

**DR23/005 2022 AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE DELEGATE REPORT**

**S004-
T00019**

Delegate: Tanya Dannock, Amber Schutz, Alison Worthington - Councillors

Attachments: Nil

Focus Area: 5 Our engaged community with progressive leadership

Delivery Program Link: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

Operational Plan Link: 5.2.1 Be proactive leaders with a focus on 'community better'

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australian Local Government Women's Association 2022 Annual Conference was held on 7 July 2022 – 9 July 2022 in Fairfield City. The conference provided an opportunity to share ideas, seek inspiration, and share experiences.

Councillors Dannock (online), Schutz and Worthington represented Council at the 2022 Australian Local Government Women's Association Conference held in Fairfield and now presents her delegate's report on that Conference.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Councillors Dannock, Schutz and Worthington's delegate report on 2022 Australian Local Government Women's Association Conference held in Fairfield be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

Councillors Dannock (online), Schutz and Worthington attended the Australian Local Government Women's Association (NSW) conference hosted by Fairfield City Council in early July 2022. The theme for this conference was 'What's your Superpower?' and the conference program was filled with inspiring speakers who shared lessons learned in resilience throughout their diverse careers.

The opening night event was held at the recently redeveloped Fairfield Showground and we were welcomed by the Mayor Frank Cabone and Deputy Mayor Dai Le along with ALGWA NSW President, Councillor Dianna Baker from Inverell Shire.

The Mayor welcomed us to the first official event held at the redeveloped venue and the Fairfield team was clearly excited to be hosting the conference. We were reminded that only one year ago this LGA, along with Liverpool and Canterbury, were in the national media for all the wrong reasons. These three LGA's were suffering under the toughest restrictions implemented in NSW during the pandemic. Many of the residents of these LGA's come from culturally and linguistically diverse and low socio-economic backgrounds.

The ADF was brought in to monitor compliance of restrictions because people were still moving around too much, especially in the west and south-west of Sydney.

As the Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant noted at the time, the people living in these "hotspots" of Sydney were the same people who worked in essential services across the city - the cashiers, the shelf stackers, the shopkeepers, the Uber drivers, the delivery guys, the aged

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care workers and the cleaners. We were asking them to not attend their workplaces but without the economic support to be able to stay home.

In this socio-economic context, Fairfield City commits to keeping rates low and invests in projects like the construction of Dutton Lane Plaza and car parks to generate income for the council. Fairfield City is proud to boast of infrastructure works like the Showground - an unused trotting track which now includes AFL/cricket fields and events arena, a multipurpose amenity building, a FIFA-standard sports field, a synthetic football pitch, pavilion, all-abilities playground, off-leash dog parks and walking/cycling paths.

We also heard from Deputy Mayor Dai Le who had recently been sworn in as the Independent Federal Member for Fowler. The burning question on everyone's lips - can Dai Le serve as both Deputy Mayor and a Federal MP at the same time?

The answer is - yes, she can, and will. Now there is a superpower!

A bit of an update on the work of NSW ALGWA:

- ALGWA was established in 1952 and has been representing and advocating for women in local government since then.
- The organisation seeks to strengthen networking, mentoring and innovative opportunities that encourage and support women in local government.
- Their work in campaigning to increase the representation of women in local government included conducting 29 forums across NSW in the lead up to the last elections.
- That work helped to bring about an 8.5% increase in women mayors and councillors in the December 2021 elections, bringing the figure for women in local government representation to 39.5%.

In latest news, Eurobodalla Shire's Division Manager, Community Development and Participation, Kim Bush, has just been awarded ALGWA's Champion of Change Award – Regional/Rural in the 2022 Minister's Award for Women in Local Government!

CONCLUSION

The ALGWA Conference was an uplifting and inspiring event, bringing together influential figures from across the country to discuss important issues affecting women in leadership roles. The conference provided a platform for women to network, share their ideas and experiences, and work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive future. The discussions and ideas generated at the conference will be invaluable in driving progress towards gender equality and empowering women to achieve their full potential and discover their superpower.