

Message from the President

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

Aboriginal Councillor to Join Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship Committee

LGNSW is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal people, who are currently local government councillors, to join the Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship Committee.

Hosting LGNSW's Tourism Conference March 2018

LGNSW is calling for expressions of interest from councils to host the 2018 LGNSW Tourism Conference.

New LGNSW Arts and Culture Award - Entries Open

The new Local Government NSW Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Award to celebrate outstanding achievement by a councils in strategic planning for arts and culture has been launched.

New LGNSW Disability Inclusion Award Launched

LGNSW has launched a new NSW Disability Inclusion Award for local government organisations which is sponsored by NSW Family and Community Services.

Reconciliation Week Funding

Funding is now available for councils under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Culture and Capability Program to help communities to celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2017.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

GPO BOX 7003 SYDNEY NSW 2001

L8, 28 MARGARET ST SYDNEY NSW 2000

T 02 9242 4000 F 02 9242 4111

LGNSW.ORG.AU LGNSW@LGNSW.ORG.AU

ABN 49 853 913 882

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

LGNSW.ORG.AU/SUBSCRIBE

Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Thursday 13 April 2017



This week saw the NSW Government announce the sale of the Land Titles Office – a matter that has been the subject of advocacy and very vigorous debate, including at the LGNSW Board meeting last Friday. The Government also announced a local government election date of 9 September for councils who were excluded from last year's polls. This includes councils that are still fighting forced amalgamations in the courts and, as we noted in our message to members, there are many possible scenarios when it comes to legal outcomes and any future Government decisions.

We continue to pursue an issue with government regarding Treasury Corporation (TCorp) loans. Many member councils who were *Fit for the Future* on a financial basis but not perceived to meet "scale and capacity" are being denied access to these loans, even though they are no longer pending forced amalgamation. While we are told that this position may be revisited once long-anticipated Joint Organisations are legislated

and established, we continue to argue for fairness – if councils can meet standard credit criteria they should have access to TCorp loans.

This week LGNSW Chief Executive, Donna Rygate, Lake Macquarie Council and UTS met with Minister Upton's Chief of Staff to outline the sector's progress in developing robust performance indicators, consistent measurement methodologies, a transparent reporting framework and rigorous performance improvement programs. The Government is looking at reporting on council performance, and local government stressed the benefits of collaboration with government to deliver a system where data is accurate, transparent and meaningful. We want a single source of truth for performance data so that it benefits councils, government and the community.

Our sector embraces performance improvement and achievement, and there is so much fantastic work that occurs in local government which too often goes without acknowledgement. I strongly encourage members to consider nominating for upcoming awards to recognise the good work of staff and council.

On that note, we are extremely pleased to launch two new LGNSW awards this year which aim to recognise local government excellence in arts and culture and disability inclusion. The arts and culture awards has been established to honour the late Cr Leo Kelly OAM. These new awards are in addition to the highly coveted RH Dougherty Awards which acknowledge outstanding local government contributions in the field of communications. The awards will be presented at the Local Government Week Awards in August, along with the Youth Week and Heart Foundation awards. Don't forget, too, that this is the 20th anniversary of the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards – entries for those opened this week.

Earlier in the week, Donna led the final 'Status Pending to Superior Performance' workshop at Shellharbour. She also had an interesting meeting with the Good Things Foundation where there was opportunity to discuss digital inclusion for older Australians and explore opportunities for our members.

LGNSW took part in the Department and Family and Childrens Services executive update regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) too. There are many aspects of the NDIS which will be important to local government organisations and we will report to our members as further and relevant details become available.

Best wishes for a safe and happy Easter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Rhoades".

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Nominations are now open for the Excellence in the Environment Awards which recognise outstanding achievements by local government in NSW in managing and protecting the environment.

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LGNSW's Business Excellence in Local Government three-day workshop (24-26 May) provides participants with a clear understanding of how excellence models can be leveraged to drive continuous improvement and deliver business sustainability.

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LGNSW can organise candidate information sessions in your local government area to ensure that your local candidates are making an informed choice to stand for election.

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LGNSW is offering a great Easter special on public courses when councils send two or more participants.

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Local Government Procurement offers the following accredited procurement qualifications courses for staff involved in purchasing, tendering and contract management functions.

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Local Government Procurement is holding a complimentary webinar which gives an overview of the aims and benefits of its eLearning program.

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Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

New LGNSW Arts and Culture Award - Entries Open

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RH Dougherty Awards 2017 – Now Open

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Excellence in the Environment Awards – Open for Nominations

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Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

Business Excellence in Local Government

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Candidate Briefings for Upcoming Elections

LGNSW can organise candidate information sessions in your local government area to ensure that your local candidates are making an informed choice to stand for election.

Procurement eLearning Webinar

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Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

Reconciliation Week Funding

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General Interest

Item 4: RH Dougherty Awards 2017 – Now Open

The RH Dougherty Awards which recognise leading communication practice in local government are now open for entry.

Established in 1981, the highly coveted awards recognise and encourage greater understanding and communication by councils to their local communities.

The awards are managed by Local Government NSW and judged by leading experts in the communications field. Special commendations are awarded for work that deserves recognition.

There are four major award categories:

- Reporting to Your Community
- Excellence in Communication
- Innovation in Special Events
- Outstanding Individual Contribution

In addition, there are three population-based divisions (populations less than 30,000, 30,000-70,000 and greater than 70,000) with a winner and one highly commended in each and at the discretion of the judges.

Submitting a project entry is a great way of acknowledging the hard work of staff and council. It also supports recognition of project outcomes and promotes council initiatives to peers across NSW.

For more information about each category and submission criteria, visit [RH Dougherty Awards](#).

Entries for the RH Dougherty Awards 2017 close on 5 June 2017.

Dates

Applications close 5 June 2017

Online information

[RH Dougherty Awards](#)

[LG Week 2017](#)

Contact

Events

02 9242 4000

events@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0027 TA

General Interest

Item 5: Hosting LGNSW's Tourism Conference March 2018

LGNSW is calling for expressions of interest from councils to host the 2018 LGNSW Tourism Conference.

Councils interested in hosting the fourteenth LGNSW Tourism Conference will need to address the criteria in the host requirements document on our [website](#). The tentative dates for the conference are early March 2018.

Past conferences have been held in Taree 2017, Byron and Ballina 2016 and Bathurst 2015. The 2018 conference may be held in a metropolitan or regional council.

All responses must be in writing and will be evaluated by Tuesday 13 June, when the successful council will be contacted to ensure proper resource planning can occur.

Expressions of Interest should be forwarded no later than Monday 22 May 2017 and addressed to Meg Fisher, Manager Events and Protocol, LGNSW, GPO Box 7003, Sydney NSW 2001 or meg.fisher@lgnsw.org.au.

Applications Close
22 May 2017

Online information
[LGNSW's website](#)

Contact
Meg Fisher
LGNSW
02 9242 4044

meg.fisher@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R17/0009 KR

General Interest

Item 6: Facilitated In-house Service Reviews

LGNSW facilitates in-house reviews of council services, ensuring that services are efficient, well targeted and responsive to community needs.

The program provides affordable support, guidance and independent oversight and involves a co-operative effort between organisational staff and LGNSW's skilled facilitator. Guidance and support is given in:

- Establishing an in-house service review team to oversee review processes and decision-making
- Designing and implementing review approaches and methodologies
- Determining review targets, stages and an overall timetable
- Guiding and testing all decision-making surrounding the review
- Identifying and implementing options for service improvements
- Developing appropriate performance measures to monitor service improvements.

Contact [LGNSW Management Solutions](#) for more information or to enquire about other consulting needs.

Online information

[Facilitated in-house service review](#)

Contact

Mark Anderson, Manager
LGNSW Management Solutions
02 9242 4161
mark.anderson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 MA

Community

Item 7: New LGNSW Arts and Culture Award - Entries Open

The new Local Government NSW Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Award to celebrate outstanding achievement by a councils in strategic planning for arts and culture has been launched.

This inaugural award is in honour of the late Councillor Leo Kelly - a passionate and dedicated LGNSW Board member, long serving Blacktown City Councillor and champion for the arts. Cr Kelly sadly passed away in January 2017.

The award seeks to recognise councils who are leaders in arts and culture and have excelled in strategic policy, planning, delivery and evaluation. This includes:

- Integrated cultural planning and policy
- Creative stakeholder engagement
- Building capacity of the arts and cultural sector.

LGNSW member councils are encouraged to submit projects or initiatives (undertaken between January 2015 and 2017) which demonstrate:

- Innovation and how it resulted in improvements to cultural planning, policy, delivery and or evaluation
- Achievement of intended goals with measurable cultural outcomes.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony at the Local Government Week Awards Evening on Thursday 3 August 2017 at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont.

Entries close on 5 June 2017.

Dates

Applications close 5 June 2017

Online information

[LGNSW's website](#)

Contact

Sally Watterson
Senior Policy Officer – Arts and Culture
[02 92424047](tel:0292424047)
sally.watterson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 8: New LGNSW Disability Inclusion Award Launched

LGNSW has launched a new NSW Disability Inclusion Award for local government organisations which is sponsored by NSW Family and Community Services.

The 2017 NSW Disability Inclusion Award celebrates local government organisations that deliver greater opportunities for people with disability to participate in community life through the implementation of innovative services, programs and/or policies.

This new LGNSW award is sponsored by NSW Department of Family and Community Services and recognises local government organisation projects and/or initiatives which respond to one of four focus areas of primary importance in creating an inclusive community, as outlined in the NSW Disability Inclusion Plan. These are:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment
- Improving access to services through better systems and processes.

Local government organisations are encouraged to submit projects or initiatives (undertaken during the 2016-17 financial year) which demonstrate:

- Innovation and resulted in improvements which achieved significant benefits for people with disability
- Leadership in its development, implementation and evaluation
- Cost efficiency, utilising existing council resources and achieved its intended goals.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony at the Local Government Week Awards Evening on Thursday 3 August 2017 at Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont.

Entries close

5 June 2017

Presentation dates and location

LG Week Awards 3 August
Doltone House, Pyrmont, Sydney

Online Information

[NSW Disability Inclusion Awards](#)

Contact

Anita Ceravolo
LGNSW Senior Policy
Officer – Disability Inclusion
anita.ceravolo@lgnsw.org.au
02 9242 4127

Ref: R16/0018 AC

Community

Item 9: Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal People

The Referendum Council is calling for submissions on constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people.

The Referendum Council is opening a constructive national conversation about recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our constitution.

The council has released a discussion paper which sets out some of the different options for change and outlines some of the issues to be taken into account.

Much work has already been done on what form constitutional change could take, most recently by the [Expert Panel](#) appointed by the Australian Government in 2011 and by a [Parliamentary Joint Select Committee](#) that completed its work in 2015. The 16-member [Referendum Council](#) was appointed in December 2015 to consult widely throughout Australia and take the next steps towards achieving constitutional recognition of the First Australians.

The council wants to hear the views of all Australians on constitutional change regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. See fact box for more details.

Dates and location

Submissions close 8 May 2017

Online information

[DPMC Constitutional Recognition](#)

Contact

constitutionalRecognition@pmc.gov.au

Ref: R90/0001 MK

Community

Item 10: Reconciliation Week Funding

Funding for councils is now available to help communities to celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2017 (27 May – 3 June 2017).

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2017 is particularly significant as it commemorates 50 years since the 1967 referendum and 25 years since the historic Mabo High Court decision.

The funding is being made available under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Culture Capability Program and presents an opportunity for councils to work in partnership with a local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisation.

The theme for NRW 2017 is 'Let's Take the Next Steps' and funding is aimed at helping meet the costs of local activities that honour and respect both anniversaries and their significance to all Australians. Activities could include community BBQs, flag raising ceremonies or cultural showcases.

Dates and location
Applications close 21 April

Online information
[Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet website](#)

[Reconciliation Week website](#)

Contact
NRW2017@pmc.gov.au
or
PM&C Regional Network
1800 079 098

Community

Item 11: Aboriginal Councillor to Join Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship Committee

LGNSW is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal people, who are currently local government councillors, to join the Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship is managed by a committee consisting of the President of LGNSW, an Aboriginal councillor, the LGNSW Aboriginal Liaison Officer and a member of Cr Dixon's family. A new Aboriginal councillor member is sought to replace Cr Rod Towney who is no longer a councillor.

The Committee needs to be reconvened in order to be able to offer the scholarship in 2017 for the 2018 academic year.

The Memorial Scholarship is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local government councillors or employees to undertake part-time university studies which will develop their community development, political or professional career. An amount of \$1,000 per candidate is available for up to 4 candidates each year. In 2015, the Scholarship Committee agreed to broaden eligibility of the scholarship to all Aboriginal staff in local government, including outdoor staff and cadets, who want to develop their skills towards becoming Aboriginal Liaison officers or community development officers in NSW councils.

The Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship was established in 2002 with contributions from councils and support from the NSW Government. The late Cr Pat Dixon was a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are either employed in local government or serving as elected councillors.

Dates and location

EOI due 28 April 2017

Online information

[Cr Pat Dixon Training Support Program](#)

Contact

Margaret Kay,
Margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au

02 9242 4082

Ref: R03/0030 MK

Environment

Item 12: Excellence in the Environment Awards – Open for Nominations

Nominations are now open for the Excellence in the Environment Awards which recognise outstanding achievements by local government in NSW in managing and protecting the environment.

This year we are celebrating **20 years of inspiration** from NSW councils in programs, projects and people across 15 award categories, including the prestigious Local Sustainability Award for overall council performance and the Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability, recognising the achievements of an individual (council staff member or elected councillor).

The awards are for projects undertaken during the period from January 2016 to May 2017. Councils and county councils who are members of LGNSW are eligible to enter. Local government organisations or groups of councils are also eligible to enter if the constituent councils are LGNSW members.

For each of the awards there are three divisions based on a council's population base.

Division	Population
A	less than 30,000
B	30,000 - 70,000
C	more than 70,000

Category award winners receive a trophy and winners in each division receive a certificate. The prize for overall winner of the Local Sustainability Award is an overseas study tour or a professional development program for staff, valued at \$10,000.

Finalists receive two complimentary tickets to both the finalists' forum and the awards presentation lunch. Adam Spencer – Australian radio presenter, comedian, media personality, author and passionate advocate for sustainability – will act as master of ceremonies. After the awards ceremony attendees can stay on and network and celebrate the winners, past and present.

Additional tickets to both the lunch and the forum will also be available.

LGNSW appreciates the continued support from the Award sponsors including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW Ministry of Health, Water Directorate, Department of Primary Industries, NSW Roadside Environment Committee and Local Government Super.

Nominations Close

Wednesday 31 May 2017

Awards presented

Wednesday 11 October 2017
UTS
Aerial Function Centre
Level 7, 235 Jones Street, Ultimo.

Online information and entry

[Environment Awards](#)

Contact

Denise Anderson
02 9242 4056
denise.anderson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R98/0021 DA

Learning

Item 13: Business Excellence in Local Government

LGNSW's Business Excellence in Local Government three-day workshop (24-26 May) provides participants with a clear understanding of how excellence models can be leveraged to drive continuous improvement and deliver business sustainability.

The Australian Business Excellence Framework is an integrated leadership and management system that describes elements essential to sustainable organisational excellence.

Organisations use the guidance of excellence models to improve financial performance, develop leadership capability, encourage innovation, increase efficiency and focus on stakeholder outcomes.

By the end of this workshop participants will understand:

- The benefits of using the framework
- The underlying principles of the framework and its application to councils
- Business excellence concepts
- Process improvement and methodologies
- How to assess, score and identify opportunities.

Dates and location

Wednesday 24 – Friday 26 May 2017
Sydney

Online information and registration
[LGNSW website](#)**Cost**

LGNSW Members: \$1,980 incl. GST
Non-members: \$3,960 incl. GST

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 14: Candidate Briefings for Upcoming Elections

LGNSW can organise candidate information sessions in your local government area to ensure that your local candidates are making an informed choice to stand for election.

Councillors play a key role in making decisions that influence both the short-term concerns and long-term strategic direction of their local community. In so doing, they need a range of skills such as public speaking, financial oversight, strategic planning and advocacy.

It is also a big commitment and prospective councillors need to know what will be expected of them. This workshop is designed to give them the information they will need to make a considered decision.

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key requirements for becoming a councillor
- Recognise how the councillor role fits in with other roles and various levels of government
- Address their key expectations and potential challenges in becoming a councillor
- Know how the councillor role fits in with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework
- Understand key elements of council meetings, including code of conduct and conflict of interest.

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au) for a quote to have these workshops delivered in your local government area.

Cost

Please contact Learning Solutions to run these sessions in your local government area

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 15: Special Prices at Easter on LGNSW Public Courses

LGNSW is offering a great Easter special on public courses when councils send two or more participants.

After the first registration, subsequent participants can attend at half price. This special deal applies to the courses listed below and is available until Friday 21 April 2017.

To register, click on the links to the relevant course.

Improving your Correspondence Writing

Sydney – Wednesday 3 May 2017

Navigator – Men’s Development Program (NEW)

Sydney – Thursday: 4 May, 1 June, 29 June and 27 July 2017

People and Performance (NEW)

Sydney – Thursday 4 May 2017

Resilience and Wellbeing (NEW)

Sydney – Monday 8 May 2017

Social Media

Sydney – Tuesday 9 May 2017

Understanding Strategic Thinking (NEW)

Sydney – Friday 12 May 2017

Price Setting for Fees and Charges

Sydney – Tuesday 16 May 2017

Award History and Interpretation

Sydney – Thursday 18 May 2017

Know your Planning (for elected members)

Sydney – Friday 19 May 2017

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

Narrabri – Monday 29 May 2017, Wagga Wagga – Tuesday 13 June 2017

Local Training

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au) 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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Procurement

Item 16: Procurement Qualifications

Local Government Procurement offers the following accredited procurement qualifications courses for staff involved in purchasing, tendering and contract management functions.

Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in May

This program is suitable for staff who have completed Certificate IV or have prior learning. Develop skills to conduct significant procurement. Understand the value of implementing policy, managing contract performance and monitor compliance within legislation, Coordinate risk management activities and manage contract risk

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.](#)

Advanced Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in July

Think strategically, develop a comprehensive understanding of strategic procurement and contract management, including legislative requirements, governance and internal controls.

2017 dates (participants must attend all four blocks):

Block 1: 19-21 July 2017

Block 2: 28-30 August 2017

Block 3: 12-14 September 2017

Block 4: 10-12 October 2017

[More information and to register.](#)

Certificate IV in Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in August

This practical course program covers the nuts and bolts of the tendering process. Identifying and understanding the need for gaining approvals, developing procurement plans, related legislation and key documents such as specification requirements, the Request for Tender and the Tender Evaluation Plan.

2017 dates (participants must attend all four blocks):

Block 1: 8-10 August 2017

Block 2: 23-25 August 2017

Block 3: 18-19 September 2017

Block 4: 16-18 October 2017

[More information and to register.](#)

All LGP training can be conducted in-house at a location of your choice. For further information view the [LGP website](#) 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

Ref: R05/0057 MB

Procurement

Item 17: Procurement eLearning Webinar

Local Government Procurement is holding a complimentary webinar which gives an overview of the aims and benefits of its eLearning program.

ProcureLearn offers a 'right now' approach to training. Experience bite-sized modules from your computer or laptop, easily fitting into your daily work schedule. Specifically designed for NSW council employees engaged in any aspect of purchasing.

The program aims to:

- Develop and enhance the standard of procurement across a region or council
- Provide a technically proficient progress path for procurement professionals
- Teach best practice procurement through the latest training
- Provide technical understanding of probity and policy legislation
- Offer a cost-effective training solution for a region or council.

Benefits include:

- Training that provides 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 FAQ and an ask-the-expert forum.

ProcureLearn eLearning modules include:

- Procurement essentials
- Contract management essentials
- Probity in purchasing and procurement

Included with the three-package course, receive access to specialised procurement topics:

- Risk management
- Supplier evaluation
- Sustainable procurement

Register online

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

Local Government Procurement (LGP) offer a range of training from [eLearning](#), [one day procurement courses](#) to [procurement qualifications](#).

Date and Time

Tue 2 May 2017
10:30am – 11:30am

Online information

[LGP Training website](#)

Registrations

[LGP Training Calendar](#)

Contact

LGP Training
02 8270 8709
training@lgp.org.au

Ref: R05/0057 MB

In the News

Item 18: Local Government NSW Media

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