

## **Message from the President**

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

## **Auditor-General Performance Audits – Initial Topics Announced**

The NSW Auditor-General has decided on three initial topics for local government performance audits: council reporting on service delivery, fraud control and shared services.

## **NSW Parliament Enacts the Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

The Fire and Emergency Services Levy Bill (NSW) 2017 was passed unamended by the NSW Parliament (29 March 2017) and will come into effect on 1 July 2017.

## **Exempt Development for Container Deposit Scheme Equipment**

A proposed amendment has been released to allow low impact recycling equipment associated with the NSW Container Deposit Scheme to be classified as exempt development.

## **Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy – Consultation Extended**

The NSW Department of Education has extended the Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy consultation period (to 31 May) and is encouraging relevant NSW councils to provide online feedback.

## **NAIDOC Local Grant Funding Open**

Funding to support communities to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2017 (2-9 July) is available under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Culture and Capability Program.

## **LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Last Chance to Register**

Only a few seats remain for the first LGNSW Event Network meeting of the year (Friday 7 April, Penrith).

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## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 31 March 2017



On Wednesday night, the NSW Parliament passed the *Fire and Emergency Services Levy Bill (NSW) 2017* (FESL - formerly the Emergency Services Property Levy or ESPL). The levy is to be collected by councils, alongside rates, from 1 July 2017. While we were able to secure more than 25 significant amendments to the initial draft of the Bill, there is no doubt the levy will have an impact on councils. We are still working with Treasury to make implementation as good as it can be, and we will continue to ensure you are informed and receive every assistance possible.

As you know, the FESL is on top of the 11.7 per cent emergency services levy communities already pay every year via their council rates. The Government made it patently clear this was not on the table for negotiation. The 11.7 per cent is a hidden tax. Most people don't realise they pay it - in most cases it is not listed as a separate line item on rates notices. I urge all members to act now to change that!

**LGNSW calls on members to add a new line item on rates notices showing the amount ratepayers already pay for the existing NSW Government emergency services levy.** This would be in addition to the FESL, and everyone will then be able to see that councils are required to collect not one, but two levies for the Government to pay for emergency services agencies. [Read more.](#)

In the big news of the week, the [Court of Appeal judgement](#) on Ku-ring-gai Council and Hornsby Shire was handed down. It could be a game changer for councils fighting forced amalgamations. [LGNSW media release.](#) A central issue was a NSW Government commissioned KPMG report which is said to demonstrate significant financial benefits of amalgamation, and the Government's failure to release it in full.

It is clear that community interest in the amalgamation issue has not waned. Throughout the time amalgamations have been on the Government's agenda, we have stayed true to the policy set by you, our members. We have also provided support to those undergoing amalgamations or choosing to prepare for them, and we are now on the road to assist those rural and regional councils recently excluded from the push for more mergers. On Monday LGNSW Chief Executive, Donna Rygate was in Blayney to lead the first of three newly-developed workshops to talk about ways to address the real challenges our sector faces, including ongoing financial sustainability. The event was attended by more than 20 participants representing five member councils. The remaining two workshops are scheduled for Maitland and Shellharbour in the coming weeks.

Also during the week, the NSW Auditor-General announced the three initial topics for local government performance audits: council reporting on service delivery, fraud control and shared services. We are committed to regular consultation with the Auditor-General with the purpose of ensuring the new audit regime is both meaningful and beneficial to the sector. [Read more.](#)

In terms of key meetings, the highlights included a meeting about impending regulatory changes on short term letting (we are trying to get to the bottom of that), and a couple of meetings to kick off LGNSW's local government community research project.

Today is the launch of National Youth Week and congratulations go out to the many councils who have engaged with the younger members of the community to mark the occasion. More than 300 NSW events have been registered, all of which will be eligible for entry and hopefully recognition in the Youth Week category of the [LGNSW awards](#) during Local Government Week in August.

There has been a tremendous response to our call for councils to get involved with the Australian Local Government Association's [endthefreeze](#) campaign which is aimed at reinstating indexation of financial assistance grants (FAGs). The second phase of the campaign, [thunderclap](#), has just been launched and with your participation our message is set to resonate in Canberra on 21 April. Again, I urge you to get involved. It is estimated that the indexation freeze has ripped \$260 million out of FAGs funding in NSW and eroded the base by 13 per cent.

We have received notification that the consultation period for the Rural and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy has been extended. We are currently preparing a submission and I encourage your feedback to ensure we understand your viewpoints and represent them accordingly. [Read more.](#)

On the funding front, please note the availability of new sector grants specifically for [NAIDOC week](#) and the [Waste Less, Recycle More](#) program.

On a final but heart felt note, I'd like take a moment to send my best wishes to those affected by Cyclone Debbie and her ex-tropical remnants. My thoughts are with our colleagues in the north of our state, and to our associates in Queensland, during this most difficult and testing time.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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The Australian Local Government Association and LGNSW are asking councils to support the 'thunderclap' phase of the campaign to end the freeze on financial assistance grants indexation in the May federal Budget.

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Only a few seats remain for the first LGNSW Event Network meeting of the year (Friday 7 April, Penrith).

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LGNSW is offering an Integrated Planning and Reporting program to assist councils in meeting their review requirements.

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The NSW Auditor-General has decided on three initial topics for local government performance audits: council reporting on service delivery, fraud control and shared services.

### Community

#### Item 8: NAIDOC Local Grant Funding Open

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#### Item 9: Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy – Consultation Extended

The NSW Department of Education has extended the Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy consultation period (to 31 May) and is encouraging relevant NSW councils to provide online feedback.

#### Item 10: National Youth Week Kicks Off

In celebration of Youth Week (31 March-9 April), local NSW councils are hosting more 300 events in partnership with young people.

### Environment

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The fifth round of the Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Collections program is now open with grants of up to \$1.3 million available.

## Planning

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A proposed amendment has been released to allow low impact recycling equipment associated with the NSW Container Deposit Scheme to be classified as exempt development.

## Procurement

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ProcureLearn, Local Government Procurement's eLearning program, is available to council employees engaged in any aspect of purchasing.

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Local Government Procurement is offering a range upcoming training courses in (Sydney CBD) for council staff involved in procurement.

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is holding an activation session to provide more information on its new online Road Manager module (6 April, Sydney).

Roads and Transport

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New signage for dedicated parking spaces for the charging of electric vehicles has been approved by the Roads and Maritime Services.

## Learning

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LGNSW offers a range of short courses to improve people management skills and the resilience and wellbeing of employees.

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LGNSW offers a range of workshops to local government professionals and elected members between now and June.

### **Item 19: LGNSW Writing Courses**

LGNSW offers short courses designed to improve skills in report and correspondence writing, grammar and punctuation and resume writing.

### **Item 20: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop**

LGNSW's workshop aims to improve skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement.

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## Conferences and Events

### Item 1: Upcoming Conferences and Events

#### **LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Last Chance to Register**

Only a few seats remain for the first LGNSW Event Network meeting of the year (Friday 7 April, Penrith).

#### **Procurement eLearning Program Available**

ProcureLearn, Local Government Procurement's eLearning program, is available to council employees engaged in any aspect of purchasing.

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## Grants and Funding

### Item 2: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

#### **NAIDOC Local Grant Funding Open**

Funding to support communities to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2017 (2-9 July) is available under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Culture and Capability Program.

#### **New Organics Collections Grants for Local Government**

The fifth round of the Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Collections program is now open with grants of up to \$1.3 million available.

## General Interest

### Item 3: NSW Parliament Enacts the Fire and Emergency Services Levy

**The *Fire and Emergency Services Levy Bill (NSW) 2017* was passed unamended by the NSW Parliament (29 March 2017) and will come into effect on 1 July 2017.**

The Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL), formerly known as the Emergency Services Property Levy (ESPL) is a property value based levy which councils will collect alongside council rates.

The FESL will replace the current emergency services levy on insurance policies. The levy will be applied to most non-government properties to fund 81 per cent of the fire and emergency services budget requirements.

#### **Differences to November draft provide to councils**

Minor changes were made to the draft legislation, most notably, the incorporation of hardship provisions that allow persons liable to pay the levy to apply to the Office of State Revenue (OSR) for a waiver or reduction of the levy payable. This will not affect councils financially.

Also, councils are now liable for FESL on leased council property (and recover it from the lessee), consistent with rating of council leased properties under s560 of the *Local Government Act (NSW) 1993*. This amendment was requested by the local government sector.

#### **LGNSW's position**

LGNSW has taken steps to help ensure that the introduction of the FESL proceeds smoothly and councils' concerns are addressed where possible.

An implementation working group which included representatives from councils, NSW Treasury and the NSW Government has been hosted by LGNSW, since March 2016, with the view to protect councils' interests.

While the working group discussions were confidential and some government decisions non-negotiable, LGNSW took the opportunity to be at the table and influence the legislation as it was being drafted. Strong and ongoing advocacy by LGNSW as well as representatives from councils and NSW Revenue Professionals on the working group resulted in several positive outcomes for the sector, including:

- Securing full cost recovery for councils;
- Requiring the FESL to be separately identified on rates notices;
- Achieving a NSW Government commitment to a FESL communications campaign to inform the public in advance of implementation. Specifically, it will be made clear that the FESL is not a council fee but a NSW Government levy.

#### **Next steps**

The new legislation requires that all landowners are notified of their FESL classification by 30 April 2017 in conjunction with local councils' April rates instalment notices. In the absence of an April rates notice, councils are required to provide a standalone notice of FESL classification.

A final review of land classifications must also be conducted by councils, as requested by Treasury, to ensure consistency with the final legislation.

The NSW Government FESL public communication campaign is understood to begin at the beginning of May 2017 and will include mainstream media advertising as well as direct mail (sent along with council rates notices). The campaign will be supported by the FESL website and a call centre.

Treasury will continue to provide support to councils and has advised that comprehensive FAQs will be available on the FESL council portal shortly, along with an updated FESL manual.

Treasury will also be posting a webinar geared toward customer service staff in early April 2017. NSW Treasury FESL "flying squads" will continue to visit councils to trouble shoot and assist with implementation, focusing on customer service arrangements.

#### **Online information**

[NSW Treasury's ESPL Council Portal.](#)

#### **FESL questions**

Questions on the FESL implementation should be directed to NSW Treasury.

#### **LGNSW contact**

Shaun McBride  
02 9242 4045  
[shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R12/0060 SM



**LGNSW ongoing advocacy**

LGNSW will continue to be involved in implementation, including the development of the methodology for reimbursement of ongoing costs.

We will also continue to advocate for the removal of the 11.7 per cent council contribution and more transparent funding for emergency services overall.

LGNSW encourages councils to make it visible to ratepayers, on council rate notices, that council contribute 11.7 per cent to fire and emergency funding in addition to the FESL now required by landowners.

## General Interest

### Item 4: Phase 2 of Campaign to Restore the Financial Assistance Grants Indexation

**The Australian Local Government Association and LGNSW are asking councils to support the 'thunderclap' phase of the campaign to end the freeze on financial assistance grants indexation in the May federal Budget.**

Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is seeking to amplify its campaign to end the freeze on financial assistance grants (FAGs) indexation with a scheduled thunderclap message ([Bringing the Thunder](#)).

The first phase of the ALGA [endthefreeze](#) campaign has generated a potent response from local government. Despite the campaign activity and ongoing advocacy, the federal government has not provided a firm guarantee that the indexation of FAGs will be restored from 2017/18 in the upcoming federal Budget.

Phase two of the [endthefreeze](#) campaign encourages councils to increase pressure via their social media accounts. [Here's how](#).

With preparations for the 2017/18 Federal Budget well underway, it is critical and timely to remind the Australian Government of its commitments to local government.

LGNSW urges councils to actively support this national campaign.

#### Background

In the 2014/15 Budget, the federal government implemented significant cuts to financial assistance grants.

The budget put a freeze on the indexation of FAGs over three years (2014/15 to 2016/17); i.e. FAGs are not increased in line with CPI and population increases. The loss of indexation over the three year period means FAGs are to stay at \$2.287 billion per annum nationally until and including 2016/17. Over the forward estimates (2014/15 to 2017/18) a total of \$925 million will be lost in FAGs nationally.

The impact will continue beyond the forward estimates as the base level of FAGs will be permanently reduced by more than 12%. In recent years, the value of FAGs has slipped to 0.7% of total federal taxation revenue (excluding GST). With the indexation freeze, this figure is to fall to 0.53% by 2017/18. ALGA's and LGNSW advocate that FAGs to be restored to a level equivalent to 1% of total federal taxation, the level they were at in 1996.

The freeze has had the heaviest impact on rural and regional councils which depend on federal grants for a large proportion of their income.

In NSW the FAGs indexation freeze will result in losses from forgone increase of approximately \$287.7 million over the forward estimates (\$29.9 million in 14/15, \$62.2 million in 15/16, \$95.8 million in 16/17, and \$99.8 million in 17/18).

#### Campaign website

[endthefreeze.com](http://endthefreeze.com)

#### Thunderclap

11am on 21 April 2017

[How it works](#)

#### ALGA Contact

Sharon Akinyi

Director Public Affairs

Ph 02 6122 9434

E: [Sharon.Akinyi@alga.asn.au](mailto:Sharon.Akinyi@alga.asn.au)

#### LGNSW Contact

Shaun McBride

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E: [shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au)

Ref: R90/0835-11 SM

## General Interest

### Item 5: LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Last Chance to Register

#### Only a few seats remain for the first LGNSW Event Network meeting of the year (Friday 7 April, Penrith).

Co-hosted by Penrith City Council, the event theme of 'Creating iconic events to grow your visitor economy and skill set' has been proven popular with members of the Local Government NSW Event Network.

The networking opportunity brings together events, tourism, community engagement, marketing and economic development staff from NSW councils.

The meeting will be held at iFLY Downunder and will feature case study presentations by Penrith City council staff, including:

- An overview of council's successful 'Penrith, the Adventure Capital of NSW' campaign and the Penrith Destination Management Plan
- **In-depth insights into the** creative processes and challenges in creating the inaugural Real Festival 2016
- **How to host major events – lessons learnt into successful** event conception, development & promotion
- Insights into the role of an event development officer and how to create resources to support event-hosting organisations in your local government area
- **iFLY Downunder presentation and tour**

#### Members only

The free event is offered exclusively to Local Government NSW Event Network members and is limited to two people per council. To secure one of the last available seats book online now.

For further information, including transport and accommodation options, and registration, visit the [LGNSW Events Network](#).

#### Special offer

**Penrith City Council and iFLY Downunder are offering attendees an optional iFLY Introductory offer which includes** two indoor skydives for one person (\$81.75, reduced from \$109). The offer can be redeemed on the day of the event or any weekday in April 2017. Interest in this offer should be made during the online registration process.

#### Dates and location

Friday 7 April 2017  
9.30am – 2pm  
Conference Room  
iFLY Downunder  
Panthers Precinct  
123 Mulgoa Road  
Penrith

#### Cost

No charge

#### Online information

[Register now](#)

#### Contact

Karen Rolls  
02 9242 4050  
[karen.rolls@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:karen.rolls@lgnsw.org.au)

Ref: R11/0021 TA

## General Interest

### Item 6: LGNSW's Integrated Planning and Reporting Support

**LGNSW is offering an Integrated Planning and Reporting program to assist councils in meeting their review requirements.**

Flexible and affordable, the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) package provides independent guidance and facilitation to councils in assessing progress towards achieving the vision and goals of the Community Strategic Plan.

The program:

- Builds the capabilities of staff to address future IP&R tasks and other planning activities
- Provides in-house training and oversight for community engagement activities
- Fosters a whole-of-council understanding of IP&R
- Involves councilors, reinforcing the importance of long term outlook and civic leadership
- Is tailored to the needs of each council, ensuring that the review process is well directed, efficient and cost-effective.

The program is built around comprehensive processes of review, assessment and engagement.

Costs associated with the program are negotiated according to council's requirements, size and complexity.

**Online information**  
[IP&R Review and Revision](#)

**Contact**

Mark Anderson  
Manager  
LGNSW Management Solutions  
02 9242 4161

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## General

### Item 7: Auditor-General Performance Audits – Initial Topics Announced

**The NSW Auditor-General has decided on three initial topics for local government performance audits: council reporting on service delivery, fraud control and shared services.**

The initial audit topics were selected further to stakeholder consultation and will enable the Auditor-General to:

- better understand the current performance of the local government sector
- identify and promote good practice.

The Audit Office will communicate its expectations to affected councils on commencement of an audit. The degree of council involvement required on each audit is expected to vary.

Planning for the audit of council reporting on service delivery has commenced. Audits relating to fraud control and shared services will commence later in 2017.

The audit of council reporting on service delivery will examine how well councils demonstrate service efficiency and effectiveness through their reporting under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

The review of fraud control in local government will provide an analysis based on a self-assessment by councils of their fraud controls against the Audit Office of NSW's Fraud Control Improvement Kit.

The shared services audit will seek to identify key enablers and barriers to effective and efficient shared services arrangements. Such arrangements are likely to include corporate services but may also include customer services such as waste collection, road maintenance or libraries.

#### Background

Pursuant to the *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Bill (NSW) 2016* which passed the NSW Parliament on 25 August 2016, a new council audit regime was included in the *Local Government Act (NSW) 1993* (LG Act).

The new audit functions taken on by the NSW Auditor-General (commenced 2016/17 FY) are:

- Auditing of financial reports of council and council entities (s415 LG Act);
- Performance audits – audits of effectiveness, efficiency and legal compliance of any particular activities of 1 or more councils (s421B LG Act);
- Annual report on local government on a sector-wide basis (s421C LG Act); and
- Audit related services at the request of a council or at the request of the NSW Government (s421E).

The relevant amendments to the LG Act were proclaimed to commence on 1 October 2016.

#### LGNSW policy position

LGNSW opposed the proposal for performance audits of the local government sector by the Auditor-General. Now that legislation has been passed, LGNSW maintains that:

- Any performance audits and sector-wide report audits should be funded by the NSW Government and not by councils; and
- The sector should be consulted via LGNSW on the topics that are to be subject to the performance audit.

#### Next steps

LGNSW has commenced regular consultation with the Auditor-General with the purpose of making the new audit regime, especially the performance audit function, meaningful and beneficial to the sector.

LGNSW has requested the Auditor-General to engage with councils to ensure the new audit functions are well understood and to consult with LGNSW and the sector on topics for performance audits.

**Further information**  
[www.audit.nsw.gov.au](http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au)

**LGNSW Contact**  
Shaun McBride  
[Shaun.McBride@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:Shaun.McBride@lgnsw.org.au)  
or 02 9242 4072

**Ref:** R16/0019 SM

## Community

### Item 8: NAIDOC Local Grant Funding Open

**Funding to support communities to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2017 (2-9 July) is available under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Culture and Capability Program.**

NAIDOC Week celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, achievements and continuing contributions to our country and society.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet invites submissions from eligible applicants for the current round of NAIDOC local grant funding, aimed at supporting activities being held during the week.

Details of the funding application and process are available [online](#).

**Dates and location**

Local grant applications  
close 27 April 4pm

**Online information**

Grants:

[NAIDOC Funding application](#)

**Contact**

[Naidocgrants@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Naidocgrants@pmc.gov.au)

PM&C Regional Network  
1800 079 098

**Ref:** R90/0001 MK

## Community

### Item 9: Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy – Consultation Extended

**The NSW Department of Education has extended the Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy consultation period (to 31 May) and is encouraging relevant NSW councils to provide online feedback.**

In addition, LGNSW is also preparing a submission and invites regional and remote councils to provide input on the 11 consultation questions (by 17 May).

The proposed strategy aims to guide the development of services and supports for early childhood services, families, children and communities across the state.

An Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Strategy, aimed at ensuring more Aboriginal children participate in early childhood education and arrive at school developmentally ready, is also being developed by the government.

Contact [Elizabeth Robertson](#) to provide feedback on the strategy that you like LGNSW to raise on behalf of the regional and remote local government sector.

Feedback to the Department can be made via email to [ECECreferencegroups@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ECECreferencegroups@det.nsw.edu.au) or an [online survey](#).

**Dates and location**

Feedback closes 31 May through [online survey](#)

Input to LGNSW submission by 17 May

**Online information**

[Regional and Remote ECE Strategy](#)

**Contact**

Elizabeth Robertson, LGNSW

[elizabeth.robertson@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:elizabeth.robertson@lgnsw.org.au)

02 9242 4028

**Ref:** R90/115 ER

## Community

### Item 10: National Youth Week Kicks Off

**In celebration of Youth Week (31 March-9 April), local NSW councils are hosting more 300 events in partnership with young people.**

National Youth Week is jointly supported by the Australian Government, State and Territory Governments and councils.

Councils actively involve young people in all aspects of Youth Week, which include the planning, development and management of activities to celebrate the occasion.

Following Youth Week, councils will have the opportunity to nominate their events for a Local Government Week Award category recognising the best programs. The LGNSW award is sponsored by the Department of Family and Community Services.

**Dates**

Friday 31 March – Sunday 9 April  
2017

**Online information**

[NSW Youth Week 2017](#)

[Local Government Week Awards](#)

**Contact**

Youth Strategy and Participation Unit

NSW Department of Family and  
Community Services

(02) 8753 8206

[YouthWeek@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:YouthWeek@facs.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R R90/0129 ER



## Environment

### Item 11: New Organics Collections Grants for Local Government

**The fifth round of the Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Collections program is now open with grants of up to \$1.3 million available.**

The new funding is available from the Environmental Trust, in partnership with the NSW Environment Protection Authority under the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

Programs involving bins, kitchen caddies, audits and education to support new or enhanced kerbside organics collection services may be eligible for grants. Funding is also available for trials in delivering organics collection services to multi-unit dwellings.

The fifth round of the program is the first new funding under the Waste Less, Recycle More Extension 2017-2021. Four previous rounds allocated \$16.9 million to 40 councils, bringing new or improved green lid bin collection services to half a million households in NSW and diverting more than 100,000 tonnes of organics waste from landfill each year.

**Applications close**

18 May 2017

**Info session and webinar**

6 April 10am, Sydney

[Register online](#)

**Contact****Sian McGhie, NSW EPA**

(02) 9995 6876

[Sian.McGhie@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Sian.McGhie@epa.nsw.gov.au)

**Environmental Trust**

[Waste.recycling@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Waste.recycling@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au)

**Online information**

[Grants information](#)

Ref: R15/0002 LD

## Planning

### Item 12: Exempt Development for Container Deposit Scheme Equipment

**A proposed amendment has been released to allow low impact recycling equipment associated with the NSW Container Deposit Scheme to be classified as exempt development.**

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment released the proposed amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 regarding the NSW Container Deposit Scheme, due to commence 1 December 2017.

Under the scheme, a 10 cent refund will be issued when an eligible drink container is returned to a designated collection point.

The proposed amendment to the state's planning policy allows for a range of low impact recycling equipment associated with the scheme to be classified as exempt development without the need to obtain planning or building approval.

The types of equipment proposed under the amendment include single or multiple fixed reverse vending machines, mobile reverse vending machines and mobile cages. The amendment includes a number of development standards to guide these developments.

The Explanation of Intended Effect - Amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 is open for public comment until 26 April 2017.

**Public exhibition closes**

26 April 2017

**LGNSW Contacts**

Jennifer Dennis (Planning)

02 9242 4094

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Leisha Deguara (Waste)

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**Online information**

[Draft Plan and Policy](#)

**Ref:** R90/0994-06 LD

## Procurement

### Item 13: Procurement eLearning Program Available

**ProcureLearn, Local Government Procurement's eLearning program, is available to council employees engaged in any aspect of purchasing.**

The program is specifically designed to deliver cost-effective procurement training that has been tailored for the local government setting.

**ProcureLearn eLearning modules include:**

- procurement essentials
- contract management essentials
- probity in purchasing and procurement.

The program aims to:

- develop and enhance the standard of procurement across the region
- provide a technically proficient progress path for procurement professionals
- teach best practice procurement
- provide technical understanding of probity and policy legislation
- offer a cost-effective training solution for non-metropolitan regions.

Benefits include:

- insights into skill gaps with the opportunity to target development
- pre-and post-learning assessments to ensure knowledge transfer
- completion tracking that can be measured and reported
- access to refresher modules upon module completion
- access to FAQs and an ask-the-expert forum.

With purchase of a three-package course, access to specialised procurement topics is also provided. Namely:

- risk management
- supplier evaluation
- sustainable procurement

For further information view the [LGP website](#) or contact, [LGP Training](#) or 02 8270 8709.

#### Online information

[LGP Training](#)

#### Contact

LGP Training

02 8270 8709

[training@lgp.org.au](mailto:training@lgp.org.au)

## Procurement

### Item 14: Local Government Procurement Training Courses

Local Government Procurement is offering a range upcoming training courses in (Sydney CBD) for council staff involved in procurement.

#### Advanced Contract Management

Sydney CBD – Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 May 2017

This two-day course, designed to advance skills in contract management, is suitable for people managing or planning to manage high-risk, complex contracts. A large portion of value is extracted (or lost) post contract award.

Course participants will be better able to manage risk, increase innovation, reduce waste and increase efficiency. [More information. Register online.](#)

#### Evaluation, Supplier Selection and Contract Establishment

Sydney CBD – Wednesday 24 May 2017

This one-day course supports supplier selection and evaluation techniques aligned to probity and value for money. Learn key tips on setting up evaluation criteria for the quotation and tender stage to ensure the right supplier is selected. Designed for staff either currently involved in quotation/tender evaluations or about to do so, participants will come away with practical skills applicable in the local government context. [More information. Register online.](#)

#### Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD - Starting in May

This specialist qualification covers the competencies required for independent and self-directed work as a procurement and contract manager in the local government sector. The program is suitable for staff who are experienced or have completed Certificate IV.

2017 dates (participants must attend all four blocks):

Block 1: 29-31 May 2017

Block 2: 21-23 June 2017

Block 3: 26-27 July 2017

Block 4: 14-16 August 2017

[More information and to register.](#)

#### Supplier Tender Training

Sydney CBD – Tuesday 20 June 2017

This training module will teach basic principles and best practice in tender writing for local government. Experienced trainers will assist participants to develop skills and confidence in bid writing. [More information. Register online](#)

Local Government Procurement (LGP) offer a range of training from [eLearning](#), [one day procurement courses](#) to [procurement qualifications](#). For further information; view the [LGP Training Calendar](#) or contact, [LGP Training](#) or 02 8270 8709.

#### Online information

[LGP Training website](#)

#### Registrations

[LGP Training Calendar](#)

#### Contact

LGP Training

02 8270 8709

[training@lgp.org.au](mailto:training@lgp.org.au)

## Roads and Transport

### Item 15: Road Manager Activation – New Module Information Session

**The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is holding an activation session to provide more information on its new online Road Manager module (6 April, Sydney).**

The new module is part of the second phase of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Portal which is scheduled to begin a staged release in mid-2017.

Supported by LGNSW, the event will feature presentations from NHVR team members which include Todd Wellard, AccessCONNECT, Roger Garcia, Access Operations and Tim Hansen, Engagement and Partnership.

LGNSW encourages relevant council staff to attend this free event.

Parking is available at the back of the hotel in "Sydney Airport Parking P7" and the hotel will validate your parking. Free shuttle service is available from Sydney airport between the terminals and the hotel, from 6am to 9pm every 15 minutes. Please let NHVR know if you need a TBus voucher.

Please let the NHVR know if you have any dietary requirements.

**Date and location**

Thursday 6 April  
11.00am – 3.00pm  
Rydges Sydney Airport Hotel  
Hercules room

Light lunch to be provided.

**Registration and further information**Session Information

**Register by emailing**  
[accessconnect@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:accessconnect@nhvr.gov.au)

**Ref:** R90/0985 RC

## Roads and Transport

### Item 16: New Signage for Electric Vehicles Charging Stations

**New signage for dedicated parking spaces for the charging of electric vehicles has been approved by the Roads and Maritime Services.**

Council parking authorities will now be able to designate spaces using signage that states: 'No Parking – Electric Vehicles Excepted only while charging'.

The approval is in response to a request by several councils to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

The new sign will restrict all non-electric motor vehicles from parking in designated car spaces and only allow for parking of electric vehicles while charging.

Non-electric motor vehicles and electric vehicles that are not being charged will be liable for an offence under NSW Road Rules (Rule 168). Most charging equipment indicates whether a vehicle is charging or is fully charged.

The new sign has been added to the RMS traffic signs database with councils now able to use the sign without the need for ongoing authorisation.

Councils are still required to submit a proposal to install the new sign through the Local Traffic Committee with a RMS approved traffic management plan assessing the impact of installing the sign (as per usual practice).

Councils can view the design drawings on the [RMS website](#).

**RMS website**  
[Revised Permit Parking Guidelines](#)

**Further Information**

Contact your local RMS Regional Office.

Ref: R90/1244 RC

## Learning

### Item 17: LGNSW People Management Courses

**LGNSW is offering a range of short courses to improve people management skills and the resilience and wellbeing of employees.**

Courses include:

#### **People and Performance**

Sydney – Thursday 4 May 2017

Learn the art of communicating with different personality types to increase staff motivation and improve performance.

Designed for managers and supervisors, participants will:

- Increase their understanding of personality differences and how these impact on communication and management styles
  - Learn the essential elements that influence behaviour
  - Learn how to give feedback and manage performance using the organisation's performance management system
  - Understand the elements of emotional intelligence and how to develop each element for your own success.
- [More information](#)

#### **Resilience and Wellbeing (New)**

Sydney – Monday 8 May 2017

Discover how to contribute to a positive, productive and mentally healthy workplace.

Designed for managers and staff, participants will:

- Understand the importance of a mentally healthy workplace
- Learn how they can contribute to a positive environment
- See the value of focusing on their own individual health
- Understand wellbeing, resilience and how to support others.

Based on LGNSW's online [Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit](#), this workshop will help staff to utilise the material for their own circumstances.

This program is a joint initiative of LGNSW, LGSuper and StateCover NSW. [More information](#)

#### **Handling Difficult People**

Wagga Wagga – Wednesday 14 June 2017

Learn how to respond when employees are difficult, aggressive and verbally and physically threatening. This interactive and practical workshop will assist staff to manage these situations in a way that ensures their safety and lessens their levels of stress

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) to discuss running a course in-house or with other organisations in your area.

#### **Online information**

[LGNSW Training](#)

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit](#)

#### **Registrations**

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

#### **Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4081

[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 18: LGNSW Upcoming Workshops

**LGNSW is offering a range of workshops to local government professionals and elected members between now and June.**

Workshops are provided at competitive rates and are specifically designed for the local government sector.

#### **Social Media**

Sydney – Tuesday 9 May 2017

Learn how to reach, inform, educate and engage with citizens using social media. [More information.](#)

#### **Understanding Strategic Thinking**

Sydney – Friday 12 May 2017

Explore how strategic thinking will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of council performance. [More information.](#)

#### **Price Setting for Fees and Charges**

Sydney – Tuesday 16 May 2017

Learn how to develop and apply effective price setting for significant outcome improvements. [More information](#)

#### **Award History and Interpretation**

Sydney – Thurs 18 May 2017

Develop a better understanding of the history of significant award provision and how to interpret the award and apply its provisions. [More information](#)

#### **Know Your Planning**

Sydney – Friday 19 May 2017

Gain the latest information about planning legislation, policy and council practice to assist your decision-making as an elected member. [More information](#)

#### **Business Excellence in Local Government**

Sydney – Wednesday 24 May, Thursday 25 May and Friday 26 May 2017

Understand how excellence models can be leveraged to drive continuous improvement and deliver business sustainability. [More information](#)

#### **Making Consultative Committees More Effective**

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. [More information](#)

#### **Local Training**

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) to discuss running a course in-house or with other organisations in your area.

#### **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](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA



## Learning

### Item 19: LGNSW Writing Courses

**LGNSW is offering short courses designed to improve skills in report and correspondence writing, grammar and punctuation and resume writing.**

Courses include:

#### **Improving Your Correspondence and Writing Skills**

Sydney – Wednesday 3 May 2017

Focus on the basic principles of writing at this practical and interactive workshop. Using a variety of council documents learn the skills needed to achieve your purpose and promote your organisation. [More information.](#)

#### **Improving Your Report Writing**

Sydney – Thursday 8 June 2017

Gain the skills needed to write effective, clear and concise reports for managers and council. Working individually and in groups, this interactive workshop will cover topics such as target audience, report purpose, report layout, structure, grammar and punctuation, proof-reading and evaluation. [More information.](#)

#### **Improving Your Grammar and Punctuation**

Sydney – Tuesday 27 June 2017

Increase the professionalism of your writing by properly applying the rules of grammar and punctuation. Learn to identify errors, use punctuation marks effectively, construct phrases, sentences and paragraphs correctly and give impact to your statements. [More information.](#)

#### **Resume Writing and Interview Skills**

Sydney – Thursday 22 June 2017

Learn how to present a professional, well-structured and targeted resume and cover letter and prepare successful responses to behavioural interview questions. [More information](#)

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have these workshops delivered locally for your organisation or in partnership with other organisations in your region.

#### **Online information**

[LGNSW Training](#)

#### **Registrations**

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

#### **Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4081

[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 20: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

**LGNSW's workshop aims to improve skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement.**

Designed with a specific local government focus, the workshop will address key aspects of the engagement process, drawing on participant and presenter experience to provide context in operational areas such as corporate strategy, community development, service delivery and land use planning.

Designed for staff with responsibility for the planning and oversight of stakeholder engagement activities, the workshop covers:

- Insights into the principles of effective stakeholder engagement
- Consideration and analysis of the different levels of engagement
- Practical approaches to enable effective stakeholder identification
- Tools for effective evaluation of agency practices and processes in stakeholder engagement
- A detailed account of stakeholder engagement methods and when to apply them
- Practical experience in planning stakeholder engagement activities and processes
- An account of processes for effective facilitation of groups and meetings.

All participants will be provided with a comprehensive work book for future reference and guidance following the course.

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

**Date and location**

Friday 2 June 2017, Sydney

**Online information and registration**

[LGNSW website](#)

**Cost**

LGNSW members: \$660 (incl. GST)

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

**Contact**

Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## **In the News**

### **Item 21: Local Government NSW Media**

**[View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW](#)**

### **Item 22: ALGA Newsletter**

**[View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association.](#)**