The following key federal election priorities have been collated from SCG, SEATS, ALGA and LGNSW policy agendas, for use by delegates and member councils in discussion with candidates in the lead-up to a Federal election later this year.

**Transport**
- Recognition of the Princes Highway from Wollongong to Sale (which represents an area of significant economic importance) in the Nation Building Program.
- In-principle support for the High Speed Rail proposal, and location of a station in the Moss Vale area of the Southern Highlands as part of the first stage construction from Sydney to Canberra.
- Recognition of the defence, economic and social development significance of improved east-west linkages from Wollongong to the Victorian border, e.g. the potential for dedicated freight corridors in the north and south of the SCG region - i.e. the Imlay Road and the Maldon-Dombarton rail line.
- The 2 port (north and south) strategic potential of the region. In addition to the recognised potential of Port Kembla, the strategic location of Port Eden in relation to the oil wells in Bass Strait for example, has been highlighted in earlier submissions by SCG to the State Government.
- Expansion of the Strategic Regional Program.
- Better and safer roads through a permanent “Roads to Recovery” program.
- Ensure adequate planning funding is allocated and built into any project funding offered by Federal or State Government.
- Commencement of an ongoing audit of ports and airports to address the adequacy of national security and funding provided to upgrade security as needed.
- Establishment of a funding mechanism to enable timely rehabilitation of airport tarmacs.

**Constitutional Change**
- To support the continuation of direct Commonwealth payments to local government.

**Federal Funding to Local Government**
- More sustainable funding allocated to meet local community priorities, including through Financial Assistance Grants. The ALGA has called for a full review of the Financial Assistance Grants program, leading to an improved growth/escalation methodology and a more realistic funding pool.
- Agreement that funding should accompany new responsibilities required of local government and put an end to cost shifting.
- Support for community infrastructure. ALGA urges:
  - Commitments to stimulate growth over the longer term and build community resilience.
Commitment of further funding to the national Bike Paths program to further the preventative health and other benefits that have flowed to the community under the current program.

Establishment of a State and National Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) urged by the LGNSW.

Environment

- Assistance to councils to develop and implement projects for water sensitive urban design projects and implement community scale recycling initiatives.
- Help to adapt to climate change.
- A coordinated approach to national biodiversity and to coastal hazard management.

Economic Development

- Better arrangements for natural disaster mitigation.
- Investment to improve online business capacity of local government.
- Adequate funding to deliver municipal services in indigenous communities. ALGA promotes acting in collaboration with other governments and stakeholders to achieve the Closing the Gap targets and related reforms directed at municipal service delivery to indigenous communities.