

LGA Annual General Meeting 15-16 November 2017 – Late Notices of Motion – Playford Position

Agenda Item No.	Recommendation	Playford Position	Responsible Staff Member
Late Notices Of Motion			
9.1	<p>Call for a cap on increases in taxes, levies on any future State Government (Clare & Gilbert Valleys)</p> <p><u>Proposed Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to: That the Local Government Association adopt as a policy:</p> <p>1. That a future State Government will cap all future increases in State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including Government business units/enterprises) In line with any capping proposal for Local Government.</p> <p>That any percentage increase in total revenue collected through State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including Government business units/enterprises) not exceed the Local Government cap.</p> <p>That a future State Government will not introduce any new taxes, levies, fees and charges on South Australians.</p> <p>2. That a future State Government will not transfer responsibility of services to Local Government without adequate and mutually agreed additional funding to Local Government.</p> <p>That a future State Government will not amend or introduce</p>	<p>Support Alternative Recommendation</p> <p>Explanation: Agree cost shifting impact on Local Government should be minimised</p>	<p>Grace Pelle/Derek Langman/Andrew Nesbitt</p>

LGA Annual General Meeting 15-16 November 2017 – Late Notices of Motion – Playford Position

	<p>legislation that has a negative financial impact on Local Government.</p> <p><u>Alternative Recommendation</u></p> <p>That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to adopt the following policy positions and call on all South Australian political parties to publicly support these policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That a future State Government must cap all future increases in State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including government business units/enterprises) in line with any capping proposal for Local Government;2. That the percentage increase in total revenue collected through State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including government business units/enterprises) must not exceed any Local Government rate cap;3. That a future state government must not introduce any new State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges to be collected by Local Government and passed on to the State Government or its agencies;4. That a future State Government must not transfer responsibility for services to Local Government without adequate and mutually agreed additional funding of Local Government; and5. That a future State Government will not amend or introduce legislation that has a negative financial impact on Local Government without mutual agreement.		
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LGA Annual General Meeting 15-16 November 2017 – Late Notices of Motion – Playford Position

9.2	<p>Administering the Construction Industry Training Fund Levy (Barossa) <u>Proposed Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to seek consideration by the State Government to change legislation to enact a simpler and efficient calculation or council allocation of the Construction Industry Training Fund Levy, based on either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An annual fee based on council's ratepayer base; 2. An annual fee based on capital expenditure; or 3. Explore other options for a simpler formula and / or method. 	<p>Support Explanation: Streamlining administration process</p>	Grace Pelle
9.3	<p>Increase to Newstart Allowance (Playford) <u>Proposed Recommendation</u> That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby the Federal Government to increase the Newstart Allowance; and 2. Request the ALGA to support the Motion and to also lobby the Federal Government for an increase to the Newstart Allowance. 	<p>Support (Already supported by Council – resolution 3011)</p>	N/A

9.1 Call for a cap on increases in taxes, levies on any future State Government (Clare & Gilbert Valleys)

Late Reports (Council Notices of Motion – LGA Comment)

Motion From: Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
Meeting: Annual General Meeting 16 November 2017
ECM: 656133 Attachment: 655676

Proposed Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

That the Local Government Association adopt as a policy:

1. *That a future State Government will cap all future increases in State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including Government business units/enterprises) In line with any capping proposal for Local Government.*

That any percentage increase in total revenue collected through State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including Government business units/enterprises) not exceed the Local Government cap.

That a future State Government will not introduce any new taxes, levies, fees and charges on South Australians.

2. *That a future State Government will not transfer responsibility of services to Local Government without adequate and mutually agreed additional funding to Local Government.*

That a future State Government will not amend or introduce legislation that has a negative financial impact on Local Government.

Alternative Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to adopt the following policy positions and call on all South Australian political parties to publicly support these policies:

1. that a future State Government must cap all future increases in State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including government business units/enterprises) in line with any capping proposal for Local Government;
2. that the percentage increase in total revenue collected through State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including government business units/enterprises) must not exceed any Local Government rate cap;
3. that a future state government must not introduce any new State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges to be collected by Local Government and passed on to the State Government or its agencies;

4. **that a future State Government must not transfer responsibility for services to Local Government without adequate and mutually agreed additional funding of Local Government; and**
5. **that a future State Government will not amend or introduce legislation that has a negative financial impact on Local Government without mutual agreement.**

Officer's Comments

(Officer: Lea Bacon, Director Policy)

The LGA Secretariat supports the intent of the recommendations in this Notice of Motion, but is suggesting some minor wording changes to strengthen the policy position. The policy positions align with the commitments sought in the LGA's 2018 State Election Platform.

The Liberal Party's SA Branch has stated that if elected in March 2018, the Marshall Liberal Government will ask Essential Services Commission SA (ESCOSA) to determine an annual rate cap having regard to:

- the LG Cost Index (determined quarterly by ESCOSA); and
- CPI in the one quarter immediately preceding the determination; and
- any other matter ESCOSA thinks relevant.

In Victoria, rate capping was introduced by Victoria's Labor government in 2016/17.

The LGA and local government in South Australia is opposed to rate-capping because there is overwhelming evidence from New South Wales and Victoria that shows rate capping is not effective. Rate capping:

- undermines local democracy, centralises decision making about council rate revenue and shifts accountability from community representatives to an unelected bureaucracy;
- limits councils' ability to provide local services – putting discretionary services at risk.
- leads to higher user pays fees, charges and fines;
- creates infrastructure backlogs; and
- does not make councils more efficient or financially sustainable – in fact council debt increases as councils struggle to meet community expectations.

Councils are the only publicly elected bodies with a statutory responsibility to consult communities prior to formal consideration of their annual programs and budgets. However, taxes collected by councils are only a fraction of the total taxes paid by Australians – less than 4 per cent.

Cost shifting decisions by current and past State Governments put pressure on council rates and rate payers. Councils are required to collect from their communities extra funds to recover State-Government-imposed requirements such as the solid waste levy, the NRM levy, rubble royalties, planning reform contributions and compulsory rate discounts or rate exemptions for numerous categories of land owners.

The policy positions in this motion highlight the need for an end to the system under which local communities, through their council rates and forced to subsidise policy decisions of State Governments.

When new services are required, or new issues emerge, local government seeks co-operative arrangements. Governments work best when they work together. The LGA seeks opportunities to work with the State Government in meeting new and unprecedented

Late Notice of Motion 9.1 - LGA 2017 Annual General Meeting Agenda - Page 3
challenges affecting all South Australians. This will strengthen local government's capacity to respond to community needs by increasing its autonomy and flexibility to match revenue to services demanded by local communities. A stronger local government sector will be a better partner for the State Government in jointly providing services to local communities.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

Council Notice of Motion - 2017 LGA Annual General Meeting

The purpose of this form is to notify the LGA of a motion a council proposes to move at the LGA Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 16 November 2017.

Council Name	Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council
Subject of the motion	Call for a cap on increases in taxes, levies on any future State Government
Proposed motion of council	<p>That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <p>That the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council support the following position, through the Local Government Association:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>That a future State Government will cap all future increases in State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including Government business units/enterprises) In line with any capping proposal for Local Government.</i> <p><i>That any percentage increase in total revenue collected through State Government taxes, levies, fees and charges (including Government business units/enterprises) not exceed the Local Government cap.</i></p> <p><i>That a future State Government will not introduce any new taxes, levies, fees and charges on South Australians.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>That a future State Government will not transfer responsibility of services to Local Government without adequate and mutually agreed additional funding to Local Government.</i> <p><i>That a future State Government will not amend or introduce legislation that has a negative financial impact on Local Government.</i></p>
Background / intended purpose of proposed motion	
Council Contact Officer submitting form and date submitted	<p>Name: Mr John Coombe OAM – Acting Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Date: 26 September 2017</p>

Council Meeting Minute Reference and date of meeting	Council Meeting – 18 September 2017 Resolution Number: 367-17
Council has referred draft motion to or considered by relevant Regional LGA	No
Supported by relevant Regional LGA	No Region: Minute Reference:
LGA Strategic Plan Reference	

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by COB **Thursday 5 October 2017**

9.2 Administering the Construction Industry Training Fund Levy (Barossa)

Late Reports (Council Notices of Motion – LGA Comment)

Motion From:	The Barossa Council	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	16 November 2017
ECM:	656134	Attachment: 655821

Proposed Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to seek consideration by the State Government to change legislation to enact a simpler and efficient calculation or council allocation of the Construction Industry Training Fund Levy, based on either:

- 1. an annual fee based on council's ratepayer base;**
- 2. an annual fee based on capital expenditure; or**
- 3. explore other options for a simpler formula and / or method.**

Officer's Comments

(Officer: Stephen Smith, Director Policy)

The *Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993* has been established as a fund to be used to improve the quality of training in the building and construction industry; to establish the Construction Industry Training Board (the Board) to administer the fund and to co-ordinate appropriate training; to provide for the imposition and collection of a levy for the purposes of the fund.

The Construction Industry Training Fund (CITF) levy is collected by the Board on building and construction activity in South Australia and re-injected back into the industry in the form of discounts and subsidies for construction workers and apprentices/trainees to improve and encourage skills development in the industry.

The CITB collects a levy of 0.25% (1/400th) of the value of Building and Construction work in South Australia over \$40,000.

When a council engages a contractor to carry out 'building or construction work' on behalf of the council, then pursuant to section 24(5) of the Act, it will be taken as a condition of contract (between the council and the contractor) that the contractor will pay the levy. When council employees carry out 'building or construction work', with the exception of repairs and maintenance, the council will pay the levy. The council would be considered the project owner.

The Motion of the Barossa Council highlights the practical difficulties for Councils undertaking regular construction works and provides a red tape simplification opportunity that can be addressed with the State Government through the State-Local Government Task Force (Taskforce) on reducing red tape.

The establishment of the Taskforce was announced as a future reform on 10 August as part of the South Australian Government's Simplify Day 2017. The establishment of the Taskforce is to facilitate the State and Local Government authorities working together to address regulatory barriers and reduce red tape that prevent economic development and growth.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity has been anticipated in the LGA's work program and resources are available to progress this work.

Council Notice of Motion - 2017 LGA Annual General Meeting

The purpose of this form is to notify the LGA of a motion a council proposes to move at the LGA Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 16 November 2017.

Council Name	The Barossa Council
Subject of the motion	Administering the Construction Industry Training Fund Levy
Proposed motion of council	<p>That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <p>Seeks consideration by the State Government to change legislation to enact a simpler and efficient calculation or Council allocation of the Construction Industry Training Fund Levy, based on either</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an annual fee based on Council's ratepayer base; or 2. an annual fee based on capital expenditure; or 3. explore other options for a simpler formula and or method.
Background / intended purpose of proposed motion	<p>Council is required to pay the Levy on all relevant Council construction projects. The calculation, reconciliation and payment processes (pre-payment and final payment) for the Levy is a Council administrative burden.</p> <p>To ensure Council is compliant, the existing process requires an enormous amount of staff resource and effort as compared to the Levy amount to be paid.</p> <p>A revised method would greatly assist all Councils in meeting the CITB legislative requirements.</p> <p>The Barossa Council continues to comply with the CITB requirements for calculating and paying the Levy but would appreciate a simplified approach to the method, calculation and application for construction works. It is a resource and time consuming task to ensure the Levy is appropriately calculated, reconciled and paid on relevant construction projects and to make every attempt to ensure Council does not pay the Levy twice or mistakenly not pay the Levy at all.</p>
Council Contact Officer submitting form and date submitted	<p>Name: Mark Lague</p> <p>Date: 23 October 2017</p>
Council Meeting Minute Reference and date of meeting	Council Meeting ref: 2014-18/1201; held on the 17 October 2017
Council has referred draft	Yes / No

motion to or considered by relevant Regional LGA	
Supported by relevant Regional LGA	Yes / No Region: Minute Reference:
LGA Strategic Plan Reference	Key Initiative: 1 - Leadership and advocacy Strategies B - Contribute to state-wide and local policy C - Lead reform.

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9.3 Increase to Newstart Allowance (Playford)

Late Reports (Council Notices of Motion – LGA Comment)

Motion From: City of Playford
Meeting: Annual General Meeting 16 November 2017
ECM: 656135 Attachment: 655866

Proposed Recommendation

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. lobby the Federal Government to increase the Newstart Allowance; and
2. request the ALGA to support the Motion and to also lobby the Federal Government for an increase to the Newstart Allowance.

Officer's Comments

(Officer: Victoria Brown, Senior Policy Advisor)

Recommendation to amend the proposed notice of motion to:

That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:

1. formally correspond with ALGA requesting that they lobby the Federal Government to increase the Newstart allowance; and
2. request that the LGA provide support to ALGA in undertaking this activity.

It's long been accepted that the level of Newstart Allowance for the unemployed is too low. Analysis as to the level of support that should be provided has been undertaken by numerous institutions such as the Australian Council of Social Services, the Business Council of Australia, KPMG and the Australian Public Health Association.

Latest figures (as quoted in the Notice of Motion) put the deficit at \$160 per week (\$8,000 per year) below the poverty line, and less than the minimum wage.

In addition to the amount of benefits paid, unpopular Federal Government policies that have currently been introduced with regard to the introduction of demerit points, trials for drug testing, changes to waiting periods and the way that benefits are structured and administered will likely exacerbate the issue.

To a large extent, setting the sum of social welfare payments (such as Newstart) is a federal issue. There is little that councils can do to influence federal government decisions, even though it is clear that poverty and unemployment are local issues.

However, some councils have decided to take a public stand on issues outside of their jurisdictions and to participate in initiatives such as Anti-Poverty Week.

As part of this initiative which was held from 15-21 October, the Cities of Port Adelaide Enfield, Onkaparinga and Playford, Kangaroo Island Council and the District Councils of Streaky Bay and Copper Coast have publically supported a raise in Newstart allocations.

While councils can publically support campaigns that benefit their residents, and the LGA can advocate for increases to the Newstart allowance, it is unclear as to the impact that such activities will have on Federal Government welfare policies.

ALGA is the national voice of local government, representing all 537 councils across the country by raising the profile and concerns of local government at the national level through lobbying the Federal Government on federal issues such as these.

The LGA would therefore recommend that this issue is referred to ALGA and that the LGA provides a supporting role in lobbying the Federal Government. The LGA will formally correspond with ALGA on the issue and provide support for lobbying activities.

Financial and Resource Implications

This activity is not currently anticipated in the LGA's work program, but can be delivered within existing LGA resources if ALGA takes the lead as recommended.

Council Notice of Motion - 2017 LGA Annual General Meeting

The purpose of this form is to notify the LGA of a motion a council proposes to move at the LGA Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 16 November 2017.

Council Name	City of Playford
Subject of the motion	Increase to Newstart Allowance
Proposed motion of council	<p>That the Annual General Meeting requests the LGA to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby the Federal Government to increase the Newstart Allowance. 2. Request the ALGA to support the Motion and to also Lobby the Federal Government for an increase to the Newstart Allowance
Background / intended purpose of proposed motion	<p>The City of Playford has recently heard a number of deputations from our community regarding the current struggles faced by job seekers trying to support themselves on the Newstart allowance.</p> <p>The Newstart payments are over \$160 per week below the poverty line. The findings of a 2015 survey by the Australian Council of Social Service paints a grim picture of what life is like for income support recipients including having to skip meals, being unable to pay bills on time and not having money to pay for essentials like housing, food and electricity.</p> <p>Without an increase to the allowance further stress will be placed on some of the most vulnerable members of our community - a community that the SEIFA Index of Disadvantage ranks as the most disadvantaged in metropolitan Adelaide and in the 10% most disadvantaged local government areas in the nation. Housing stress, welfare dependency and lower levels of educational attainment are just some of the issues our community faces.</p> <p>As you would be aware, unemployment and poverty negatively impact people's physical and mental health and those of their families. Moreover, the social impacts of unemployment place strain on community services and government budgets.</p> <p>Governments at all levels must make decisions that achieve socially just outcomes for their citizens and we urge you to consider this request to review the Newstart Allowance.</p> <p>There is also concern and the need to recognise the difference between a new entrant into the workforce and someone who has been in the workforce for 20-30 years and finds themselves again as a job seeker. There are significant differences in not only their</p>

	circumstances but also the assistance required to gain suitable employment.
Council Contact Officer submitting form and date submitted	Name: Kate Symes Date: 25 October 2017
Council Meeting Minute Reference and date of meeting	<i>Resolution No.3011</i>
Council has referred draft motion to or considered by relevant Regional LGA	Yes / No
Supported by relevant Regional LGA	No
LGA Strategic Plan Reference	<p>(please click here to view the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference)</p> <p>Key Initiative: 1 Leadership and advocacy Achieving greater influence for local government in matters affecting councils and communities. Listen to, and represent members.</p> <p>Key Initiative: 2 Capacity building and sustainability Help councils build communities. Assist local government drive economic development.</p>

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