

Message from the President

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

Federal Budget 2017-18

The Australian Government 2017/18 Federal Budget reinstates the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants, which had been frozen over the three years from 2014/15 to 2016/17.

The Stolen Generations - Unfinished Business Report

The NSW Government is encouraging councils to mark the 20th anniversary of Bringing Them Home, the landmark report of the national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

Aboriginal Councillor to Join Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship Committee

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

Public Consultation Opened on Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Regulations

Councils are invited to comment (by 21 June) on elements of the Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms; including regulations, codes and guidelines released by the NSW Government.

Australian Taxation Office Webinar on New Taxable Payments Reporting for Councils

The Australian Taxation Office invites local government professionals to participate in a webinar (at 11.30 on 17 May) on new reporting for government entities, including councils.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 12 May 2017



The much-anticipated Federal Budget was handed down on Tuesday night with some wins for the local government sector. This year, LGNSW analysed and communicated Budget highlights to its members faster than ever. This included several bulletin style messages during the evening. We always strive to keep our members ‘in the know’ and I’d like to thank the LGNSW staff that made this possible.

We welcomed the end of the three-year indexation freeze on financial assistance grants (FAGs) for which we have strongly advocated. We know these untied grants are critical to the revenue base of local government and the funds lost due to the freeze have had a heavy impact on councils. **LGNSW will continue to advocate for FAGs funding to increase to at least one per cent of Commonwealth tax revenue** (compared to less than 0.6 per cent now).

Other key budget highlights for the sector included:

- Additional funding for the Roads to Recovery, Black Spots and the Bridges Renewal programs. Regardless of additional funding, **LGNSW will continue to advocate for funding that better matches what is actually required, to ensure our roads are at the standard our communities need and deserve.**
 - The Roads to Recovery program has been extended to 2020-21 with increased funding of \$50 million to \$400 million per annum from 2019/20. **LGNSW will continue to pursue program permanency and a doubling of the base**
 - Black Spots Funding received a net increase of \$40 million across the years to 2020/21
 - Bridges Renewal Budget figures represent a net increase of \$25 million across the years up to 2019/20 with an extension of the program to 2020/21. **LGNSW will continue to push for this program to be made permanent.**
- A new Regional Growth Fund of \$472.2 million over four years of which: \$200 million will be added to the existing Building Better Regions program; \$272.2 million will be made available in grants of \$10 million or more for major transformational projects in regions undergoing structural adjustment.
- \$8.4 billion in new equity funding for the Australian Rail Track Corporation to deliver the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail project
- \$5.3 billion in equity funding over ten years for a new Western Sydney Airport Corporation
- A \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility to finance infrastructure needed to speed up supply; the release of surplus Commonwealth land and; establishing a National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation to operate an affordable housing bond aggregator.

Although affordable housing, in particular supply, was addressed in the Budget, LGNSW is far from convinced that adjusting the ‘supply’ policy lever alone, will have an adequate impact on the lack of affordable housing. We acknowledge that the federal Government is attempting to address this issue and we look forward to being part of a broader policy conversation over coming months. In particular, we look forward to setting the record straight on false assertions that increasing housing supply through faster DA approvals and rezoning is the solution in itself. I urge members to join in this conversation and take the opportunity to participate in our Planning Breakfast at NSW Parliament House 24 May which will focus on Housing Affordability and Affordable Housing.

In other news, this week LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate and senior staff visited amalgamated councils which are holding elections in September. This included Bayside and Inner West councils on Monday and Northern Beaches Council on Tuesday. I know Donna and staff appreciated the opportunity to discuss our members' priorities and the latest issues, including:

- Candidate briefings to help prospective councillors better understand the role and its responsibilities.
- LGNSW's capability framework which will define the core knowledge, skills and abilities for elected members and local government employees.

Coinciding with the one-year anniversary of the NSW Government's announcement to forcibly amalgamate councils, the High Court has given Woollahra Council leave for a full-blown appeal against the proposed eastern suburbs merger with Randwick and Waverley. This follows Ku-ring-gai Council's recent victory against the Government in the Court of Appeal, both of which have been based on the unreleased KPMG report used to justify the merger.

Last Saturday Donna spoke at the Australian Local Government Women's Association NSW Annual Conference in Penrith. In her speech Donna detailed how the capability framework will have the added benefit of increasing the proportion of women councillors and women in senior roles in NSW councils. Donna enjoyed catching up with the new ALGWA president, Mayor Marianne Saliba from Shellharbour, and many other colleagues from around the state.

LGNSW hosted another Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) meeting with the Office of State Revenue (OSR) and Treasury this week. We discussed the confusion caused by invoices sent by OSR to councils for their 11.7 per cent ESL contribution, which is now collected by OSR. LGNSW also took opportunity to thank OSR and Treasury for agreeing to provide alternative payment options for councils (other than direct debit sweep) when paying these contributions. We discussed implementation of FESL and that the NSW Government is receiving a range of inquiries about the levy, now that many rate notices have been issued.

On another note, the NSW Government this week released elements of its Biodiversity Conservation Reforms for public consultation, including regulations, codes, guidelines and other documents. It is expected information will be made available directly to councils and a webinar for local government held during the consultation period (which closes on 21 June). LGNSW will prepare a submission on behalf of the sector and invite members' input and views.

This afternoon, senior LGNSW staff will meet with international local government finance expert and economist, Dr Enid Slack, Director of the Munk Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance in Toronto, Canada. Enid is in Sydney for other work and is keen to catch up about local government reforms and the introduction of FESL. You'll recall Enid delivered an excellent paper at LGNSW's Finance Summit last year.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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An expert panel will discuss NSW housing issues in an interactive forum at LGNSW's planning breakfast at Parliament House (Wednesday 24 May 2017). Registration closes Wednesday, 17 May.

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Finance

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The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal released its decision earlier this week, on council applications to increase general income above 1.5 per cent for 2017/18.

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The Australian Taxation Office invites local government professionals to participate in a webinar (at 11.30 on 17 May) on new reporting for government entities, including councils.

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LGNSW can organise information sessions in your area for local candidates who are considering standing for election.

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LGNSW invites learning and development professionals to attend its upcoming L&D Network meeting (Sydney, 6 June 2017).

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

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Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

Heart Foundation Local Government Awards

Councils working to create healthy communities are encouraged to apply for the 2017 Heart Foundation Local Government Awards (by 26 May).

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

LGNSW Annual Good Governance Forum

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LGNSW Planning Breakfast – Register Now

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LGNSW Learning and Development Network Meeting

LGNSW invites learning and development professionals to attend its upcoming L&D Network meeting (Sydney, 6 June 2017).

General Interest

Item 3: LGNSW Annual Good Governance Forum

LGNSW's Good Governance in Action forum (Sydney, 28-29 June) will focus on the 'who, what and how' of strengthening governance practices.

This forum will help participants ensure their governance practices are of the highest possible standard, especially in light of recent changes to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Speakers include:

- John McMillan AO, the NSW Ombudsman
- Margaret Crawford, the NSW Auditor-General
- Iain Walker, the newDemocracy Foundation
- Graham Sansom, UTS.

Forum content includes:

- Critical issues and lessons drawn from interstate and overseas
- Case studies of successful efforts to improve the quality of governance
- The implications of the digital revolution and how technologies can advance good governance
- Implementation of last year's amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*
- Specific areas of change and improvement, including roles, responsibilities and ethics; financial management; audit; and community engagement
- Action planning for councils and Local Government NSW.

This event is essential for councillors, mayors, senior managers and key stakeholders concerned with promoting the highest standards of governance across NSW local government.

See LGNSW's website for [more information and to register](#).

Dates and Location

28 and 29 June 2017
Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney
11 Jamison Street Sydney

Further information and registrations

[LGNSW Good Governance Forum](#)

Cost

LGNSW Members: \$990 incl. GST
Non-members: \$1,980 incl. GST

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Planning Breakfast – Register Now

An expert panel will discuss NSW housing issues in an interactive forum at LGNSW's planning breakfast at Parliament House (Wednesday 24 May 2017). Registration closes Wednesday, 17 May.

The panel will address the topics of affordable housing (usually referring to properties for low income renters) and housing affordability (referring to the state of the housing market). The panel will discuss what the real drivers are, the role of local government and possible solutions before opening up the debate to the audience.

Guest speakers include:

- **Chris Johnson**, Chief Executive Officer, Urban Taskforce Australia
- **Professor Peter Phibbs**, Chair of Urban and Regional Planning and Policy, University of Sydney and
- **Dr Peter Abelson**, Mayor of Mosman Municipal Council

This event will provide an excellent opportunity to examine these topics from a council perspective. It will be of interest to elected representatives, administrators, general managers, interim general managers and senior planning staff.

The event is organized by LGNSW, hosted by NSW Minister of Planning Anthony Roberts and sponsored by Urban Growth NSW.

LGNSW's planning series informs members and guests about key planning initiatives and provides opportunities to meet with senior industry stakeholders and discuss the latest challenges, regulations, funding and plans for NSW.

RSVPs will be accepted until Wednesday 17 May 2017, unless previously sold out. To secure your place [book online now](#). Attendees will gain accreditation points (CPD) from the Planning Institute of Australia.

Dates and location

Wednesday 24 May 2017
7.30am – 9.30am
Strangers' Function Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Online information

[LGNSW Planning Breakfast](#)

Registration

[Register online](#)

RSVP

By Wednesday 17 May 2017

Cost

\$99 for LGNSW members
\$132 for non-members

Contact

Karen Rolls
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02 9242 4050
events@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/ 0025 KR

Community

Item 5: The Stolen Generations - Unfinished Business Report

The NSW Government is encouraging councils to mark the 20th anniversary of **Bringing Them Home**, the landmark report of the national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

Bringing Them Home was tabled in federal Parliament on 26 May 1997.

Commemorating this important date, was one of 35 recommendations made by the NSW General Purpose standing committee inquiry into stolen generations reparations in its 2016 report Unfinished Business. The NSW Government accepted the majority of its recommendations in its response late last year.

The Premier is expected to make a statement on the anniversary.

Online information
[Unfinished Business report](#)

Contact

Jason Goninan

Senior Project Officer Aboriginal
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Ref: R90/0001 MK

Community

Item 6: Heart Foundation Local Government Awards

Councils working to create healthy communities are encouraged to apply for the 2017 Heart Foundation Local Government Awards (by 26 May).

The awards recognise councils working to improve heart health by building a sense of community, encouraging people to be physically active, smoke-free and make healthy food choices.

There are three award categories for each state based on council population size. State winners in each category receive a \$2,000 award. National winners in each category are chosen from state winners and receive a further \$5000 award.

The benefits to councils of winning are:

- Exciting prize packages – cash awards, commemorative frames and council profiling in promotional material, presentation events and local media
- Recognition for being a sector leader of change
- Demonstration of a commitment to improve the health of the community
- Ability to use the recognition in grant funding applications.

In 2016, City of Sydney took out the national best practice award for councils with populations greater than 25,000, for the implementation a comprehensive mix of community, individual, social and environmental initiatives.

The 2016 winners' booklet which highlights the innovative and sustainable ways that councils are creating healthier communities is available at www.heartfoundation.org.au/lga.

Dates and location

Entries close Friday 26 May 2016

Online information

[Heart Foundation Local Government Awards](#)

Contact

Heart Foundation: 1300 36 27 87 or
lga@heartfoundation.org.au

Ref: R90/0830 LG

Community

Item 7: Aboriginal Councillor to Join Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship Committee

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

The scholarships are managed by a committee consisting of the LGNSW President, 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 reconvene to assess and offer scholarships in 2017 for the 2018 academic year.

The scholarships are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local government councillors or employees, to undertake part-time university studies and build their community development, political or professional career. An amount of \$1,000 per candidate is available for up to four candidates each year.

In 2015, the committee agreed to broaden eligibility of the scholarships to all Aboriginal staff in local government. This includes outdoor staff and cadets wanting to build skills towards becoming Aboriginal Liaison officers or council community development officers.

The Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship was established in 2002 with contributions from councils and the support of the NSW Government. The late Cr Pat Dixon was a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 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

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02 9242 4082

Ref: R03/0030 MK

Environment

Item 8: Public Consultation Opened on Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms Regulations

Councils are invited to comment (by 21 June) on elements of the Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms; including regulations, codes and guidelines released by the NSW Government.

The Biodiversity Conservation Bill and Local Land Services Amendment Bill were assented to in late 2016 and the reforms scheduled to commence on 25 August 2017.

The following documents support the implementation of the legislation and are available for comment:

- Draft principal Biodiversity Conservation Regulation and its supporting regulatory impact statement
- Draft Local Land Services Amendment Regulation
- Draft Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Biodiversity Conservation)
- Regulation an Explanation of Intended Effects for a State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation)
- Draft Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code
- Draft Biodiversity Assessment Method
- Draft Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method
- An example of a Sensitive Biodiversity Values Land Map
- Draft guidance for considering serious and irreversible impacts
- Draft offsets payment calculator and user manual

The NSW Government intends to hold a webinar for local government to provide more detail on the exhibition products. More details will be provided to councils once available.

LGNSW will prepare a submission on behalf of NSW Councils. To contribute to a sector-wide response please forward any issues or copies of your council's draft submission to LGNSW's [Kirsty McIntyre](mailto:kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au), by 12 June 2017.

Dates

Consultation closes 21 June, 2017.

Online information

[Land Management Website](#)

Contact

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Ref: R91/0146 KMC

Finance

Item 9: Federal Budget 2017-18

The Australian Government 2017/18 Federal Budget reinstates the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants, which had been frozen over the three years from 2014/15 to 2016/17.

The Federal Treasurer, The Hon Scott Morrison MP handed down the 2017-18 Budget on the 9 May which included the resumption of the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs).

The key points from the Budget which relate to local government include:

- **Financial Assistance Grants**

The indexation of the FAGs will resume in 2017/18 with the first two quarterly payments for 2017/18 brought forward into 2016/17.

Adjusting for payments brought forward, FAGs are budgeted to increase from:

- \$2.289 billion in 2016/17
- \$2.367 billion in 2017/18
- \$2.456 billion in 2018/19
- \$2.576 billion in 2019/20
- \$2.592 billion in 2020/21.

The lifting of the indexation freeze follows extensive advocacy by LGNSW and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and, the efforts of individual councils which: shared the impact of the freeze with their communities; moved resolutions in support of the freeze being lifted; and lobbied their local MPs.

The return of indexation does not negate the \$300 million in lost funding and 13 per cent permanent erosion to the funding base which councils have had to shoulder since 2014/15. The impacts have been deeply felt, particularly by councils with a higher dependence on FAGs, and the flow-on effects will take many years to overcome.

LGNSW will continue to advocate for a return of FAGs funding to a level of at least one per cent of Commonwealth tax revenue. The current level is under 0.6 per cent.

- **Roads to Recovery**

The Australian Government committed to extend the Roads to Recovery program beyond the original cut-off date of 2018/19 to 2020/21 and increase funding by \$50 million to \$400 million per annum from 2019/20.

LGNSW will continue to pursue permanency for the program and a permanent doubling of the base.

- **Black Spots program**

Funding under the Black Spots program is budgeted to be \$85 million per annum from 2017/18 to 2019/20, after which it is to revert to \$60 million in 2020/21. This represents a net increase of \$40 million (after an under-spend of \$35million in 2016/17).

- **Bridges Renewal program**

Funding under the Bridges Renewal program will increase slightly (over funding levels indicated in the previous budgets) to \$90 million in 2017/18, \$85 million in 2018/19 and 2019/20, and \$60 million in 2020/21.

The new figures in this Budget, represent a net increase of \$25 million to 2019/20 with an extension of the program to 2020/21.

LGNSW will continue to push for the program to be made permanent and provide certainty around recurrent funding arrangements.

Online Information

Budget Papers 2017/18

LGNSW media release

ALGA analysis

LGNSW contact

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02 9242 4045
sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R01/0012 SM

- **Regional Growth Fund**

The Budget committed to establish a Regional Growth Fund of \$472.2 million over four years from 2017/18, which will include:

- \$272.2 million, in grants of \$10 million or more, for major transformational projects which support long-term economic growth and create jobs in regions undergoing structural adjustment
- \$200 million will be added to the existing Building Better Regions Fund over four years from 2017/18, to allow more regional communities to benefit. This will increase the fund to nearly \$500 million which will be available for eligible projects that deliver economic and social benefits in regional and remote Australia (outside the major capital cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and Canberra).

- **Transport infrastructure**

The Budget included \$5.3 billion in equity funding to establish a Western Sydney Airport Corporation, over the next ten years. The corporation will build and operate the new western Sydney airport, with construction scheduled to commence in 2018/19.

The Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail Network was highlighted in Budget commentary with the announcement of an additional \$8.4 billion in new equity funding for the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to deliver the project. The objective of the project is to improve the productivity of the national land freight network and complement existing road and rail infrastructure. The newly announced funding builds on the previous commitment of \$893.7 million which enabled the ARTC to progress work on the inland rail corridor and bring the project to construction readiness.

- **Housing affordability**

The budget highlighted a range of initiatives to increase affordable and social housing, which included:

- Establishing a \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility, over five years, to finance the critical infrastructure needed to speed up supply
- The release of surplus Commonwealth land for the purpose of housing
- Establishing the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation to operate an affordable housing bond aggregator. This would aim to encourage greater private and institutional investment and, provide cheaper and longer-term finance to registered providers of affordable housing.

There has been considerable public debate about tackling housing affordability which has included false assertions that increasing housing supply (through faster DA approvals and rezoning) is the solution. There are many complex factors influencing the lack of affordable housing and LGNSW believes that increasing supply is only one policy lever. LGNSW does acknowledge that the Australian Government is attempting to address the issue and looks forward to being part of a broader policy conversation over the coming months.

ALGA analysis

A comprehensive and detailed analysis of the budget from a local government perspective is available on ALGA's website.

Finance

Item 10: IPART Decision on Special Rate Variation Applications Announced

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal released its decision earlier this week, on council applications to increase general income above 1.5 per cent for 2017/18.

The Tribunal received applications from eight councils requesting to exceed the 1.5 per cent rate pegging increase limit from 1 July 2017.

Increases were approved for Bellingen Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Inverell Shire Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Ballina Shire Council and Shoalhaven City Council received partial approval for temporary increases and the applications from Lockhart Shire Council and Muswellbrook Shire Council were not approved.

IPART website

[A fact sheet and further information.](#)

Ref. R90/0397-05 SM

Finance

Item 11: Australian Taxation Office Webinar on New Taxable Payments Reporting for Councils

The Australian Taxation Office invites local government professionals to participate in a webinar (at 11.30 on 17 May) on new reporting for government entities, including councils.

Prompted by amendments to the *Taxation Administration Act (Cwth) 1953* which take effect 1 July 2017, the Australian Tax Office (ATO) webinar will explain the changes and provide information on:

- Who needs to report
- What payments and grants need to be reported
- How to prepare and lodge the new annual report
- Commonly asked questions.

Government entities required to report will need to begin collecting information from 1 July 2017. The first annual report for the year ending 30 June 2018 is due on 28 August 2018.

Background

The *Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2015 Measures No. 5) Act 2015* amended various pieces of tax legislation which includes measures that require government entities (including councils) to report the following payments to the ATO:

- Taxable grants
- Specified payments to contractors, consultants and other vendors
- Reporting of transfers of real property.

The reporting measures are contained in schedule 4 of the *Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2015 Measures No. 5) Act 2015* amending the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*.

Webinar dates and times

Wednesday, 17 May 2017 at 11:30am (AEDT)

Registration

[ATO Business Webinar](#)

A recording of the live webinar will be made available shortly after the session on the above website.

Further information

www.ato.gov.au/tparGov

Ref: R96/0104 SM

Learning

Item 12: Candidate Briefings for Upcoming Elections

LGNSW can organise information sessions in your area for local candidates who are considering standing 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 communities. To be effective, a range of skills are required for public speaking, financial oversight, strategic planning and advocacy.

This is a big commitment and prospective councillors need to know what will be expected. The workshop is designed to provide the information needed 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 other 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 13: LGNSW Learning and Development Network Meeting

LGNSW invites learning and development professionals to attend its upcoming L&D Network meeting (Sydney, 6 June 2017).

The LGNSW L&D Network holds quarterly meetings that provide professional development and networking opportunities, at no cost to councils.

The June meeting will address the following topics:

- **The Future of Work – Jennifer James, LGNSW.** What is the latest research telling us about our workforce of the future? What will this mean for councils and, L&D and HR professionals?
- **Local Government Capability Framework – Capability Framework Project Team, LGNSW.** Participate in discussions on the latest version of the draft framework and the tools needed by L & D professionals to align the professional development of elected members and staff to the framework.
- **Linking Capability Frameworks to Staff Development: Insights from councils –** A panel of councils will discuss the value and application of capability frameworks to formal and informal learning, including coaching.
- **L&D Metrics – Greg Ptok, Ptok Consulting.** What do we currently know about the L&D spend by councils? What other data should the sector collect to help councils benchmark their L&D investment?
- **Council Collaboration –** We will explore opportunities and interest in councils working collaboratively in areas of common need and benefit.

The network meeting is conducted in a workshop format with participants encouraged to share information or seek advice from colleagues. Ideas for future network meetings are also invited.

Date and location

Tuesday 6 June 2017
Local Government House
Level 7, 28 Margaret St Sydney

Online information

[Learning and Development Network](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 14: LGNSW's Upcoming Public Courses

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

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

Award History and Interpretation

Sydney – Thursday 18 May 2017

Get up-to-speed on the application and interpretation of the Local Government (State) Award 2014 in this course. [More information.](#)

Internal Audit Familiarisation Seminar

Sydney – Wednesday 31 May 2017

Build cross-organisational understanding of internal audit functions and its role in performance improvement and risk mitigation. [More information.](#)

Navigator – Men's Development Program

Sydney – Thursday 1 June, 29 June, 27 July, 24 August 2017

Identify clear, practical and realistic steps to make change and get results. [More information.](#)

Systems Thinking

Sydney – Thursday 1 June 2017

Discover how systems thinking allows for improvement at the organisational, departmental or team level, by focusing on understanding and anticipating the potential consequences of all actions. [More information](#)

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sydney – Friday 2 June 2017

Gain improved skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement. [More information.](#)

Improving your Report Writing

Sydney – Thursday 8 June 2017

Develop the skills you need to write effective, clear and concise reports for your managers and your organisation. [More information.](#)

Leadership for Aspiring Women

Sydney – Thursday 15 June 2017

Build confidence to take your next career step by better understanding yourself and the skills required to lead. [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

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02 9242 4081

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Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 15: Effective Communication in the Workplace – Free Webinar

LGNSW is offering a free webinar (30 May 2017) which provides an introduction to effective workplace communication.

Working in collaboration with Jane Jackson Careers, LGNSW is providing career development coaching for employees seeking to improve confidence and performance in their current role or apply for new positions within their organisation.

This webinar is suitable for managers and staff at all levels who'd like to learn about the key communication styles - how to identify your style, the style of others and how natural communication style may change during times of stress.

At the end of the webinar, participants will understand how to adapt personal communication styles to clearly get the message across, even when under pressure.

Registration is essential.

Date and time

May 30, 2017
12.00pm – 12.45pm

Cost

Free

Registrations

[Register here](#)

Contact

Jennifer James
LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4085
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Procurement

Item 16: Procurement Qualifications

Local Government Procurement is offering accredited procurement qualifications courses for staff involved in purchasing, tendering and contract management functions.

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.](#)

Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Commencing in September

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: 5-7 September 2017

Block 2: 20-21 September 2017

Block 3: 25-27 October 2017

Block 4: 7-9 November 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 Program Available

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

The program delivers cost-effective procurement training, 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

Ref: R05/0057 MB

In the News

Item 18: Local Government NSW Media

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW

Item 19: ALGA Newsletter

View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association