

Proposed Motion 1: Reinstate or replace NRAS funding.

ALGA CATEGORY	Housing and Homelessness
MOTION SUBJECT <i>Short summary of the specific topic, or issue.</i>	The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) is being phased out by 2026, displacing residents and putting pressure on landlords.
MOTION	This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to reinstate or replace the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) funding.
GRC STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan – <i>Resilient Economy</i> • GRC Strategic Priorities 2023/24 (and anticipated ongoing) • GRC Advocacy Plan – <i>Enabling improved housing outcomes and supply</i> • Local Housing Action Plan
NATIONAL OBJECTIVE <i>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?</i> <i>(maximum 200 words)</i>	<p>No properties are to be left in the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) by mid-2026.</p> <p>Coupled with a shortfall of available affordable housing, a significant number of people stand to be displaced by the cessation of the scheme.</p> <p>More than 38,000 properties nationwide were on the scheme.</p> <p>Higher costs of materials, land and finance are making it more difficult for developers to build dwellings profitably, making achieving targets for new builds challenging.</p> <p>Australia’s housing shortfall is expected to be at least 175,000 homes by 2027. Cessation of the NRAS will put further pressure on a housing market in crisis.</p>
SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS <i>Background information and supporting arguments.</i> <i>(maximum 500 words)</i>	<p>Introduced in 2008, the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) was a program set up by the federal government as a way to address the shortage of affordable rental housing.</p> <p>They did this by incentivising investors to rent their properties at 20%+ below market rate.</p> <p>The program had 3 intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make new homes available to low-income earners who may otherwise not be able to afford it. • Boost the overall number of rental homes by tempting investors into the market • Encourage landlords to find innovative ways to keep management costs down. <p>The scheme commenced being phased out in 2014, with no properties to be left in the scheme by mid-2026. Coupled with an immediate shortfall of available affordable housing, a significant number of people stand to be displaced by the cessation of the scheme.</p>

Proposed Motion 2: Ensure emergency management initiatives are fit for purpose and meeting community needs.

ALGA CATEGORY	Emergency management
MOTION SUBJECT <i>Short summary of the specific topic, or issue.</i>	<p>Emergency management and resilience funding is frequently directed to projects and initiatives that are already being delivered or are not relevant to the communities for which they are intended.</p> <p>Input from Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMG's) is crucial to ensuring that funded initiatives are fit for purpose and meeting community needs.</p> <p>Local Governments are well placed to deliver Disaster Management locally however long-term funding is required to reduce pressure on Government agencies and recovery funding.</p>
MOTION	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ensure that emergency management and resilience initiatives are fit for purpose and meeting community needs by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandating input on all funding applications from the relevant Local Disaster Management Group, with a reasonable review timeframe allowed, to ensure genuine community benefit and avoid duplication and; 2. Providing long-term funding for resilience roles and projects.
GRC STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan – <i>Resilient Economy</i> • Local Disaster Management Plan • Business Continuity Management Policy
NATIONAL OBJECTIVE <i>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?</i> <i>(maximum 200 words)</i>	<p>Currently, Local Disaster Management Groups are not required to review <i>all</i> applications for emergency and resilience funding, leading to duplication of effort and lack of benefit to the intended communities.</p> <p>Where LDMG review is required prior to a submission being made, evidence from the applicant is not requested and as such, this step is not being enforced or monitored.</p> <p>As a result, resilience funding is not always being directed to projects and initiatives that will result in long-term community benefit.</p> <p>To ensure that initiatives and projects are fit for purpose and meeting community need, it should be a requirement of funding applications, that the LDMGs are consulted, with a reasonable review timeframe allowed for feedback, prior to applications being submitted.</p> <p>In addition, long-term funding to Local Governments for resilience roles and projects would support in building community resilience and preparedness, reducing the burden on Government services and recovery funding.</p>

<p>SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS <i>Background information and supporting arguments.</i></p> <p><i>(maximum 500 words)</i></p>	<p>Local Governments are well placed to manage disaster response locally. By leading emergency management and response, Local Governments can enhance the resilience of their communities and guide future initiatives, reducing reliance on other Government agencies, and building community trust.</p> <p>Individuals or agencies based outside of regions for which they are applying for funding are receiving support for projects and initiatives that are already established creating duplication, or that do not meet the needs of the region.</p> <p>As a pre-requisite for funding, all applications should require input and/or approval from the LDMG's who can ensure that funding is directed to the initiatives that will have the greatest community benefit.</p> <p>In instances where LDMG input has been sought prior to submission, it can be demonstrated that the LDMGs provide invaluable support and guidance that ensures projects' success in meeting local needs and avoiding conflict with other projects or arrangements.</p> <p>Enhancing community resilience through fit for purpose programs and funded resilience roles will alleviate burden on other Government agencies and available funding.</p>
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Proposed Motion 3: Make working and living in regional areas more attractive.	
ALGA CATEGORY	Jobs and skills
MOTION SUBJECT <i>Short summary of the specific topic, or issue.</i>	<p>Skills shortages and employee retention challenges are impacting critical service delivery and industry specific operations, in regional areas.</p> <p>Workers may not be attracted to regional areas if liveability factors are not sufficient and liveability of a region is impacted by availability of workers, particularly critical workers, creating a cycle. Therefore, A holistic approach to worker attraction, retention and liveability is crucial to addressing the challenges, for the long-term.</p>
MOTION	<p>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to address skills shortages and regional retention challenges by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing incentive allocations to make working and living regionally more attractive. 2. Adequately incentivising critical workers to live in regional areas and; 3. Supporting Local Government efforts through funding, to improve regional liveability factors.
GRC STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan – <i>Resilient Economy</i> • GRC Strategic Priorities 2023/24 (and anticipated ongoing)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRC Advocacy Plan – <i>Enabling improved housing outcomes and supply</i> • GRC Advocacy Plan – <i>Improving health care services</i> • Local Housing Action Plan
<p>NATIONAL OBJECTIVE <i>Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA?</i> <i>(maximum 200 words)</i></p>	<p>Australia is experiencing impacts from a lack of workers in areas such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trades (construction, infrastructure) - Professional occupations (health, engineering, science, manufacturing) - Care (childcare, aged care) <p>This lack of workers is affecting critical service delivery in health, housing, and community safety as well as the daily operations of industry and Local Governments.</p> <p>Local Governments and other industry sectors are experiencing impact to daily operations as vital roles are difficult to fill and retain.</p> <p>Regional areas are particularly suffering.</p> <p>A holistic review of incentive allocation is required to make working and living regionally more attractive.</p> <p>Incentives targeted at attracting critical workers to live and work regionally are required to ensure equitable access to fit for purpose, affordable services for all Australians.</p> <p>Funding support to Local Governments is required to assist with improving liveability factors to further entice workers to regional areas.</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF KEY ARGUMENTS <i>Background information and supporting arguments.</i> <i>(maximum 500 words)</i></p>	<p>Workers may not be attracted to regional areas if liveability factors are not sufficient and liveability of a region is impacted by availability of workers, particularly critical workers, creating a cycle. Therefore, A holistic approach to worker attraction, retention and liveability is crucial to addressing the challenges, for the long-term.</p> <p>Liveability is measured by quality-of-life factors, such as social infrastructure, transport, housing, health care, education, and a safe and stable built and natural environment.</p> <p>Liveability is a crucial component to attracting and retaining workers.</p> <p>Without adequate incentives, workers may not be attracted to live and work regionally due to a lack of access to other services deemed important for their lifestyle.</p> <p>The ability to attract and retain the required workforce is crucial to the nation’s energy transition to renewable energy.</p>

	<p>Local Governments are well placed to focus on improving liveability of their communities however, adequate Government support by way of funding for social infrastructure projects, housing, health care and education is required.</p>
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