

Media Release

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Shire of **Ngaanyatjarraku**
ON A JOURNEY

Tjulyuru Cultural and Civic Centre
Warburton Community

PMB 87 via Kalgoorlie
Western Australia 6431

Telephone: (08) 8956 7966
Facsimile: (08) 8956 7959

Email: mail@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au
Website: www.ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au

2022 National General Assembly of Local Government: Partners In Progress



L-R: Preston Thomas (Shire Deputy President), Kevin Hannagan (Shire CEO), Rick Britton (Mayor Boulia Shire), Patrick Hill (President, Laverton Shire), Helen Lewis (GM Outback Highway Development Council), Conference Convener (ALGA).

A delegation from the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku attended the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) from June 20 to 22 in Canberra. The NGA saw more than 800 mayors, presidents, and councillors attend from around Australia. Shire representatives had the opportunity to network with other regional local government authorities and discuss how to best support and enable local communities in partnership with the Australian Government.

Deputy Shire President Preston Thomas and Shire CEO Kevin Hannagan represented the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku at the NGA to share some of the projects happening within the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, including the \$687 million Outback Way upgrade funded with federal government support, which will deliver a new transport route and tourism gateway to the Eastern States.

Shire President Damian McLean said they appreciated the opportunity to network with other local government authorities and speak to local projects on a national platform.

“We’re excited for the sealing of the Outback Way which will bring economic benefits to our local community among others. Supported by the Warburton Concept Plan to upgrade the roadhouse and civic precinct, the Outback Way will invite more travellers into the region and hopefully entice visitors to stay a bit longer and spend money in the local economy,” said Cr McLean.

“The project was well received by the delegates and there is great interest in learning more about Australia’s longest shortcut to the Golden Outback in the regional forum,” he said.

Key topics of discussion at the forum included service cuts, facility closures, climate change, road safety, and revenue crisis. Shire President Damian McLean said consistent support from the Australian Government for all levels of local government is especially important to the health, safety, and growth of communities.

“Sustainable funding for local governments and effective partnerships is critical to enable progress and delivery of essential services in communities,” said Cr. McLean. “Seeing council members and local government officials come together in Canberra to advocate for our communities and drive change was very positive.”

The NGA is convened annually by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and is the peak convention for local government and council members across the nation. This occasion offers local governments a unique opportunity to engage with the Federal Government directly, create national policy, and affect the future course of government and communities.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Damian McLean

Shire President

P: (08) 8956 7966

E: mail@ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au