

Motions for submission to the ALGA National General Assembly 2020

National Product and Packaging Standards

Motion
<p>1. That in line with Federal Government's National Waste Policy and its adoption of a circular economy policy, the National General Assembly calls on the Federal Government to further develop national standards on products and packaging as part of implementation of its circular economy policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) mandate a national packaging code for products and packaging with appropriate bin-top colours for recycling;(b) incentivise the use of reusable packaging in the transportation of products;(c) discourage over packaging of products;(d) encourage new national markets for recycled products and for products and packaging that are not currently recycled;(e) introduce mandatory product stewardship for problematic products and packaging; and(f) discourage products and packaging that are not able to be recycled or reused and establish a program for these products and packaging to be phased out.
National Objective
<p>While waste management is largely a matter for state and local governments, the Federal Government has adopted a National Waste Policy and has a major role in setting national standards for waste management and packaging and for trade, imported products and product marketing.</p>
Summary of Key Arguments
<p>The 2018 Federal Government's National Waste Policy embodies a circular approach to minimising waste, recognising discarded products are a valuable resource for recycling and reuse, and avoiding products and packaging going to landfill.</p> <p>The Federal Government in response to concerns over the export of discarded products, has announced a ban on exports from the waste stream.</p> <p>Australian Government policy also supports developing national standards for products and materials, a common approach to waste policy and regulation, development of markets for recycling and addressing national market failures.</p> <p>In light of the above, further specification is sought for the Australian Government to support the responsible handling and disposal of products and packaging as part of a circular economy, as set out in this motion.</p>

Tackling Rising Transport Emissions

Motion

1. That to assist in tackling rising emissions from transport, the National General Assembly calls on ALGA to advocate to the Federal Government to reverse this rise in the transport sector through:
 - (a) promotion and support for a shift to electric cars, buses, and trucks, and rail electrification, powered by renewable energy: solar, wind, hydrogen;
 - (b) adoption of electric vehicle targets & further expanding recharging facilities;
 - (c) mandatory greenhouse gas emission (GGE) standards for cars and other vehicles;
 - (d) promotion and support for active transport - walking and cycling.

National Objective

Federal, state and local governments have all committed to reducing carbon emissions. The main focus has been on emissions from energy sources which have fallen by 10%. However, emissions from the transport sector have increased for decades, such that carbon emissions from transport in 2030 are predicted to be 122% on 2005 levels. This needs to be tackled by all levels with leadership also sought from the Commonwealth Government.

Summary of Key Arguments

Emissions in Australia from transport have increased near 20% on 2005 levels and represent 18% of total carbon emissions in 2018 and still rising. In Australia, cars collectively emit roughly the same emissions per year as Queensland's entire coal and gas fired electricity supply. An international scorecard has ranked Australia as 2nd worst for transport energy efficiency.

The Institute for Sustainable Transport has assessed the main transport modes for carbon dioxide emissions per person, per kilometre, as follows:

242.8 g	Average Victorian car
209.1 g	Top range electric vehicle
121.9 g	Dual occupancy car
119.6 g	Motorcycle
28.6 g	Train
20.2 g	Tram
17.7 g	Bus
0 g	Top range electric vehicle (green power)
0 g	Bicycle
0 g	Walking

The 2030 Global Agenda on Sustainable Development includes working on a sustainable, low carbon and resilient transport future with transport infrastructure and operations being subject to the 1.5 degree scenario, achieving zero net emissions by 2050. This includes decarbonising the transport sector.

Leadership is sought by the Commonwealth Government to tackle rising transport emissions in Australia through the measures set out in this motion.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Motion

1. This National General Assembly acknowledges that ICAN was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in November 2017 for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve the global Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, after the treaty's adoption earlier in 2017 by the United Nations in New York and calls on the Australian Local Government Association to:
 - (a) publicise to local governments around Australia, the work of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), founded in Melbourne in 2007.
 - (b) urge local governments around Australia to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, joining the 26 Australian Local Governments (including Sydney, Hobart, Yarra, Darebin, Freemantle, Coburn) and over 80 nations around the world who have declared their support for the treaty as the first international legal instrument to comprehensively outlaw nuclear weapons, setting out a pathway for their elimination.
 - (c) urge the Australian Government to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thus joining the 34 other nations to date, who have already done so, noting that 50 national ratifications are needed to advance the treaty to international law.

National Objective

To urge local governments around Australia to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Summary of Key Arguments

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was founded in Melbourne in 2007.

After a decade of advocacy, ICAN in November 2017 was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a global Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, after the treaty's adoption in July 2017 by the United Nations in New York.

This is the first time any Australian organisation has won a Nobel Peace Prize.

The United Nations citation of ICAN for the Peace Prize was for "its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons".

The National General Assembly is urged to acknowledge this ground-breaking achievement and seek that ALGA take follow-up action in accordance with this motion.

ARRB Standards for recycling material in road base

Motion

1. That ALGA advocate to the Australian Roads Research Board (ARRB) to develop standards/guidelines on the use of recycled plastics and glass in road base.

National Objective

To encourage new end products and markets for recycled plastics and glass.

Summary of Key Arguments

A key challenge for the nation is the accumulation and stockpiling of plastics and glass from the waste stream and the need to develop markets using such recycled materials.

To this end, many local governments have been using products made from recycled plastics including toner cartridges and supermarket bags, added to road base to become part of the glue that bonds and waterproofs road asphalt.

It is understood industry testing has demonstrated that these additives to road mix result in added strength, adhesion, extra road life performance and, significantly, that micro-plastics do not separate in water run-off to escape into the eco-system.

A key Australian Roads Research Board (ARRB) role is to develop standards/guidelines to improve the road environment as regards economical and efficient road design solutions including road surfaces. ARRB has not however, developed standards or guidance on use of road base mixed with recycled plastic and glass products. Their absence has hampered take-up of using recycled plastic and glass in road base for local roads more broadly, and for arterials and highways.

The development of such standards is in line with the Federal Government's recently released National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019. This Action Plan has as one of its priority actions, the development of standards for the use of recycled content, including recycled plastic, in capital works projects prioritising road and rail, and to transition to a circular economy.

Gambling harm

Motion

1. That the National General Assembly calls on the Australian, state and territory governments to:
 - (a) recognise and treat gambling harm as a public health issue;
 - (b) acknowledge the link between gambling harm, mental ill-health and other comorbidities, and include it in public and health frameworks and strategies; and
 - (c) address gambling harm through effective harm minimisation and prevention policies, led by public health professionals.

National Objective

We must formally recognise the well-established link between mental-ill health and gambling, and associated comorbidities in homelessness, family violence, chronic illness and other forms of addiction, in order to effectively address this as a public health issue. These impact Australians, with a significant economic and social cost yearly to gambling.

Summary of Key Arguments

Financial losses from gambling are increasing every year across Australia, as are the associated social and health-related impacts. In order to effectively address this issue, we must respond to gambling through a public health lens, acknowledging the social, political, cultural, commercial and environmental determinants that lead to and exacerbate harm. The narrative of 'personal responsibility' contributes to stigma and often prevents people from seeking help. We know that people experiencing gambling harm suffer higher rates of mental-ill health, and equally, that people suffering mental ill-health are also more vulnerable to gambling harm.