

LATE AGENDA

12th Ordinary Council Meeting

12th Council of Litchfield

Monday 17th August 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hoyne'.

Stephen Hoyne

Chief Executive Officer



COUNCIL AGENDA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

14	Officer Reports.....	3
	14.3 Governance and Community	3
	14.3.5 Notice of LGANT Annual General Meeting and call for Motions	3
16	Confidential Items.....	13
	16.4 RFT25-500 - Howard Springs Waste transfer Station Asbestos Remediation and Containment Cell Construction.....	13
	16.5 Livingstone Volunteer Fire Brigade Lease Agreement - Common Seal	13

14 OFFICER REPORTS

14.3 Governance and Community

14.3.5 Notice of LGANT Annual General Meeting and call for Motions

AUTHOR: Deb Boyko, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Mayor

AUTHORISER: Stephen Hoyne, Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS: 1. FORM-LGANT-Calls-for-Motions-2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) has provided notice of its 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and called for motions from member councils for consideration at the AGM.

Councillor Purich has proposed a motion for Council's consideration in response to the LGANT call for motions. The proposed motion is presented to Council for consideration and, should Council resolve to support it, will subsequently be submitted to LGANT for consideration at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

This report seeks Council's consideration of the proposed motion and a resolution as to whether it should be submitted to LGANT.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receives and notes the Notice of the 2026 Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Annual General Meeting and call for motions; and
2. Considers the proposed motion outlined in this report and determines whether it is to be submitted to LGANT for consideration at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) has advised member councils of its Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held as part of the LGANT November 2026 Conference in Alice Springs on 10 and 11 November 2026. The AGM provides member councils with an opportunity to consider matters affecting the local government sector and contribute to LGANT's advocacy and policy priorities.

LGANT has issued a call for motions from member councils for consideration at the November 2026 Conference and AGM. Motions provide councils with an opportunity to raise matters of significance to the local government sector and seek collective advocacy through LGANT. The proposed closing date for motions is late September 2026, subject to confirmation by LGANT.

LGANT's call for motions process requires motions to be approved by resolution of the submitting council prior to being formally submitted to LGANT. LGANT may review submitted motions for completeness and appropriateness and may request further information or amendments before the motion is included on the General Meeting agenda.

In response to the call for motions, Councillor Purich has proposed a motion for Council's consideration. The proposed motion has not yet been submitted to LGANT and is presented in this

report for Council to consider whether it wishes to formally endorse and submit the motion for consideration at the 2026 LGANT AGM.

LINKS WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Performance - An Effective and Efficient Organisation

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

Risks Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil



LGANT CALL FOR MOTIONS

P (08) 8944 9697
E info@lgant.asn.au
W lgant.asn.au

A 21 Parap Rd, Parap NT 0820
PO Box 2075, Parap NT 0804
ABN: 35 662 805 503

We are local. We connect.



CALL FOR MOTIONS

About this document

LGANT's purpose, as per the Strategic Plan 2025-2028, is to support and represent member councils to drive sustainable economic and social development of the Northern Territory community.

The purpose of this call for motion document is to provide a template for member councils to submit motions to LGANT on issues for consideration, such as governance, capacity building, policy positions and advocacy efforts, at either the April or November General Meetings.

The motions that are resolved at LGANT General Meetings are important in guiding the priorities and work plans of LGANT, and it is important that the Association's resources are focussed on the issues that will be of the greatest benefit to councils, towns and communities.

Policy and Advocacy

Policy positions are a statement or declaration of an organisation's stance on a particular topic(s). Further, LGANT seeks to influence public policy (which is laws, guidelines and actions decided and taken by governments). Motions from councils help LGANT form its policy positions and statements that in turn, assist with advocacy efforts. LGANT's current policy statements can be found [here](#).

Advocacy is a broad term encompassing endeavours to achieve change. For LGANT, advocacy is activity undertaken to promote and influence issues that collectively effect local government.

Timeframes

Councils do not need to wait for the call for motions from LGANT. These can be submitted at any time. However, to enable all motions to be assessed by the Board and papers prepared for the agenda, a closing date is determined for each General Meeting.

Late motions will not be accepted (unless urgent) and will instead be referred to the next General Meeting.

Motions will not be accepted at General Meetings as members do not have supporting information or the time to make an informed decision.

If the motion is urgent, councils may consider calling a Special General Meeting or request the LGANT Board address the matter through their meetings. Justification for urgency will be required.

Other important information

Member councils should consider submitting a motion if they believe there is an opportunity for LGANT to take the lead on an issue that is strategically important to local government and will benefit the sector as a whole.

There must only be ONE issue per motion. It is suggested that the council submitting the motion first discuss it with LGANT so they can outline existing activity or policy positions, if any, in the topic area and assist with developing the business case.

Motions need to be approved by resolution of the local government council **prior** to submission to LGANT.

The LGANT Board will assess the motion for completeness and appropriateness and if necessary, ask the submitting member council for more information or redrafting before including it in the General Meeting agenda. This process may require the council to re-endorse its motion.

The LGANT Board has the discretion to not accept the motion if not enough information is provided, it's not strategic in nature, or it would impact negatively on the reputation of LGANT or the sector.



By submitting a motion, your council can move and speak to the motion at the General Meeting it is going to.

The better your council's argument or case, the more likely members can make an informed decision and resolve the motion. Resolved motions are minuted following the General Meeting, allocated to LGANT staff for action, and reported on at LGANT Board and General meetings.

Motions to LGANT do not progress to the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA). Councils must submit motions for the NGA directly to ALGA.



TEMPLATE

CALL FOR MOTIONS

Member councils are invited to submit motions for debate to be included at General Meetings using this template.

Name of Council:

Litchfield Council

Contact person and title:

Councillor Plaxy Purich

Phone:

0435 027 116

Email:

plaxyqf.purich@litchfield.nt.gov.au

Motion title:

Shared Planning Authority and Local Government Decision Making

Resolution sought (Motion)

Motions should be clear and concise and must be limited to one subject matter/ issue.

Consider the action your motion wants LGANT to do for the local government sector.

Members call on LGANT to advocate to the Northern Territory Government for legislative reform of the NT planning scheme to establish a two-tier development approval process, providing a clear separation of responsibilities so that the NT Government is not required to act as policy maker, promoter, assessor, approver, regulator and enforcer of development, without meaningful local checks and balances. Local governments should have binding statutory authority to approve, refuse, suspend or require changes to local development where requirements have not been satisfied, including matters affecting water and groundwater, roads and traffic, drainage and stormwater, local environmental and cumulative impacts, infrastructure, community amenity, and the protection and respect of Aboriginal cultural heritage and local community heritage. The NT Government would retain responsibility for Territory-wide and regional matters, legislation, standards and specialist regulation, while councils would have meaningful decision-making authority over local impacts, particularly where development may affect essential local water resources and safe drinking water for regional, remote and Aboriginal communities. Neither level of government should be able to unilaterally override the other's defined statutory responsibilities, and any functions transferred to councils must be accompanied by the funding, staff and independent technical expertise necessary to undertake those responsibilities effectively. The present planning scheme is slowly crippling our communities with learned helplessness, hopelessness, this needs to change.

Supporting information:



1. Define the problem/opportunity and its impact on local government or council services and operations.
2. Provide information on any relevant legislation, policy settings and research reports and papers where available.
3. Include a statement on how the motion aligns with LGANT's [Policy Statements](#) and [Strategic Plan](#).
4. Provide attachment/s if required.

1. Define the problem/opportunity and its impact on local government or council services and operations

The NT planning scheme concentrates significant planning, development and regulatory authority within the NT Government, while councils and communities are left to manage many of the local consequences. The NT Government is effectively policymaker, decision-maker, environmental assessor, regulator and enforcer. No single level of government should be judge, jury, approver and enforcer of development decisions that can have significant local consequences, which it is having. This concentration of power limits independent checks and creates a risk that political or strategic objectives can take precedence over local water, environmental, infrastructure and community concerns.

The recent Singleton Station groundwater case is one strong example of why independent checks are necessary. A major groundwater extraction decision was challenged by Traditional Owners and ultimately overturned by the High Court, after years of legal proceedings. It demonstrates the problem with a system where the community must rely on the courts to challenge a government decision after it has been made. The Holtze development provides another recent example of the need for stronger checks and balances. Two groundwater bores associated with the development were reportedly installed without Environmental Impact Assessment approval and used without the required water extraction licence, while nearby residents who rely on bore water subsequently experienced dry and failed bores. These circumstances raise serious questions about separation and effectiveness of planning, water regulation and enforcement, and demonstrate the need for councils to have a binding role in protecting local water security before development proceeds.



A two-tier approval system would provide that check within the planning process, with the NT Government retaining responsibility for Territory-wide and regional matters while councils have binding authority over local impacts. This would strengthen accountability, protect communities and local resources, and ensure that councils have both the authority and funding necessary to manage the consequences of development.

2. Relevant legislation, policy settings and research

The Northern Territory currently operates a centralised planning system under the Planning Act 1999, with all planning responsibility sitting at Territory Government level. Unlike the States, where planning responsibilities are generally shared between State and local government, NT councils have no authority over local planning and development decision making powers. Since the 2008 local government reforms, NT councils have also been consolidated into larger councils and regional authorities with broader jurisdictions, responsibilities and organisational capacity, making them better placed to undertake an appropriate level of local planning authority.

Development decisions in the NT interact with numerous legislative and regulatory frameworks, including the Water Act 1992, Environmental Protection Act 2019, Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976, Weeds Management Act 2001, Bushfires Management Act 2016 and legislation and standards relating to roads, drainage, stormwater, waste and infrastructure. The current system can leave councils responsible for managing the local consequences of decisions over which they have no control. A two-tier system would retain Territory-wide legislation, standards, specialist regulation and regional responsibilities with the NT Government while giving councils authority to undertake local planning and determine local development, including local water and groundwater, roads, drainage, environmental impacts, infrastructure and community amenity, Aboriginal cultural heritage and local community heritage.

Research into regulatory governance supports this approach. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) an international



organisation made up of 38 member countries including Australia, identifies independence, transparency, accountability and clear allocation of responsibilities as important characteristics of effective regulatory systems. The Australian Productivity Commission has similarly identified transparency, certainty, clear roles and appropriate local decision-making as important elements of effective planning and development assessment. These principles support separating responsibilities so that one level of government is not solely responsible for policy, approval, regulation and enforcement without meaningful independent checks and balances.

LGANT's Local Government 2030 Strategy has also identified the absence of a local government role in land planning and development as limiting councils' ability to influence sustainable development. The proposed reform would address this gap while ensuring that any planning responsibilities transferred from the NT Government are accompanied by the funding, staff and technical resources required to perform those functions.

3. Alignment with LGANT Policy Statements and Strategic Plan

This motion aligns with LGANT's current strategic direction by strengthening local government decision-making, advocacy, community representation, sustainable development, financial sustainability and the role of local government as an equal partner of government. LGANT's Local Government 2030 Strategy has already identified that NT councils have limited involvement in land planning and development, restricting their ability to influence sustainable development. This motion seeks to address that identified gap.

Advocacy and representation; strengthens LGANT's role in advocating for greater local government authority on matters directly affecting councils and their communities.

Local decision-making; gives communities and councils genuine decision-making power rather than relying on consultation alone.

Equal partnership; establishes clearer and more balanced responsibilities between the NT Government and local government.



Sustainable development; gives councils greater ability to manage local environmental, water, infrastructure and community impacts of development.

Financial sustainability; ensures that any functions transferred from the NT Government are accompanied by the funding and resources currently required to perform those functions.

Accountability and governance; provides stronger checks and balances by ensuring that no single level of government has unchecked authority over development decisions affecting local communities.

Conclusion

The motion gives practical effect to LGANT's existing policy direction by strengthening local government as an equal partner, improving accountability and ensuring that responsibility is matched by authority and resources. It does not seek to remove the NT Government's responsibility for Territory-wide or regional matters; it seeks a balanced two-tier system where the Territory retains its strategic role and councils have binding authority over the local consequences of development.

Council confirmation:

I, [Click or tap here to enter your full name.](#), the Chief Executive Officer, hereby confirm that this motion was approved by resolution of council on [Click or tap to enter a date.](#) for presentation at the next LGANT General Meeting.

Resolution number: _____

In submitting this motion, I acknowledge that (please tick):

☐ the LGANT Board has the discretion to not accept the motion.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Section 93 of the Local Government Act and Regulation 51 of Local Government (General) Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following confidential item(s):

16.4 RFT25-500 - Howard Springs Waste transfer Station Asbestos Remediation and Containment Cell Construction

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - ci of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

16.5 Livingstone Volunteer Fire Brigade Lease Agreement - Common Seal

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 99(2) - d of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.