water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, contributing to water security and long-term environmental and public health outcomes.
- ➔ Empower First Nations communities by providing a permanent, guaranteed increase in State Government Financial Aid funding.
- ➔ Provide increased resourcing of the First Nations Recruit Preparation Program to increase the numbers of fully sworn First Nations police officers on-Country and implement a community policing model in all remote and discrete communities.





Federal and State priorities

- Increase housing supply for First Nations Peoples in remote and discrete communities, allocating \$100 million per year for five years to reduce overcrowding and help Close the Gap across education, health, incarceration and employment.
- Consult with discrete First Nations councils prior to approving the delivery of Closing the Gap programs to ensure better coordination and intended outcomes that align with communities' priorities.
- Establish and periodically release to councils specific local government area data and reporting against each of the Closing the Gap targets.
- Improve the coordination and delivery of health services to meet local needs in remote and discrete First Nations communities, including through better engagement with First Nations councils.
- Address the growing issue of abandoned vehicles in remote and discrete First Nations communities through financial assistance to undertake the removal, storage and disposal of these vehicles.

Stronger Councils



From the Outback to our capital cities and coastlines – more than 42,000 Queenslanders work in councils supporting local communities. Councils work daily to shape and influence the liveability of every Queensland community, providing vital services. Stronger councils mean stronger communities.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Give councils a fairer funding deal by increasing untied funding to all councils to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, indexed annually, and with payment timing certainty.
- ➔ Provide sector certainty by ensuring the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability has a firm reporting date of June 2026 for its final report and recommendations.
- ➔ Recognise local government as equal partners that can deliver outcomes in every local community by:
 - Permanently extending National Cabinet membership, including on all Ministerial forums to the local government sector.
 - Mandating Cabinet consideration on local government impact and cost-shifting analysis for every government policy decision under a revised Cabinet Handbook.
 - Updating the National Skills Agreement, recognising the role of local government as a key employer nationally and the need to address the skills gaps and recruitment constraints.

State priorities

- ➔ Release outcomes from the Local Government Red Tape Reduction Taskforce, and commit to implementing the recommendations and key red tape reduction solutions outlined in the LGAQ's submission to the Red Tape Reduction Taskforce (March 2025), through ongoing and genuine consultation processes with Queensland councils.
- ➔ Maintain funding certainty for local community infrastructure with the ongoing permanent \$100 million per year funding for Works for Queensland, and continuing to advocate for permanent \$50 million per year for SEQ Community Stimulus Program, indexed by CPI.
- ➔ Support council sustainability through policy, program and reform initiatives that address and reduce the impacts of depreciation, provide support for asset management and remove financial impediments to grant funding, such as co-contribution requirements.
- ➔ Reinforce the autonomy of local governments by ruling out a State-imposed rate-capping policy for Queensland councils and any changes to the current voting system (including compulsory preferential voting).
- ➔ Ensure regular and ongoing scrutiny of the councillor conduct system and the impact of Conflict of Interest (COI) laws by supporting further changes as needed.

Stronger councils

State priorities continued

- Undertake a review of new expenditure cap laws as soon as possible.
- Increase training and apprenticeship opportunities with local governments by maintaining and enhancing existing partnership projects.
- Reinforce the planning authority of local governments and local land use decision-making through a new planning partnership enforced through a specific codicil to the Partners-in-Government Agreement, signed by the Deputy Premier and LGAQ.
- Implement all legislative reforms recommended by the PCCC Logan Inquiry and Crime and Corruption Commission – Commission of Inquiry.
- Continue to support local governments in securing access to quarries for essential public infrastructure through ongoing legislative and practical solutions, including by facilitating interim access agreements for existing quarries while any Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) are being negotiated, at no cost to councils, and identifying solutions for land where no native title claimant or determination exists.
- Provide ongoing funding support for Queensland councils through programs such as the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils (QCRC) to build capacity, strengthen local decision-making and deliver initiatives that focus on emissions reduction, risk and resilience and climate adaptation.
- Support small rural and remote communities to deliver waste and resource recovery outcomes that are achievable within budget and resource constraints – for example, by introducing localised targets, establishing an effective regional waste data collection and reporting framework and addressing the increasing environmental compliance costs for landfills.

Federal and State priorities

- Strengthen digital resilience and innovation by establishing a shared Security Operations Centre, developing a sector-wide AI framework and investing in State-owned data centres and dark fibre to ensure secure, smart and connected communities.
- Support skills and training packages, comprised of funding, incentives and initiatives aimed at addressing key workforce shortages, including environmental health officers, water and wastewater treatment operators, urban and regional planners and building certifiers.
- Address land tenure issues that are impeding councils' capacity to deliver vital infrastructure for the wellbeing of their communities and to facilitate greater revenue opportunities.
- Provide funding for councils to negotiate or review Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) to ensure they meet the ongoing needs of the community, Traditional Owners and local governments to support housing, economic and social development outcomes.



Protecting the Environment



Queensland’s natural assets must be protected to be enjoyed by today’s generation – and generations to come. Councils care for their communities – and that care extends to the iconic species, landscapes and environments their residents and visitors value most. As providers of essential services, councils play a critical role in protecting public health and environmental amenity through responsible waste management and resource recovery. To secure a cleaner, more sustainable future, the State and Federal governments must partner with councils and communities to protect our natural assets, reduce waste and build a circular economy.

Federal priorities

- ➔ Fund local governments to manage Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) to protect Queensland’s natural resources, and their communities, from their impacts.
- ➔ Fund the delivery of pest animal National Action Plans, so Queensland’s environment and communities are protected from the impacts that they cause.
- ➔ Ensure local governments are empowered and supported to protect and enhance locally significant koala habitat through increased funding.
- ➔ Establish a nationally consistent approach to the management of PFAS-affected land and development related PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances group of chemicals) risks and ban the importation and use of products containing PFAS-group chemicals by the end of 2026.
- ➔ Commit to ongoing and increased funding of the Reef Guardian Councils program, to empower councils to deliver place-based urban water quality improvement initiatives that protect the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef.

State priorities

- ➔ Boost biosecurity on-ground actions with regionalised funding to empower local governments to implement priority pest animal and weed management programs, tailored to their specific needs and challenges, with \$14 million over the next four years.
- ➔ Fully fund the Wild Dog Barrier Fence and Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board Fence as a biosecurity barrier that protects local communities from threats, with \$5 million a year.
- ➔ Fully fund the delivery of local government’s stock route management plans to ensure that Queensland’s stock route network is managed for travelling stock, whilst also supporting inherent natural and cultural values present on the network, with \$5 million a year.
- ➔ Support the delivery of local and regional initiatives that safeguard Queensland’s iconic species and landscapes from current and future threats, including the delivery of koala threat abatement activities and the management of urban flying fox roosts.

Protecting the environment

State priorities continued

- Provide funding for the implementation of Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP) and First Nation RWMPs, including for resource recovery infrastructure, through a dedicated council funding program.
- Work collaboratively with local government to review and align the waste levy, waste levy zones and advance payment schedule to acknowledge regional resource recovery capabilities, and access to waste processing infrastructure.
- Re-introduce the highly successful Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package (RRTAP) to support and enable recycling and resource recovery in regional Queensland.
- Review environmental regulations for waste management to ensure captured material can be economically and environmentally sustainably re-introduced into a circular economy.
- Introduce a statewide Household Chemical Collection Program to provide domestic residents with a free and accessible service for the disposal of unwanted household chemicals.
- Take the lead in resolving any known PFAS contamination arising from the historical operations of fire stations, ports, airports and other infrastructure.
- Amend the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (2025) to prioritise the local delivery of financially settled environmental offsets.

Federal and State priorities

- Increase funding and financial support for local governments in the red imported fire ant eradication and suppression treatment areas, to support the shift of responsibilities under the Queensland Government's Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce Plan 2022–23 to 2025–26 and National Fire Ant Eradication Program.
- Protect the Great Barrier Reef and support the Reef 2050 Plan by providing \$165 million over the next five years for Queensland's Reef councils to deliver actions under the LGAQ's Reef Councils Rescue Plan 2024–2030.
- Provide ongoing funding support for Queensland councils through programs such as the QCoast2100 Program to support councils to implement coastal hazard adaptation initiatives.
- Review the current protected wildlife status of flying foxes under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), considering evidence of population densities, risk of endangerment and public health and amenity concerns in regional town and urban areas.
- Work with local governments and industry representatives to establish mandatory extended producer responsibility and product stewardship schemes for priority materials, including single-use products, packaging, e-waste, solar panels and tyres, to benefit all Queensland communities by addressing waste generation at the source and increasing the sustainable reuse of materials.



2025 LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions

The resolutions passed at the 2025 LGAQ Annual Conference demonstrate both the extent of our sector's advocacy challenge and the critical role local government plays in every aspect of community life.



Reducing the Cost of Living

Resolutions



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:**

The State Government to:

- Develop a website that allows ratepayers to undertake a true comparison of local government rates and charges, including: general rates (incl. differential general rates), utility charges, special rates and charges separate rates and charges; Require local governments to submit a range of data and metrics that would allow ratepayers to undertake a true comparison of local government rates and charges, across a range of land uses including but not limited to residential owner occupied residential non-owner occupied, commercial/retail, industrial/noxious, where such data and metrics include but not limited to: number of assessments total rateable valuations of assessments.

Resolution 51 ▶

- Ensure the scheduled 2026 review of regulated air service contracts in Queensland is undertaken with early, comprehensive and contemporary engagement. This should include affected communities, councils, regional industries, service users and other stakeholders, with genuine opportunities to shape the scope of the review and raise key concerns. The review should also be more extensive and future focused than previous efforts, supporting economic growth and equitable airline services for regional, rural and remote Queenslanders.

Resolution 64 ▶

- Improve the coverage, frequency and affordability of public and community transport services in rural and regional Queensland, including through targeted subsidies and service models that address current gaps in access to essential services, education, and employment.

Resolution 68 ▶

- Offer a fuel subsidy to regions without a regular and subsidised system of public transport.

Resolution 74 ▶

- Introduce mandatory annual land valuations for urban councils.

Resolution 79 ▶

Both levels of Government to:

- Develop a policy and process to support local governments whose rate base is going to be severely impacted by the loss of a major ratepayer or change in rateability. This support should be targeted towards local governments with limited or no capacity to offset the ratings loss, to assist in managing the transition and mitigating the impact to council's activities and responsibilities.

Resolution 50 ▶

Energy that works for Queensland

Resolutions

To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:**

The State Government to:

- Ensure councils are adequately supported to implement the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

[Resolution 57 ▶](#)

- Expand the current legislation for renewable energy providers that requires legacy projects to be delivered for any impacted communities, to include all energy providers including the generation, transmission and storage.

[Resolution 58 ▶](#)

- Develop a Domestic Reserve Policy for all natural resources, in particular critical minerals and those resources needed for energy production.

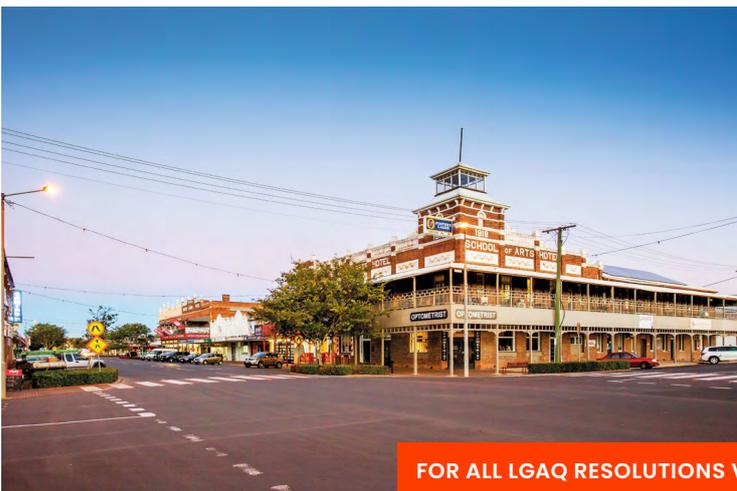
[Resolution 61 ▶](#)

- Increase energy network resilience to improve reliable power supply for communities during disasters and severe weather events.

[Resolution 62 ▶](#)

- Require Ergon Energy, as a Government Owned Corporation, to develop a new customer charter for local government, in collaboration with the LGAQ and Queensland councils, to address cost and timing certainty issues for power connections and improve responsiveness to council and community needs, and to ensure Ergon Energy takes a collaborative approach with councils for road lighting and electrical design, to support timely project delivery, reduce administrative burden and meet infrastructure funding commitments.

[Resolution 63 ▶](#)



FOR ALL LGAQ RESOLUTIONS VISIT CONGRUENT.LGAQ.ASN.AU

Better Local Infrastructure

Resolutions



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:**

The Federal Government to:

- ➔ Provide a more flexible approach to the definition and application of 'own source expenditure' under the Roads to Recovery (RTR) program, to minimise the cost impacts on local government, recognising that many rural, remote and discreet councils face significant challenges in meeting the reference amount due to limited revenue bases.

Resolution 13 ▶

- ➔ Implement the sector-wide priorities outlined in Queensland councils' 2025 Federal Election platform to improve community liveability and ensure Queensland councils can deliver the services and infrastructure their local communities expect and deserve.

Resolution 14 ▶

- ➔ Commit to timely and adequate investment in nationally and regionally significant Queensland road infrastructure through the Infrastructure Investment Program. This includes allocating funding in future budgets and partnering with the State Government to accelerate the delivery of priority projects such as the Queensland corridor of the Outback Way that support freight efficiency, regional connectivity, economic development and national event readiness.

Resolution 72 ▶

The State Government to:

- ➔ Partner with local government to deliver safe, secure and affordable water for Queensland communities by taking a strategic programmatic approach to address the infrastructure cliff that includes providing funding support for councils to undertake strategic asset criticality assessments to clearly identify the infrastructure risks in their water and wastewater networks, co-designing a dedicated water and wastewater funding program with local government that is focussed on renewal and replacement of aging assets identified as high risk, and committing to providing ongoing non-competitive, dedicated funding for water and wastewater projects to address increasing risk of system failure in these critical services. Additionally expedite the release of the results from the Urban Water Risk Assessment.

Resolution 5 ▶

- ➔ Support and implement the findings and recommendations made in the LGAQ's 2024 'Fixing Queensland's Trunk Infrastructure Funding Framework' research report.

Resolution 7 ▶

- ➔ Commit to coordinated planning for road infrastructure critical to supporting the construction and operation of large-scale renewable and resource projects in regional Queensland.

Resolution 59 ▶

Better local infrastructure continued

- Develop and implement a formal process to enable the transfer of regionally significant roads from local government to the Department of Transport and Main Roads, where the road function and strategic importance exceed the original intent of local road infrastructure.

Resolution 65 ▶

- Develop and publicly release a Queensland Public Transport Plan and Action Plan linked to land use planning, that focuses on the most efficient way to move people across Queensland, that unlocks housing and enables social and economic uplift.

Resolution 67 ▶

- Review the materials, design and angle/position of road signs on State-controlled roads as they present a safety hazard for night driving due to their reflectivity.

Resolution 73 ▶

- Through Maritime Safety Queensland, to act upon its statutory obligation to deal with abandoned ships under section 175A of the *Transport Operations (Maritime Safety) Act 1994* and undertake proactive compliance.

Resolution 75 ▶

- Provide for safe stock access in accordance with the *Stock Route Management Act 2002* by classifying maintenance by a local government of up to 25m width low density corridors through vegetation for stock movement as a clearing purpose under 'Clearing for routine property management' under 'exempt clearing work' under the Queensland Vegetation Management Framework (S10. *Vegetation Management Act 1999*).

Resolution 81 ▶

- Allow an 8-metre vegetation clearance off farm boundaries for wild dog exclusion fencing for the purpose of "Clearing necessary to maintain infrastructure, including buildings, structures, fences, roads and watering points" as "Exempt

Clearing Work" under the Queensland Vegetation Management Framework, with clearing external to the boundary to have the approval of the landowner or delegated manager.

Resolution 86 ▶

- For a review of the Department of Primary Industries fisheries policies and restrictions that limit the maintenance window and extent of mangrove removal in man-made drains, with the aim of enabling effective flood mitigation and urban waterway management.

Resolution 93 ▶

- Ensure that communities across the state share in the benefits of the 2032 Olympic Games by establishing a dedicated fund for new or upgraded infrastructure in regional, rural, remote and First Nations Queensland to deliver ongoing benefits before, during, and beyond the games.

Resolution 130 ▶

- Work in partnership with local governments to address sporting infrastructure deficits and build capacity for sporting and recreation organisations to increase participation by increasing investment in state-owned land, new sporting and recreation facilities and upgrading to existing facilities, enabling increased utilisation of state-owned land and facilities for sporting and recreation activities through, for example, expanding existing policies, and at the discretion of local governments, providing additional state land and/or sites for sport and recreation purposes to maintain in the role of a land trustee.

Resolution 131 ▶

Both levels of Government to:

- Increase long-term investment in active transport infrastructure.

Resolution 69 ▶

Planning, Development and Housing for the future

Resolutions

To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:**

The Federal Government to:

- Establish a permanent funding program dedicated to supporting local governments in the delivery and upgrade of trunk infrastructure necessary to unlock housing supply and accommodate population growth.

Resolution 22 ▶

The State Government to:

- Undertake a collaborative review of current processes to make or amend a local planning instrument, under the *Planning Act 2016* and the Minister's Guidelines and Rules, with the objective of reducing unnecessary red tape and improving the responsiveness of Queensland's planning system.

Resolution 9 ▶

- Ensure future rounds of the Residential Activation Fund provide greater support for infill growth.

Resolution 23 ▶

- Develop a geographically targeted strategy and dedicated fund for housing in regional, rural and remote Queensland, to unlock economic opportunity, enable critical services to be maintained and accelerate population growth.

Resolution 24 ▶

- Undertake a review of the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* with a view to restoring a balanced framework of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants and addressing barriers that discourage property owners from making vacant housing stock available for rent.

Resolution 25 ▶

- Work with industry associations, secondary and tertiary education institutions and local governments, to promote urban and regional planning as a career choice.

Resolution 55 ▶

- Expand the pathways through which someone may become a building certifier.

Resolution 56 ▶

- Streamline the planning scheme mapping amendment process outlined in the Minister's Guidelines and Rules (MGR).

Resolution 117 ▶

- Review the *Planning Act 2016* and subordinate legislation to streamline the process to make or amend a Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP), provide greater flexibility for councils, and improve land use and infrastructure planning integration.

Resolution 118 ▶

Housing for the future continued

- Amend the Planning Regulation 2017 to require community residences to comply with local government and community expectations, with regard to location, setbacks, site cover, height, car parking and amenity protections, while maintaining their exempt development status under Schedule 6.

Resolution 119 ▶

- Streamline and simplify the approval process, and to make additional types of work accepted development, for local government to undertake timely and cost-effective foreshore works including mitigation and adaption works associated with natural hazard risk reduction and beach nourishment and maintenance.

Resolution 120 ▶

- Ensure secondary dwellings are captured under the current Queensland Development Code (QDC) or future Queensland Housing Code (QHC), to provide a 'complete solution' to the regulation of all parts of a dwelling (primary and secondary).

Resolution 123 ▶

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the current \$150,000 (excluding GST) QLeave levy threshold for building and construction work, in consultation with local governments, adjust the threshold to reflect construction cost changes since 2014 (ABS Construction Price Indexes) and implement a mandatory five-year review cycle to maintain alignment with construction industry economic conditions.

Resolution 125 ▶

Both levels of Government to:

- Prioritise funding for supported accommodation models.
- Coordinate and invest in delivering additional temporary and emergency housing sites in partnership with local government.

Resolution 20 ▶

Resolution 21 ▶

- Review building codes to improve wheelchair accessibility for Class 5 (office) and Class 6 (retail) buildings to address new wheelchair technology and increased dimensions. As well as develop a fund for local governments to access to support public space accessibility improvements and accessibility upgrades for council-owned buildings.

Resolution 124 ▶

FOR ALL LGAQ RESOLUTIONS VISIT CONGRUENT.LGAQ.ASN.AU



Building Safe, Resilient and Liveable Communities

Resolutions

To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:**

The Federal Government to:

- Review current regulations governing childcare centres in rural and remote locations with a specific focus on developing fit-for-purpose training and compliance models and ensure potential impacts on the viability of rural and remote childcare are considered and mitigated when considering further regulation and reform.

Resolution 27 ▶

The State Government to:

- Establish a cross-departmental cemeteries working group with local government, to investigate issues including but not limited to constrained land supply and competing land uses, financial viability, cultural needs and preferences, tenure and long-term management – to develop contemporary options to support local communities into the future.

Resolution 8 ▶

- Provide increased and indexed funding to the State Library of Queensland to support; the development and implementation of the proposed Queensland Digital Library initiative and councils operating Independent Libraries, Rural Libraries Queensland and Indigenous Knowledge Centres to deliver library services aligned to local priorities and support physical library collections.

Furthermore, support the delivery and expansion of the First 5 Forever program, in partnership with Queensland councils, as well as other digital inclusion programs.

Resolution 10 ▶

- Commit to ongoing operational and/or capital funding for Regional University Study Hubs (RUSH) in regional and remote Queensland.

Resolution 29 ▶

- Bring forward a review of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) and make amendments to ensure the subsidies available under PTSS are fit for purpose and increased where required, for patients from regional, rural, remote and discrete Queensland communities; and patients have access to adequate and suitable accommodation and transport options on discharge from hospital following unplanned, emergency treatment.

Resolution 30 ▶

- Coordinate a full review in consultation with local government, of the process for reviewing local government decisions relating to animal management matters under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*, including a review of the *Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) Act*, Regulation and practice directions, to reduce the extended timeframes and delays in hearing and determining matters and reducing avenues for further review.

Resolution 95 ▶

Building safe, resilient and liveable communities continued

- Clarify the roles and responsibilities for local government in relation to the operation and maintenance of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) for public safety in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service as well as provide operational, maintenance and capital funding for CCTV infrastructure.

Resolution 103 ▶

- Consider a proactive grant funding program targeted at council assets that are leased to community not-for-profit organisations which are significantly impacted by crime and anti-social activities.

Resolution 104 ▶

- Increase long-term investment in preventative and early intervention programs for young people, with a focus on improving mental health, wellbeing, and community connection. Include a youth voice in all stages of youth-focused program development, delivery and evaluation to ensure outcomes are relevant, inclusive, and effectively meet the diverse needs across Queensland communities. Furthermore, resource localised, place-based initiatives such as youth hubs, that allow young people to access early support confidentially and independently within community settings.

Resolution 105 ▶

- Increase community safety programs and policing initiatives to include increasing the duration of minimum sentences and an increase in the number of correctional officers to support the other State Government initiatives to reduce youth crime.

Resolution 106 ▶

- Enable policy and trading hour changes to support certain retail uses (including grocery and department stores) to operate to midnight within defined areas, without limiting councils' ability to retain or restrict trading hours for other retail uses.

Resolution 107 ▶

- Enable local governments to apply to have the trading hours of detached bottle shops located in specified areas and or precincts within a local government area restricted where such a restriction is considered to be in the public interest.

Resolution 108 ▶

- Provide greater access to funding by local governments for resilience building infrastructure including places of refuge and evacuation centres, disaster coordination centres, assessments and upgrades to improve wind resistance of local government buildings such as libraries and customer service centres, and cultural infrastructure e.g. performing arts centres, libraries, galleries, museums.

Resolution 113 ▶

- Assume full financial responsibility for the operation and support of the State Emergency Service (SES) from local governments who request it by the 2026-27 financial year, recognising that the SES is now a state-managed service under Queensland Police Services (QPS) and is critical to statewide disaster response.

Additionally prioritise the development and implementation of a standard Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for consideration by all local governments, clearly defining the respective roles and responsibilities of local governments and the SES before, during, and after disaster and emergency events, coordination and command structures, resource allocation and cost-sharing arrangements, communication protocols and operational expectations.

Resolution 114 ▶

- Fund a coordinated, cross-agency program, delivered via Arts Queensland and its agencies, that uses creative expression and cultural partnerships to help community document, interpret, and share the ecological and lived experiences of disasters and significant events through response, recovery and resilience.

Resolution 115 ▶

- Reinstate Regional Community Forums.

Resolution 128 ▶

Both levels of Government to:

- ➔ Invest in addressing the root causes of the current homelessness problem in Queensland and take a systems approach that moves beyond individual services, instead focusing on preventing homelessness, more effectively supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, and providing financial assistance to the local governments who are having to manage and respond to this problem.

Resolution 18 ▶

- ➔ Ensure greater accountability and support for addressing homelessness throughout Queensland by increasing resourcing of relevant State and Federal agencies and tenancy services and programs, to ensure people have secured adequate and stable housing, as well as ongoing access to support services to sustain their tenancy, prior to exiting correctional, mental health, and/or alcohol and other drug facilities.

Furthermore, by ensuring regular and transparent auditing, assessing and reporting on all State/Federal funds committed to public, private, not-for-profit and charitable agencies organisations for the purpose of addressing the drivers of homelessness and homelessness response in regional cities and towns, required outcomes and performance indicators aligned with State/Federal funding and performance against these.

Resolution 19 ▶

- ➔ Urgently intervene for childcare in regional and remote areas including adequate, flexible, supply-side funding and a dedicated rural workforce strategy. For remote local governments, childcare is not optional; it is essential infrastructure and service delivery for our communities – present and future.

Current funding models and market approaches fail to meet the needs of very remote communities. Without these, the children, families, and economies of remote regions will continue to bear the costs of a childcare system not fit for purpose in the bush. It is time to prioritise equitable, sustainable childcare for all, including the most remote Australians.

Resolution 26 ▶

- ➔ Support Regional University Study Hubs, by partnering to provide increased and dedicated ongoing operational and/or capital funding for Regional University Study Hubs to continue to expand in regional and remote Queensland and expanding the services of Regional University Study Hubs to include support services for senior secondary school students at the discretion of the association which operates the facility.

Resolution 28 ▶

- ➔ Cooperatively review advocacy for improved mental health services in rural and remote Queensland for urgent and targeted investment in regional rural and remote mental health services.

Resolution 33 ▶



Building safe, resilient and liveable communities continued

- Provide personal injury and third-party insurance coverage for all disaster-related volunteers who register with Volunteering Queensland's (VQ) Emergency Volunteering Community Response to Extreme Weather (CREW).

Resolution 109 ▶

- Take meaningful action by reforming disaster assistance systems to be more equitable, timely, and responsive to meet the needs of small businesses and primary producers.

Resolution 110 ▶

- Introduce an additional funding stream under DRFA for disaster mitigation on the following basis; the new stream provides funding to local governments for post-disaster activities that reduce or mitigate future risks in disaster affected areas, the maximum amount of funding available is equivalent to 25 per cent of the Category B restoration of public assets funding received from a disaster event, and the funding may be used to top up repairs to damaged assets (betterment) or, construction of new disaster mitigation infrastructure to reduce identified future disaster risk.

Resolution 111 ▶

- Strongly consider a model to provide financial assistance to businesses and agribusinesses, even though they have not been inundated, but have suffered economic losses, having been directly impacted by flooding events and/or long-term drought events.

Resolution 112 ▶

- Fund multicultural centres in Queensland's diverse and fast-growing regions.

Resolution 132 ▶



Empowering First Nations Peoples

Resolutions



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:

The State Government to:

- ➔ Work with councils and relevant First Nations stakeholders to undertake a comprehensive, community-informed review of health service delivery in First Nations communities, prioritising culturally appropriate models of care that are informed by lived experience, local protocols, and the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As well as ensure that health service engagement with First Nations communities includes cultural safety frameworks embedded in practice and workforce training, strengthened pathways to attract, retain and support First Nations people working in health and wellbeing roles and recognition of local government as a key stakeholder in community health advocacy and planning.

Furthermore, invest in locally tailored approaches to address urgent health equity issues such as reduced life expectancy, diabetes and chronic disease, disengagement from health systems, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing and youth and adult suicide prevention strategies.

Additionally support place-based health partnerships that reflect community strengths, respect cultural authority, and build a more integrated, accountable and culturally responsive health system across all First Nations communities in Queensland.

Resolution 32 ▶



Both levels of Government to:

- ➔ Consult with discrete First Nations councils prior to approving the delivery of Closing the Gap programs to ensure better coordination and intended outcomes that align with communities' priorities.

Resolution 11 ▶

FOR ALL LGAQ RESOLUTIONS VISIT CONGRUENT.LGAQ.ASN.AU

Stronger Councils

Resolutions



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:

The Federal Government to:

- Commit to increased and fairer funding to councils, following evidence presented to the Federal Inquiry into local government sustainability undertaken by the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport.
[Resolution 12 ▶](#)
- Make legislative amendments to the Financial Assistance Grants that would define a set payment schedule of full payment within the same financial year for which the grant is intended.
[Resolution 35 ▶](#)
- Amend the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* to include a sunset clause that establishes a clear and final date by which new native title claims can be lodged over unclaimed land.
[Resolution 77 ▶](#)
- Collect information through the Australian Census for data information about pet ownership. Particularly around domestic animals (dogs, cats, chickens, birds, etc).
[Resolution 96 ▶](#)

The State Government to:

- Move quickly to implement the recommendations and key red tape reduction solutions outlined in the LGAQ's submission to the Red Tape Reduction Taskforce (March 2025), through ongoing and genuine consultation processes with Queensland councils.
[Resolution 6 ▶](#)
- Amend the *Local Government Act 2009* to allow undivided local governments to have flexibility in deciding the method of filling councillor vacancies that arise during the local government term, and that specifically by-elections are an option rather than mandatory choice.
[Resolution 15 ▶](#)
- Reform the electoral redistribution for rural and regional representation.
[Resolution 17 ▶](#)
- Commit to the SEQ Community Stimulus Program being a permanently funded program as it has done for the Works for Queensland funding program.
[Resolution 34 ▶](#)
- Amend the Financial Management (Sustainability) Guidelines to allow councils to set their own Asset Renewal Sustainability Ratio targets based on adopted Asset Management Plans.
[Resolution 38 ▶](#)

- Advocate to the Australian Accounting Standards Board to amend AASB 116 to allow councils to determine their own depreciation treatment for long-life, non-critical assets that will not be replaced at the end of their useful life.

Resolution 39 ▶

- Apply the Australian Accounting Standards for recognition of income and move away from classifying revenue as capital revenue for the purposes of preparing financial statements and performance statements.

Resolution 40 ▶

- Reform all funding models to be annualised.

Resolution 41 ▶

- Amend the *Local Government Act 2009* to ensure greater fairness, transparency, and consistency in the councillor conduct complaints process, by making an independent external body the final decision-maker on any complaints it classifies as suspected conduct breaches.

Resolution 43 ▶

- Undertake a review of the current Councillor Register of Interests (ROI) requirements, with the aim of balancing transparency with the need to protect the personal privacy and safety of individuals and families who serve their communities. Ensuring the ROI framework continues to serve the public interest without deterring community members from standing for council roles and supporting public confidence in local government through a system that is transparent, fair, and fit-for-purpose.

Resolution 44 ▶

- Amend the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to establish a centralised online portal for the submission, storage, and public access of Register of Interests declarations.

Resolution 45 ▶

- Undertake a comprehensive review and modernisation of the Model Local Laws framework to ensure that Model Local Laws are contemporary, readable, administratively efficient and aligned with the operational realities of local government.

Resolution 47 ▶

- Advocate for strengthened use and awareness of the *Vexatious Proceedings Act 2005 (Qld)* as a mechanism to protect local governments and officers from persistent, groundless legal actions.

Resolution 48 ▶

- Increase investment in community dispute resolution programs, provide additional funding and resources to establish and support community mediation centres and services as well as support initiatives aimed to empower residents to resolve civil and neighbourly disputes amicably and efficiently, without the need for local government intervention.

Resolution 49 ▶

- Undertake a comprehensive review of the current Enterprise Bargaining system of negotiating Certified Agreements to ensure the process is more streamlined and that it provides a greater focus on Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) productivity and business improvement measures that can be included in future Certified Agreements.

Resolution 53 ▶

- Undertake legislative or administrative reform that prevents the renewal of resource tenements where the applicant has outstanding local government rates in any Queensland local government area, not just the jurisdiction of the tenement where rates are owing.

Resolution 60 ▶

- Investigate and develop options for managing the storage of recreational vehicles on roads, addressing safety, parking capacity and amenity concerns.

Resolution 70 ▶

Stronger councils continued

- Review the requirements of the *Cultural Heritage Acts 2003* to reduce excessive financial and resource impost on local government and streamline the duty of care process.
Resolution 76 ▶
- Amend the *Land Act 1994* to provide greater flexibility for trustees (local government), as the expert in understanding the local community needs, to approve genuine community uses that do not currently align with the definitions prescribed in schedule 1 of the *Land Act 1994* (Community Purpose Reserves).
Resolution 78 ▶
- Amend the *Land Valuation Act 2010* to remove the legislative impediment preventing the Valuer-General from declaring a separate valuation for land occupied under an occupation permit or stock grazing permit issued under the *Forestry Act 1959* and ensure that the Valuer-General's guidelines, issued pursuant to Section 54 of the *Land Valuation Act 2010*, are amended accordingly to enable valuation of such land for rating purposes.
Resolution 80 ▶
- Review the governance arrangements for River Improvement Trusts as constituted under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* to clarify the roles and responsibilities for local government.
Resolution 94 ▶
- Lead the development of a sector-wide AI policy framework to guide Queensland councils in the ethical, efficient, and community-focused use of AI technologies and support and encourage Queensland councils to adopt AI technologies through existing secure platforms that safeguard data privacy, security, and community trust.
Resolution 126 ▶
- Strategically invest in a network of state-owned data centres and dark fibre infrastructure to complement what is provided by the private sector.
Resolution 127 ▶

Both levels of Government to:

- Ensure that local governments are provided with a five-year rolling annual payment schedule for the Financial Assistance Grant.
Resolution 36 ▶
- Provide increased, guaranteed and non-competitive funding to Queensland local governments for the renewal of end-of-life assets that provide essential services to Queensland communities, and which protect the unique Queensland environment, public health and wellbeing.
Resolution 37 ▶
- Support an environmental health skills and training package to enable a sustainable long-term supply of qualified environmental health officers entering the workforce.
Resolution 54 ▶



Protecting the Environment



To ensure the liveability of **Queensland communities** and on behalf of our members, the LGAQ is asking:

The Federal Government to:

- ➔ Expand financial support for local governments in fire ant eradication and suppression treatment areas to include resources for meeting general biosecurity obligations.

Resolution 82 ▶

- ➔ Commit to ongoing and increased funding of the Reef Guardian Councils program, to empower councils to deliver place-based solutions that protect the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef.

Resolution 89 ▶

The State Government to:

- ➔ Improve the control of the tick line and biosecurity initiatives and appropriate funding to local governments including increased Road Maintenance Performance Contract (RMPC) funding for weed control.

Resolution 66 ▶

- ➔ Provide dedicated funding to local governments for the on-ground control of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), recognising the critical role councils play in managing these invasive species across Queensland.

Resolution 83 ▶

- ➔ Allocate research funding to explore effective management options for leucaena, including chemical and mechanical control methods and fund studies examining the economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts of uncontrolled leucaena infestations.

Resolution 85 ▶

- ➔ Increase investment in the comprehensive management of invasive species on land under its control to reduce biosecurity risks for councils.

Resolution 87 ▶

- ➔ Amend the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (2025) to give priority for the local delivery of financially-settled environmental offsets.

Resolution 90 ▶

- ➔ Modernise Queensland's Shark Control Program by working in partnership with interested coastal councils to trial non-lethal, evidence-based shark mitigation technologies such as drone surveillance, sonar detection systems, and SMART drumlines, specifically during the annual whale migration period.

Resolution 92 ▶

- ➔ Recognise the distinct needs of small regional, rural and remote communities (low population and rates base, low waste output, high land area and transport costs) in participating in the implementation of the Queensland Waste Strategy by establishing a Regional Waste Data Collection and Reporting Framework, introducing localised targets (recognising small

Protecting the environment continued

populations in large land areas remote from services) and fairer grant assessment criteria (recognising financial capacity to develop elaborate business cases or set demanding KPIs), reviewing Waste Levy Zone classifications to reflect remoteness and infrastructure access and supporting economic development and private sector partnerships in the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) area.

Resolution 97 ▶

- Review the pricing formula under the Container Refund Scheme (CRS) to increase the refund amount per container to 20 cents and ensure there are mechanisms in place for annual adjustments that consider CPI and the limitations of recycling options within regional, rural and remote areas, to provide transparency and greater certainty for industry.

Resolution 99 ▶

- Take a leadership role in addressing the pressing need for sustainable waste management solutions in regional areas. Specifically, the LGAQ calls for the initiation of a state-led program of work to explore and identify viable Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) technologies tailored to the unique challenges of regional Queensland.

This initiative should encompass a comprehensive options assessment that involves a thorough evaluation of available AWT technologies, including their technical

feasibility, environmental performance, and suitability for deployment in low-density, geographically dispersed communities, the development of a funded regional AWT infrastructure plan which is a strategic, long-term roadmap that outlines the infrastructure investments required to support the implementation of AWT solutions across regional Queensland, backed by appropriate state funding mechanisms. As well as consideration of scale, logistics, and cost-effectiveness that is an integrated analysis that accounts for the practical realities of regional waste management, including transport distances, waste volumes, and the economic viability of various treatment models.

By undertaking this work, the State Government can help unlock new opportunities for resource recovery, reduce reliance on landfill, and support regional councils in meeting their waste reduction and sustainability goals.

Resolution 101 ▶

- Develop and maintain Queensland-specific technical design guidance for local governments that reflects the latest climate projections, to be developed in consultation with local governments, climate scientists, and relevant State and Federal agencies and, is used to inform infrastructure design and investment decisions, strategic planning processes, and mapping / modelling specifications.

Resolution 116 ▶



Both levels of Government to:

- Oppose buffel grass being added to the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) list.

Resolution 84 ▶

- Partner with Great Barrier Reef councils to protect the Great Barrier Reef through funding initiatives found in the [LGAQ's Reef Councils Rescue Plan 2024-2030](#), that empower councils to deliver place-based solutions that protect the outstanding universal value of the Great Barrier Reef.

Resolution 88 ▶

- Review the current protected wildlife status of flying foxes under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), considering evidence of population densities, reduced risk of endangerment and public health and amenity concerns in regional town and urban areas.

Resolution 91 ▶

- Introduce mandatory extended producer responsibility through the amendment of legislation and policy frameworks for the collection, recycling and disposal of priority materials by:
 - ▶ Quantifying the volume and impact of priority material waste streams including single-use products and packaging,
 - ▶ Clearly defining producer obligations and establishing enforcement mechanisms,
 - ▶ Establishing regulated product stewardship schemes for priority material waste streams including single-use products and packaging, and
 - ▶ Incentivising responsible product lifecycle management through sustainable product design, procurement and production.

Resolution 98 ▶

- Work in partnership with local governments for the expedited implementation and resourcing of the National Plastics Plan and the National Packaging Roadmap, to address the escalating environmental and financial impacts of plastic pollution.

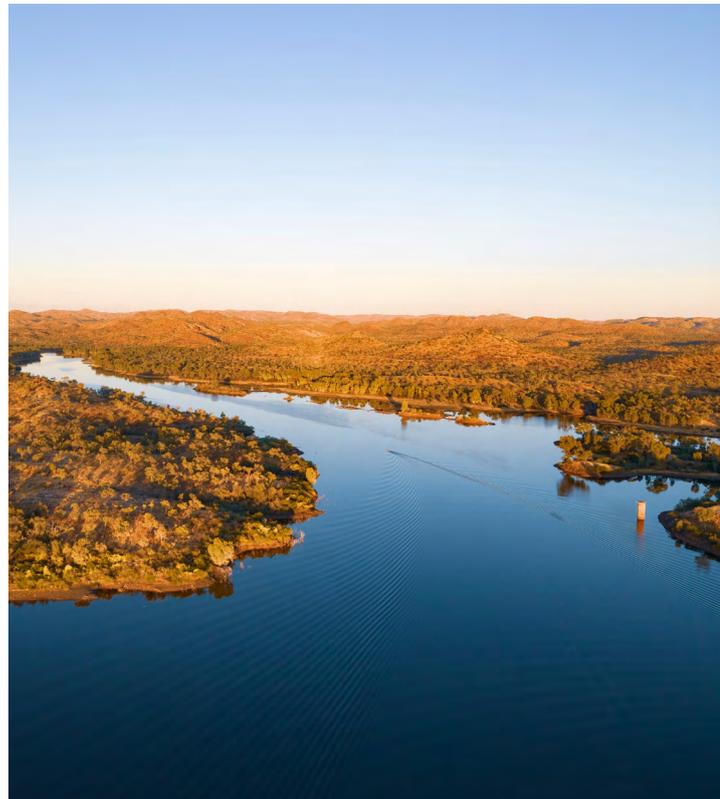
Resolution 100 ▶

- Provide access to increased and ongoing funding for local government litter management programs that address the environmental, amenity, and financial impacts of waste that is littered along the roadside.

Resolution 102 ▶

- Develop and fund a QHeat2050 Program for Queensland councils to proactively plan for and address heat hazards at a local government level.

Resolution 133 ▶





**Every Queensland
community** deserves
to be a liveable one

CONTACT US

MEMBERS HOTLINE:

1300 542 700

EMAIL:

ask@lgaq.asn.au

WEB:

lgaq.asn.au

ADDRESS:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSE
25 EVELYN STREET
NEWSTEAD, QLD 4006

 **FACEBOOK** [/localgovqld](https://www.facebook.com/localgovqld)

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