

NGA National General Assembly Report to Council by Cr Gay Smallwood-Smith 27/6/2023

I attended this conference from 13/6 to 15/6 2023

On day 1 there were 1100 people in attendance, one of the largest ever.

The opening address was given by His Excellency Governor General The Honourable David Hurley

Followed by LGA president Cr Linda Scott Alga president who spoke about Local govt being forced into selling land on flood plains to allow affordable housing to be built. This was a big talking point with delegates. We were told 100 million dollars has been allocated for this project.

His Excellency Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Australian ambassador for Ukraine spoke of the hardships being faced by the Ukraine people coping with devastation of their country. He suggested cities in Australia might consider becoming sister cities with a Ukraine city to take on a fundraising project to assist the Ukraine

Peter Dutton Liberal leader spoke about the important role played by Local Government. This brought a question from a delegate who asked him "if the government puts such value on Local Govt, then why are we not being afforded the third tier of Govt" this brought great applause. Another question was as to why the Liberal party when in power did nothing about affordable housing in over 10 years

Interesting panel in the afternoon with Dr Jonathon Carr-West, CEO of Local Govt unit from UK, along with him was Tahlia Azaria, Director of Young Mayors Program

Panel to discuss Building a strong workforce with 3 Mayors including the Mayor from Mitcham in SA

A panel on Thursday was led by Brendan Moon, Co-ordinator of General National Emergency Management Agency. This gave delegates an insight into how emergencies on a grand scale are handled

Quite a successful and interesting conference