

DR23/006 2022 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE REPORT

S004-T00019

Delegate: Anthony Mayne - Councillor

Attachments: Nil

Community Goal: 5 Our engaged community with progressive leadership

Community Strategy: 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

Delivery Program Link: 5.2.1 Be proactive leaders with a focus on 'community better'

Operational Plan Link: 5.2.1.4 Provide professional development opportunities for Councillors

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Councillor Anthony Mayne represented Eurobodalla Shire Council at the 2022 National General Assembly which was held on the 19 to 21 June 2022 in Canberra.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the delegates report from Councillor Anthony Mayne be received and noted.

BACKGROUND

2022 saw the return of the Eurobodalla Shire Council to ALGA, the premier Local Gathering meeting held each year in Canberra. Importantly, this forum is so much more than just networking and listening to presentations. It is also about being able to engage with very contemporary issues, such as listening to the Mayor of Lismore talk about their flood experiences. Or to be present to an inspiring and challenging key not address on Global Democracy by Stan Grant.

The Lismore floods reminded us all as Councillors just how focused we need to be in preparing for disasters. The word resilience is used a great deal, though community spirit needs to be supported by having the necessary resources in place. While spending money to recover post disaster is obviously very important, there is an emerging focus on preventative measures, or being pro-active, in light of the negative impacts generated by climate change.

Stan Grant looked at the challenges currently faced by democracies around the world. In particular he spoke about the role of the media in ensuring the flow of information within the community. As we continue to see the changing landscape of the media, we have seen a loss of a number of media outlets, especially in regional Australia. However, there have been a number of new media outlets which have emerged during this period, which serve a vital role in shining a light of government and community.

The discussion on housing and housing affordability underscored the Australia wide challenge that we are all facing. A number of motions were voted on at this Conference, one of them being to the Federal Government seeking resources for housing the homeless. It was terrific to see the Minister for Housing, Julie Collins MP, write back to ALGA that as the Government moves to develop and implement its housing agenda, that there will be opportunities for councils and ALGA to put forward ideas. Councils work closely with their State Governments, however, ALGA affords Councils the opportunity to advocate on key issues directly with the Federal Government; one more reason it has been important to see our Council once again attend ALGA as a voting member.