

Message from the President

LGNSW President, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM provides an update on local government issues.

Draft Planning Legislation on Exhibition Now

Minister for Planning, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, released proposed changes to the Planning Act on Monday.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirements for Councils with Deferred Elections

The Office of Local Government has issued a circular advising councils with deferred elections of integrated planning and reporting requirements until their next local government elections occur.

Flying Fox Grants Program – New Funding Round Open

A new round of funding to help councils implement plans to manage the impact of flying fox camps opened on January 2 and closes on 17 February.

New Proposed Regulation: Councillor Professional Development

The Office of Local Government is developing a new regulation requiring councillors and mayors to undertake induction and on-going professional development.

LGNSW Tourism Conference: Early Bird Registration Closes Next Week

Register your team by close of business next Wednesday (18 January 2017) to take advantage of the discounted early bird rate.

LGNSW Learning Calendar and Upcoming Courses

A new LGNSW course calendar (January to June 2017) is now available online.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 13 January 2017



I would like to begin the first message of 2017 by wishing a happy New Year to all. I trust you had a restful and pleasant holiday.

It's already shaping up to be another big year with much change and work ahead for the sector. As you will have heard, on Monday the NSW Minister for Planning released a draft package of updates to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act) for comment. LGNSW responded swiftly to the media announcement and it was pleasing to see our sector's views conveyed in media reports. See our media release.

The detailed package outlines positive changes, including some that are a direct result of LGNSW's advocacy. Generally, LGNSW welcomes this much-needed reform which aims to speed up development applications and improve strategic decision-making. Our biggest concern is that the proposed changes to the legislation are likely to set up a planning system that further erodes the role of councils and elected representatives in local planning decisions and diminishes the rights of the community to have a say on the local developments. A message was issued to members on Monday outlining our initial observations. LGNSW has had productive discussions with the Minister's office and department on these and other issues and that will continue as we work through the significant detail and effects of the changes proposed. LGNSW will prepare a submission and is very keen to hear members' views on the reforms. Read more.

On 2 January, we announced fresh funding to help councils implement plans to manage the impact of flying fox colonies on their residents and ratepayers. The funding is part of the \$1 million Flying Fox Grant Program, which is funded by the Office of Environment and Heritage and administered by LGNSW. Read more and see our media release.

On the subject of funding, Women NSW is seeking expressions of interest for the \$20 million Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund, which will fund projects aimed towards reducing domestic and family violence and increasing the safety of women, children and men. Read more.

Just before Christmas, Woollahra Council was advised that the NSW Court of Appeal rejected its case against forced amalgamation. Council has resolved to continue its legal action and will now seek leave to appear before the High Court of Australia.

On 21 December, the Office of Local Government (OLG) provided advice to councils with deferred elections of their requirements under integrated planning and reporting until their next local government elections occur. Read more.

The OLG is also developing a new regulation requiring councillors and mayors undertake induction and ongoing professional development. OLG is currently consulting on what should be included in the regulation and any support required by councils. Read more.

Finally, remember to register for the LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 before the early bird registration closes next week, on Wednesday 18 January.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Rhoades', written in a cursive style.

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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The NSW Government has committed a total of \$150,000 to councils in regional NSW to provide local live music events.

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Junee Shire Council is hosting a free regional activation forum on 22 February, presented by the Japan Local Government Centre in cooperation with the University of Technology Sydney.

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The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has extended the exhibition period for the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44), to 3 March 2017.

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The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy is seeking comment on a draft National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).

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A new round of funding to help councils implement plans to manage the impact of flying fox camps opened on January 2 and closes on 17 February.

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The Office of Local Government is developing a new regulation requiring councillors and mayors to undertake induction and on-going professional development.

Planning

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Minister for Planning, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, released proposed changes to the Planning Act on Monday.

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The NSW Government has released a new wind energy framework to provide clear guidance on obtaining consent for wind farms.

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Members are reminded that the Department of Planning and Environment's is seeking feedback on the draft social impact assessment guidelines for State significant resource developments, and that information sessions are scheduled to begin at the end of the month.

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The LGNSW Springboard program assists women in non-management positions to develop skills and knowledge in order to reach greater career goals.

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A new LGNSW course calendar (January to June 2017) is now available online.

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Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming conferences and events

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2017 Springboard Women's Development Program

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Grants and Funding

Item 2: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

\$20 million Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund

Women NSW is seeking expressions of interest for the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund by 17 February 2017.

Funding for Live Music Events in Regional NSW

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Flying Fox Grants Program – New Funding Round Open

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General Interest

Item 3: Integrated Planning and Reporting Requirements for Councils with Deferred Elections

The Office of Local Government has issued a circular advising councils with deferred elections of integrated planning and reporting requirements until their next local government elections occur.

The OLG circular ([16-50](#)) advice applies only to the 25 councils whose ordinary elections have been deferred by Ministerial order (and not including the Hills Council, for which the advice provided in Council Circular 16-28 remains current).

Councils affected are:

- Bathurst, Blayney, Burwood, Cabonne, Canada Bay, Dungog, Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-Ring-Gai, Lane Cove, Maitland, Mosman, Newcastle, North Sydney, Oberon, Orange, Port Stephens, Randwick, Ryde, Shellharbour, Strathfield, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollongong and Woollahra.

Integrated planning and reporting requirements

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has advised that councils should continue to operate under their 2016/17 operational plans until 30 June 2017. In preparation for the next annual operational plan (2017/18), councils should take the following approach:

- The existing community strategic plan remains in place as a valid reference document.
- The existing resourcing strategy remains in place, with the long-term financial plan being annually reviewed, as usual.
- The existing delivery program will apply for a further 12 months, maintaining the key themes and any activities not yet completed. In the event that additional or different activities are proposed that are significantly different to those identified in the existing delivery program, the usual public exhibition requirements will apply.
- A new operational plan (2017/18) must be developed for adoption by 30 June 2017, reflecting the delivery program. Standard exhibition periods, including the requirements relating to the statement of revenue policy, apply.
- Once the deferred election is conducted, the council is to commence its next cycle of integrated planning and reporting.
- Where a merger occurs, the abovementioned documents will be used to inform the new entity's first suite of integrated planning and reporting documents.
- Any planned measurement and recording of progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the community strategic plan can proceed, and be used to inform the next integrated planning and reporting cycle.

Annual reports

OLG advises that councils must ensure that they continue to comply with annual reporting requirements set out in [circular 16-28](#).

While that circular highlights some reporting exemptions for councils with deferred elections, there are no exceptions to reporting requirements under other Acts, or to the data provision requirements of other agencies. Councils with pending merger proposals should continue to meet these obligations (e.g. Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines) where applicable.

End of term reporting

OLG will provide further advice regarding end of term reporting requirements in due course.

Online information

OLG circular 16-50 and 16-28 are available on the [OLG circular page](#)

[Integrated Planning and Reporting](#)

LGNSW contact

Sascha Moege
sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au

Ref. R90/0397-05 SM

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Tourism Conference: Early Bird Registration Closes Next Week

Register your team by close of business next Wednesday (18 January 2017) to take advantage of the discounted early bird rate.

The LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017, themed 'Tourism is everyone's business', will focus on key challenges and opportunities faced by the NSW local government tourism industry.

Topics will include:

- Inclusive tourism – how to make your destination accessible, building an inclusive culture and how to market to the target audience
- Developing and improving Indigenous tourism
- Maximising the economic benefits of emerging market segments
- Understanding the needs of nature tourists and how to grow this sector
- Leading your community to enjoy tourism and events
- Activating and sharing art, culture and heritage.

Why you can't afford to miss this conference

- The conference is staged by local government for local government
- Take home the latest tourism news, thinking and ideas to share with your team
- Learn from senior industry executives and speakers who are experts in their fields
- Be inspired to create new solutions to your tourism challenges
- Network with peers and industry experts.

Sponsors

The 2017 conference is supported by:

- Official Partner: Destination NSW
- Elite Sponsor: Heritage Near Me program, Office of Environment and Heritage
- Government Sponsor: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Distinguished Sponsors: The Tourism Group, Department of Family and Community Services
- Airline Partner: Regional Express

Register yourself and your tourism, destination marketing, planning and economic development team by next Wednesday to receive a group discount.

Dates and location

Sunday 12 March – Tuesday 14
March 2017
Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree

Online information

[LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017](#)

Registration

[Register online](#)

Contact

LGNSW Events Team
02 9242 4000
events@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0007 TB

General Interest

Item 5: Emeritus Mayor Lapel Pins

LGNSW has produced a new embossed lapel pin for NSW emeritus mayors.

Pins can be ordered from LGNSW for those emeritus mayors awarded this title prior to August 2016. The lapel pin is presented in an embossed presentation case. [Order your lapel pin online now.](#)

Academic institutions recognise their retiring valued members with the title of Emeritus Professor, LGNSW recognises senior members as Emeritus Mayors. Councillors must have served three full terms as mayor or a full term as a popularly elected mayor. The lapel pin will now be presented alongside all emeritus certificates.

A full list of past recipients is now available on the [LGNSW website](#).

Online information

[Emeritus Mayor lapel pins](#)

Contact

Karen Rolls
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karen.rolls@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R02/0009

Community

Item 6: \$20 million Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund

Women NSW is seeking expressions of interest for the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund by 17 February 2017.

The purpose of the Domestic and Family Innovation Fund is to find new ways of thinking, working and collaborating in the areas of prevention, early intervention and crisis response.

The fund seeks to deliver outcomes that break the intergenerational cycle of domestic and family violence and improve the safety of women, men and children by:

- Strengthening services and support for victims of domestic and family violence
- Increasing prevention and early intervention efforts for individuals and groups at risk of domestic and family violence victimisation or perpetration, to prevent violence from occurring or escalating
- Investing in evidence-based or evidence-informed and scalable projects
- Building the evidence base by assessing effectiveness of funded initiatives, and
- Addressing the needs of communities at higher risk of experiencing domestic and family violence.

The \$20 million innovation fund will be allocated over four years. Projects can be funded from one to four years.

Key steps and dates are:

- Expressions of interest (EOI) closes – 17 February 2017
- EOI appraisal and feedback – 10 March 2017
- Co-lab process – March 2017 to April 2017
- Proposals developed and submitted – 7 April 2017
- Appraisal of proposals – 5 May 2017
- Negotiate funding agreements – 19 May 2017
- First round six month report due – December 2017
- First round 12 month progress review – June 2018

Non-government organisations (NGOs) that have deductible gift recipient status are eligible to apply for the innovation fund when in partnership with one or more of the following:

- Service providers
- Other NGOs
- Community groups
- Academics and educational institutions/sector
- Corporates and other private sector business
- Government agencies (including local government).

Increasingly councils in NSW are implementing initiatives to prevent domestic and family violence in NSW communities and providing support for victims. Councils are encouraged to partner with NGOs on projects that seek funding from the innovation fund.

Dates and location

Expression of Interest Closes
17 February 2017

Online information

Women NSW

Contact

Women NSW
02 9461 7100
DFVinnovation@moh.health.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0071-03 LG

Community

Item 7: Proposed Changes to Prevent Legionnaires' Disease in NSW

Councils are encouraged to provide comment on a NSW Health discussion paper that proposes changes to the regulation of water cooling systems to reduce the risk of Legionnaires' disease in NSW.

The Proposed changes to the regulation of water-cooling systems to prevent Legionnaires' disease in NSW: consultation discussion paper outlines expert advisory panel recommendations and poses questions on how the recommendations can be implemented.

The discussion paper recommends:

- Local government should require additional testing of cooling towers
- Notification of elevated levels of bacteria is provided to councils
- Evidence of compliance with risk management plans is included in councils' registers of cooling towers.

The proposed changes will increase local government responsibilities and operations. Councils are strongly encouraged to review the discussion paper and provide comment. Submissions are due 9 February 2017.

While the discussion paper states that NSW Health carried out initial consultations with LGNSW, our concerns and questions were not addressed or represented in the discussion paper.

LGNSW welcomes any feedback and copies of submissions from councils to incorporate into sector representations. Please send feedback to LGNSW Senior Policy Officer, Liz Gemes by 30 January 2017.

Dates

Submissions due 9 February 2017

Feedback to LGNSW due 30 January 2017

Online information

Legionella expert panel recommendations

Contact

Health Protection NSW
Public Health Act Review Officer
02 9391 9304 or
publichealth@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

LGNSW

Liz Gemes, Senior Policy Officer
02 9242 4063
liz.gemes@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R91/0217-02 LG

Community

Item 8: Funding for Live Music Events in Regional NSW

The NSW Government has committed a total of \$150,000 to councils in regional NSW to provide local live music events.

The Regional NSW Live and Local Initiative aims to build local government capacity to deliver sustainable live music events and support local musicians.

Councils will be encouraged to partner with the national Live Music Office to deliver micro-music festivals particularly in new and creative places such as local streets, cafes, shops, hospitality premises, parks and malls.

Councils wishing to apply for funding under the micro-music festivals program should contact John Wardle from the Live Music Office on 0407 400 018.

Online information

[Live Music Development in Regional NSW](#)

Contact

John Wardle
Live Music Office
0407 400 018
john@livemusicoffice.com.au

Ref: R90/0413 ER

Community

Item 9: Free Regional Activation Forum

Junee Shire Council is hosting a free regional activation forum on 22 February, presented by the Japan Local Government Centre in cooperation with the University of Technology Sydney.

The forum will focus on promoting population growth in rural and regional areas based on Japan's approach to its population problem.

Junee was chosen by the Japan Local Government Centre (CLAIR Sydney) as the location of this year's forum because it is currently tackling population challenges such as an ageing society and attracting regional migration.

The forum will be split into two sessions:

- Solutions to counter decreasing regional populations
- Case studies focusing on approaches taken by specific local governments in Japan.

See the [2017 CLAIR Forum page for a program and to register](#).

Dates and location

22 February, 2017
1:30 – 5:20 pm
Junee Athenium Theatre

Online information and registration
[CLAIR Forum – Regional Activation](#)**Contact**

Japan Local Government Centre
(CLAIR Sydney)
02 9241 5033

Ref: R94-0110 ER

Environment

Item 10: Review of SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection – Extension of Exhibition Period

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has extended the exhibition period for the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection (SEPP 44), to 3 March 2017.

The date aligns with consultation on the development of a whole-of-government NSW koala strategy.

The [Explanation of Intended Effect](#) outlines the intent of the proposed amendment and describes how the various parts of the proposed amendment will work.

Key parts of the proposal include updating:

- Definitions of koala habitat
- List of tree species
- List of councils
- The development assessment process.

The Department of Planning and Environment will also transfer the strategic planning outcomes in SEPP 44 to the Local Planning Directions under section 117 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

LGNSW has prepared a [draft whole-of-sector submission](#) based on feedback from councils. There remains opportunity to amend this submission. If your council is not providing a submission and/or there are additional issues to raise or clarify, please contact [Kirsty McIntyre](#), LGNSW Senior Policy Officer.

Read more information on [developing a NSW Koala Strategy](#).

For more information about the review, see the [Department of Planning and Environment website](#).

Online information

[Department of Planning and Environment](#)

[Draft LGNSW Submission](#)

Contact

Kirsty McIntyre
Senior Policy Officer – Environment
kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R95/0007 KM

Environment

Item 11: Draft National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying Fox

The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy is seeking comment on a draft National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*).

The [draft plan](#) sets out research and management actions to stop the decline and support recovery of this species.

A recovery plan has force under *The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) once it is formally approved by the Minister for the Environment and Energy.

Recovery plans are binding on the Australian Government. Once the Grey-headed Flying fox Recovery Plan is in place, it will remain so for ten years and Australian Government agencies must act in accordance with the plan.

LGNSW is considering preparing a submission based on feedback from councils. Please send any comments or copies of submissions to [Rod Hardwick](#), LGNSW Flying Fox Grant Program Project Officer by 3 April.

Submissions to the federal government close 24 April 2017.

Dates

Submissions to the federal government due 24 April 2017

Online information

[Department of the Environment and Energy](#)

Contact

Rod Hardwick
Project Officer – LGNSW
0439 098 172
rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0011 SC

Environment

Item 12: Flying Fox Grants Program – New Funding Round Open

A new round of funding to help councils implement plans to manage the impact of flying fox camps opened on January 2 and closes on 17 February.

The flying fox grants program, funded by the Office of Environment and Heritage and administered by LGNSW, comprises funding under three streams.

Stream 1 – Implementing emergency flying fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts.

- Maximum grant size: \$50,000
- Applications close Sunday 30 April 2017.

Stream 2 – Preparing flying fox camp management plans.

- Maximum grant size: \$15,000
- Applications close Sunday 30 April 2017.

Stream 3 – Implementing approved actions in flying fox camp management plans.

- Maximum grant size: \$50,000
- A second round of stream three opened 2 January and closes Friday 17 February 2017.

Grants are open to NSW local government organisations including councils, county councils and regional organisations of councils. Collaboration with other partners is encouraged, particularly where multiple camps are involved or a camp is across tenures.

Proposals require matching funds or in-kind contributions on a one-to-one basis. Proposals with higher matching cash contributions may be more competitive in the assessment process.

Further information

For further information regarding the streams, eligibility criteria and application process on the [Flying fox grants program page](#).

Online information

[Flying foxes grant program](#)

Contact

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Rod Hardwick
Project Officer
LGNSW
0439 098 172
rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0011 RH

Legal

Item 13: New Proposed Regulation: Councillor Professional Development

The Office of Local Government is developing a new regulation requiring councillors and mayors to undertake induction and on-going professional development.

The phase 1 amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993* included a new provision relating to professional development for mayors and councillors (s232), as well as a power for regulations to be made concerning professional development.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is currently consulting on:

- Proposals to include in a regulation to be drafted regarding professional development
- Impediments that councils might face in complying with the regulation
- Support required by councils.

OLG released a [circular](#) on 22 December 2016 outlining the proposals to be included in the regulation. Submissions are due by 3 February 2017.

LGNSW is preparing a sector response and is seeking input, or copies of council submissions, to contribute to the response. Information required includes specific examples of the distance and financial constraints that rural councils face when delivering training or sending councillors to training, as well as details on funding assistance amounts councils may need. Please provide submissions to [Jill Gallagher](#) at LGNSW by 20 January 2017.

LGNSW has written to OLG expressing concern about the timing of the consultation and seeking a sector-wide extension of time to respond.

Dates

Responses to LGNSW due 20 January 2017

Submissions to OLG due 3 February 2017

Online information

[OLG Circular](#)

Contact

Jill Gallagher
02 9242 4061

Ref: R95/0084 SA

Planning

Item 14: Draft Planning Legislation on Exhibition Now

Minister for Planning, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, released proposed changes to the Planning Act on Monday.

The long awaited proposal of changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* has been placed on public exhibition for comment until 10 March 2017.

The changes are significant for councils and will affect both local plan-making and assessment processes.

Some changes to mandate up-front community participation plans will result in minor changes to current practice.

Other proposals such as the replacement of independent hearing and assessment panels with local planning panels (LPPs) will be less extensive than anticipated. The Minister originally proposed mandating LPPs to replace all development application (DA) determinations by councillors. Based on LGNSW's advocacy, this proposal has been modified and would enable the Minister to impose an LPP where a council is not performing its planning responsibilities properly or the councillors are guilty of misconduct.

Comment

Overall, LGNSW welcomes the reform of the planning system, which aims to place more importance and certainty on the strategic plan-making process and speed up referrals of DAs to other agencies that draw out DA assessment times.

LGNSW's initial assessment of potential issues with the proposed changes for councils is outlined below:

- The proposed **Local Planning Panels** (which will comprise two experts and a community representative) have some concerning aspects. Most significantly, it appears elected representatives have been purposely excluded from acting as a community representative on these panels. Also, there are no clear criteria for the Minister to replace councillors with an LPP. Clarification is needed to prevent arbitrary decisions and/or political interference.
- There are two key **changes to local plan-making powers** – requirements for community participation plans and local strategic planning statements. Most councils already have community participation plans (the requirements for which can also be met by community strategic plans). Overall, LGNSW supports and has advocated for this. However, the requirement to obtain signoff for local strategic planning statements (from the Department of Planning and Environment or the Greater Sydney Commission) would reinforce an already top-down plan-making process. LGNSW's concern is that the proposed system would be too directive and not give councils adequate opportunity to incorporate local knowledge and expertise in plan-making, which could erode the characteristics and amenity of local communities.
- The proposed **expansion of complying development** to include medium-density housing is problematic as it effectively would allow for 'tick-a-box' development without consultation. LGNSW notes that the Minister has proposed improvements to complying development processes, including introducing a levy and greater enforcement powers (and responsibilities) for councils. However, clarity is required that the proposed levy would cover the cost of regulating a potentially unwieldy system.
- While LGNSW supports applying best practice to the application of **voluntary planning agreements** (VPAs), the proposal to standardise the process and contents needs to be looked at very closely (and is the subject of a separate LGNSW submission being prepared now). It is important councils retain the power and flexibility to negotiate VPAs in ways that result in genuine benefit to communities. The law needs to remain neutral and fair so councils can negotiate outcomes that improve and maintain liveability in communities undergoing densification.

Due Date

10 March 2017

LGNSW media release

[New Laws Exclude Communities](#)

Online information

[Department of Planning and Environment's webpage](#)

[OLG's Summary of amendments](#)

Contact

Jennifer Dennis, Senior Policy Officer
jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R96/0115 JD

LGNSW continues to consult with the Minister and the department on the planning reforms. Please send us your submission to LGNSW Senior Policy Officer, Jennifer Dennis so we can continue to advocate on your behalf.

LGNSW consultation with councils

LGNSW will be holding a forum for members to discuss the proposed changes and gather input for its submission on behalf of the sector. Details will be circulated to members shortly.

Planning

Item 15: Wind Energy Guidelines

The NSW Government has released a new wind energy framework to provide clear guidance on obtaining consent for wind farms.

The framework aims to provide greater clarity, consistency and transparency for industry and the community on both the assessment and decision-making process for wind energy projects.

Most NSW wind farms are classified as state significant development and require the approval of the Planning Minister. However, councils and communities have an important role in providing advice during the approval process and the framework provides guidance on this process.

The framework includes:

- [Wind Energy Guideline](#)
- [Wind Energy: Visual Assessment Bulletin](#)
- [Wind Energy: Noise Assessment Bulletin](#)
- [Standard Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement](#)
- [Wind Energy Framework Q&As](#)

The Department of Planning and Environment has indicated that it has made refinements and improvements to the framework in response to issues raised by councils and communities.

Further information

[Media Release](#)

[Wind Farm Guideline](#)

Ref: R90/1011 JD

Planning

Item 16: Social Impact Assessment Guidelines for Mining Developments

Members are reminded that the Department of Planning and Environment's is seeking feedback on the draft social impact assessment guidelines for State significant resource developments, and that information sessions are scheduled to begin at the end of the month.

The guidelines have been developed to provide proponents of proposed state significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development with a framework and methodology to assess and respond to social impacts.

Information sessions will be held in regional communities to explain the draft guidelines and what they will mean for any future state significant resource projects in those regions:

- Mudgee - Monday, 30 January 2017
- Singleton - Tuesday, 31 January 2017
- Gunnedah - Monday, 6 February 2017
- Wollongong - Wednesday, 8 February 2017

Submissions on the draft guidelines can be made online until 3 March 2017.

Please contact [Shaun McBride](#) at LGNSW if there are comments that you would like LGNSW to raise in a submission on behalf of the sector.

Dates and location

Submissions due 3 March 2017

Comments to LGNSW due 17
February 2017

Online information

[Policy and Legislation – Social Impact Assessment](#)

Contact

Shaun McBride
Senior Strategy Manager
02 9242 4072
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Ref: R90/0503-07 ER

Learning

Item 17: 2017 Springboard Women's Development Program

The LGNSW Springboard program assists women in non-management positions to develop skills and knowledge in order to reach greater career goals.

The program includes sessions on time management, assertiveness, dealing with change, conflict resolution, problem solving, goal setting, stress management, networking, communication and action planning.

Springboard will help women to:

- Set and achieve personal goals
- Focus on priorities
- Acquire ideas, skills and confidence
- Make positive decisions and to take action.

The program consists of four workshops over three months. Each workshop features a high profile female guest speaker and participants have the opportunity to network with women from other councils.

LGNSW coordinates a mentoring strategy in conjunction with the program and delivers a half-day program for mentors.

All workshops are held in Sydney but councils outside the metropolitan area interested in implementing the program in their region can contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for more information.

Dates

Mentors program – Monday 27 February 2017 (half day)
Workshop 1 – Tuesday 28 February
Workshop 2 – Tuesday 14 March
Workshop 3 – Tuesday 4 April
Workshop 4 – Tuesday 2 May

Online Registration

[Springboard Women's Development Program](#)

Cost

Members: \$1,320 (incl. GST)

Non-members: \$2,640 (incl. GST)

(Includes four workshops for participants and a half-day workshop for mentors)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4181
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 20: LGNSW Learning Calendar and Upcoming Courses

A new LGNSW course calendar (January to June 2017) is now available online.

LGNSW's range of short courses is designed to equip employees and elected members with essential skills, knowledge and leadership for working in local government.

Courses are provided at competitive rates and are specifically designed for the sector.

Now is a good time to [download a copy](#) and schedule some training.

Courses in January and February include:

Handling Difficult People

Sydney – Wednesday 25 January 2017

Wagga Wagga – Wednesday 14 June 2017

Employees increasingly handle people who are difficult, aggressive, and verbally and physically threatening. This interactive and practical workshop will help staff manage situations in a safe way with minimal stress. [More information](#).

Time Management

Sydney – Wednesday 15 February 2017

Become more organised and productive through strategies that improve goal setting, work prioritisation and time management. [More information](#).

Recruitment and Selection Skills

Sydney – Friday 17 February 2017

Managers and supervisors will gain the knowledge and skills to conduct an innovative and effective recruitment and selection process that captures quality talent and places the right people in the right jobs. [More information](#)

People and Performance

Sydney – 22 February 2017

Learn the art of managing people through a focus on communicating with different personality types and performance management communication. [More information](#).

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

Sydney – Friday 24 February 2017

Ballina – Monday 3 April 2017

Narrabri – Monday 29 May 2017

Wagga Wagga – Tuesday 13 June 2017

Gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in the local government context. This workshop is based on regulations required under the Local Government Act, the Local Government (State) Award and internationally-accepted meeting procedures. [More information](#)

Review the [training calendar](#) and contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have workshops delivered for your council or in partnership with other councils in your region.

Online information
[LGNSW Training](#)

[LGNSW Learning Calendar \(January-June 2017\)](#)

Registrations
[Learning solutions registrations](#)

Contact
LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 21: Workforce Planning Workshop – February and March 2017

Learn about workforce planning, its purpose and benefits, steps involved and the resources that can be used by councils to prepare workforce plans.

Designed for directors, managers and human resource professionals, this practical and interactive workshop will provide councils with information and knowledge to undertake workforce planning.

Topics covered include:

- The local government context – NSW Local Government Act requirements, the local government workforce profile and trends
- Purpose and benefits of workforce planning
- Key steps for developing a workforce plan
- Where are we now – using metrics and identifying trends
- The future – making sense of the data
- Identifying gaps, undertaking gap analysis and developing strategies and actions to address gaps
- Communicating with key stakeholders, and
- Finalising a workforce plan.

Dates and location

Tuesday 14 February 2017
Wednesday 15 March 2017
Sydney

Cost

Members: \$660 (incl. GST)
Non-members: \$1,320 (incl. GST)

Online information and registration

[Workforce planning](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4181
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have this workshop delivered for your council or in partnership with other councils in your region.

In the News

Item 22: Local Government NSW Media

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW