

REPORT: Taking the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly June 2021.

OVERVIEW:

Thanks to the support of the Quaker Peace and Social Justice Fund, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Australia, together with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), significantly raised the profile of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the local government level by attending the National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in Canberra in June 2021.



Jemila Rushton (ICAN) Valerie Joy (WILPF) Delene Cuddihy (WILPF) & Gem Romuld (ICAN).

Over the course of the 3-day conference, we spoke to countless Mayors and councillors from across the country, shared the story of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the significant role that councils can play in ensuring Australia joins it.

We collaborated with 9 Australian councils¹ to bring a resolution, to bring a successful motion to the floor, and provided background information to hundreds of councillors in attendance. Finally, we seeded vital network connections with other local government bodies and solidified relationships with supportive councillors from across the continent.

OUTCOMES:

- 1. The National General Assembly of the Australian Local Government Association unanimously passed a motion calling on Australia to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.***

The motion in support of the Treaty was moved by Darebin City Council (VIC) and seconded by the City of Ryde (NSW). Fremantle (WA), Mt Isa (QLD), Randwick (NSW), Byron Shire (NSW), City of West Torrens (SA), Inner West (NSW), Newcastle (NSW) and the City of Yarra (VIC) also backed it ahead of the conference. As the motion passed the conference erupted in applause.

Our media release is available at: <https://icanw.org.au/alga-endorses-the-ban/>

¹ Darebin City Council (VIC), Fremantle (WA), Mt Isa (QLD), Randwick (NSW), Byron Shire (NSW), City of West Torrens

(SA), Inner West (NSW), Newcastle (NSW) and the City of Yarra (VIC).

2. *Councils commit to endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal.*

The success of the ALGA motion and the opportunity to engage with councillors in a rare in-person setting was invaluable. Since June 2021 we have encouraged 3 new councils to endorse the Cities Appeal. These councils are the City of Ryde (NSW), Bayside City Council (VIC), and Macedon Ranges Shire Council (VIC). A full list of supportive councils is available at: <https://icanw.org.au/cities/>

3. *Media Coverage in National Local Government Newspaper*

The resolution was reported on by the national *Local Government Focus* newspaper for their July Edition. **Local Government Focus** is produced monthly and distributed to the key decision makers in local government, elected members and senior staff across the 537 councils in Australia. Every council in Australia receives on average eighteen copies of LG Focus free of charge each month. The article is available at: <https://lgfocus.com.au/news/2021/07/16/nga-endorses-nuclear-weapons-ban/>

ONGOING CAMPAIGNING AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL

- ***Nuclear Weapon Ban Advocates:*** In late 2021 we launched a new volunteer pathway for people to join us as Nuclear Weapon Ban Advocates. These advocates are supported in lobbying their local councils as well as MPs. WILPF women in Brisbane continue to focus their efforts in securing more endorsements from QLD councils.
- ***Councils Taking Action:*** Many councillors continue to take actions within council to show support of the abolition of the world's worst weapon; by joining our events, commemorating the legacy of nuclear survivors, pursuing council divestment from nuclear weapons funds and more.

OTHER CAMPAIGN STREAMS

- 2022 brings the first meeting of states parties in March, an important Treaty milestone which we will be encouraging Australia's participation.
- We will continue to oppose the proposal for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.
- We will continue to advocate to parliamentarians, before and after the upcoming federal election. 238 current sitting parliamentarians have now pledged to work for Australia to sign and ratify the Treaty.
- We will continue to support Labor branches to pass motions calling on Federal Labor to ratify the Treaty in their first term, should they win government this year.

- We will continue work on our divestment campaign Quit Nukes which, together with MAPW and the Australia Institute, just released a [fantastic report](#) and has successfully convinced two superannuation funds to divest from nuclear weapons companies.

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ATTACHEMENTS: 'Greenfleet' carbon offsets confirmations/