

Message from the President

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

Webinars on ESPL Implementation

Further webinars to assist councils in implementing the Emergency Services Property Levy covering the topics of land classification and start-up cost reimbursement are now available.

Public Service Medal Nominations

Nominate someone you know for a Public Service Medal by 1 February.

Building Resilience to Climate Change Grants

Successful recipients of the third round of the Building Resilience to Climate Change program grants have been announced.

2017 Diary Dates for LGNSW Conferences, Forums and Network Meetings

Make a note of key LGNSW events, conferences and forums in 2017.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 20 January 2017



Talk about starting the year with a bang!

Thursday's retirement announcement by Premier Mike Baird took many by surprise this week – and today Deputy Premier and National Party Leader John Barilaro came out very strongly with a promise sure to be welcomed by regional councils. It's no secret that our sector has not always agreed with the outgoing Premier's approach to local government reform, and it is true LGNSW has consistently campaigned and lobbied hard to achieve the best outcomes for our members and the communities we serve. Nonetheless I know you all join me in wishing both Mr Baird and his extended family best wishes for the future, and strength in the face of the personal challenges currently before them.

I certainly commend Mr Baird for recognising the need to reset and refresh the Government – and what a reset it is turning out to be! This afternoon Deputy Premier and National Party Leader John Barilaro came out hard with an uncompromising stance on forced council amalgamations, linking the Coalition agreement with an end to forced council amalgamations in the regions.

This is welcome news. Clearly, John Barilaro has not only listened but understood what communities have been telling him – which is what democracy is all about.

I have issued a [statement](#) reminding the Coalition Government as a whole that it is not just regional communities that are fighting forced amalgamations with everything they have. The Government must also rule out the extremely unpopular proposed mergers in the Illawarra and Hunter regions as well as others. Metropolitan communities are just as passionate as regional communities about a real and meaningful say in their neighbourhoods and their day-to-day lives. We have called on the incoming Premier to abandon forced mergers right across NSW and restore local democracy by sending those councils denied elections last year to the polls in September.

It's time to let the people decide how they want to proceed – and if the Coalition Government is genuinely committed to a meaningful re-set, then actually listening to what the people want is a pretty good start. LGNSW looks forward to working with the new leadership team to achieve the best possible outcomes for our sector and communities, and we'll keep members updated as details become available.

Meanwhile, we are already busy planning events for the year ahead. See the list of conferences and forums in this week's issue and note them in your diary.

There is currently a lot happening in the planning arena. On 23 February we will host a District Plan Workshop for Sydney members, featuring the Greater Sydney Commission. We're also organising another planning breakfast shortly. Stay tuned for details.

As a result of LGNSW's advocacy, NSW Treasury has provided detailed 'how to' information to councils regarding preparatory work the NSW Government wants them to do for the proposed introduction of the Emergency Services Property Levy (ESPL) on 1 July. This includes a detailed ESPL implementation manual and a series of webinars.

New webinars covering the topics of land classification and start-up cost reimbursement were made available this week for councils looking for assistance implementing the ESPL.

While Treasury originally hoped to introduce the ESPL legislation into Parliament in February/March, timing could well be impacted by the impact of this week's Government "reset". [Read more about the Government's ESPL proposal.](#)

There are so many dedicated, highly trained and skilled people working for councils and it would be fantastic to see them among the Public Service Medal winners. Nominations for the medal close on 1 February. Awards are available to any public sector employee regardless of grade or age so if you have a colleague who consistently performs to the highest standard, I urge you to consider nominating them for this honour. [Read more](#).

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM
President

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Councils are encouraged to participate in the final stage of Cricket Australia's NSW audit.

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Renovation Roulette brochures with information for homeowners and renovators on safely managing asbestos in the home are available from SafeWork NSW free of charge.

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Awards

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Public Service Medal Nominations

Nominate someone you know for a Public Service Medal by 1 February.

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LGNSW Tourism Conference - Early Bird Registration Extended

The early bird discount for the LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 has been extended until close of business next Wednesday (25 January) to allow councils to register teams after the holiday period.

LGNSW's Aged and Disability Forum and Training

Registrations are open for the Local Government NSW Aged and Disability Forum in March 2017, and training sessions.

Webinars on ESPL Implementation

Further webinars to assist councils in implementing the Emergency Services Property Levy covering the topics of land classification and start-up cost reimbursement are now available.

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LGNSW offers a suite of short courses designed to improve skills in report and correspondence writing, minute taking, grant application writing and grammar.

LGNSW Upcoming Courses: January and February

LGNSW is offering the following public workshops to local government professionals and elected members.

Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

Local Drug Action Teams Program Grants

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation is seeking applications under its Local Drug Action Teams grants program which seeks to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug harms in communities.

NSW Community Safety Fund

Councils are encouraged to apply for NSW Community Safety Fund for infrastructure and service delivery projects.

Building Resilience to Climate Change Grants

Successful recipients of the third round of the Building Resilience to Climate Change program grants have been announced.

Building Better Regions Fund – Round 1 Applications Open

The Building Better Regions program provides funding for infrastructure projects and community investment that will create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities.

General Interest

Item 4: Public Service Medal Nominations

Nominate someone you know for a Public Service Medal by 1 February.

The Public Service Medal is a prestigious award within the official Australian system of honours and awards which recognises outstanding service. The award is made by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and recipients are entitled to use the post nominal 'PSM'.

Any public sector employee regardless of grade, age or years of service can be considered for a medal.

All local, state and Commonwealth government public sector employees are eligible. The medal recognises 'outstanding service' which can be shown through:

- Service excellence to the public, or to external or internal clients
- Innovation in program, project or policy development
- Leadership, including as a member of a team
- The achievement of more efficient processes, improved productivity or better service delivery.

Nominations for the medal are currently being sought for announcement on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The closing date for submissions to the NSW PSM Committee is 1 February 2017.

For more information, visit the [DPC website](#) or contact the NSW PSM Secretariat on 02 9228 5188 or awards@dpc.nsw.gov.au.

Dates

Nominations close 1 February 2017

Online information

[Department of Premier & Cabinet
Public Service Medal](#)

Contact

NSW PSM Secretariat
02 9228 5188
awards@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0749 LnG

General Interest

Item 5: Australia Day Promotional Collateral for Councils

The National Australia Day Council has provided a stakeholder kit to help councils promote Australia Day information and activities in their communities.

The kit includes posters, email and web banners, social media and links to websites to help councils inform and engage residents about the diverse and dynamic celebrations occurring in their communities.

The pack also offers ideas on how to celebrate in the workplace. Councils looking for ways to promote events in their communities can [download the stakeholder kit](#). Those interested in sharing their events with media or via the National Australia Day Council's social media can email nick@think-hq.com.au.

Online information

[Australia Day stakeholder kit](#)
[Australia Day resources](#)

Contact

nick@think-hq.com.au

Ref: R90/0119 LnG

General Interest

Item 6: LGNSW Tourism Conference - Early Bird Registration Extended

The early bird discount for the LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 has been extended until close of business next Wednesday (25 January) to allow councils to register teams after the holiday period.

Register yourself and your tourism, destination marketing, planning and economic development team to benefit from the extended discount.

Co-hosted by MidCoast Council, the conference's theme is 'Tourism is everyone's business'.

Topics will include:

- Promoting accessible tourism
- Raising inclusion awareness
- AVIC summit: A half day focus session on effective visitor information centre management
- Nature tourism
- Heritage and cultural tourism

Travel and Accommodation

- A range of [accommodation options](#) are available. Transfer buses will pick up delegates from their accommodation and take them to the conference venue.
- To book accommodation, save the [booking request form](#) to your computer, fill it your details and click 'submit'.
- **If you are having trouble finding flights** to Taree [contact the LGNSW events team](#). (We are currently speaking to REX about adding additional flights.)

Sponsors

The 2017 conference is supported by:

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

Dates and location

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

Online information

[LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017](#)

Registration

[Register online](#)

Contact

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

Ref: R16/0007 TB

General Interest

Item 7: LGNSW Specialist HR services

LGNSW provides a range of recruitment, human resource and consulting services.

Services are designed for local government by local government and LGNSW has a strong track record of delivering results at competitive rates.

Recruitment

LGNSW provides a cost effective end-to-end recruitment service for general managers and senior staff. Support ranges from managing job advertisements to drafting contracts of employment.

We can also undertake discrete functions within the recruitment process such as participating on interview panels as independent members, reference checking, contract negotiation and establishing performance agreements. [More information.](#)

Performance reviews

LGNSW provides an independent facilitation service with a clear and transparent process for general manager and senior staff performance reviews. [More information.](#)

Organisation and business Reviews

LGNSW has a small team of experienced consultants who work with members to facilitate [IP&R Review and Revision](#), [in-house service reviews](#) and [organisational and structural reviews](#).

Employee support

A potential consequence of organisational restructure is the loss of capable individuals. LGNSW offers an [outplacement service](#) to help organisations support redundant staff as they transition to the next stage of their careers. For employees reviewing their career goals, experiencing workplace change or preparing to apply for new roles, our [career coaching](#) service offers members and their staff external support during times of uncertainty.

Business performance and benchmarking

LGNSW undertakes an annual collection of NSW council [remuneration comparatives](#) for general managers, directors, managers and supervisors/specialists. Our [HR metrics benchmarking](#) report provides comparative data on a range of HR metrics, enabling HR professionals to monitor and benchmark organisational effectiveness with councils of similar size and profile. [Staff engagement surveys](#) can also be conducted for councils as a useful benchmark for tracking organisational health over time.

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

Online information

[LGNSW management solutions](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 MA

Community

Item 8: Local Drug Action Teams Program Grants

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation is seeking applications under its Local Drug Action Teams grants program which seeks to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug harms in communities.

The Local Drug Action Teams (LDATs) grants program will distribute over \$8 million between 2016 and 2020.

In the first year grants will be available for up to \$40,000 which will support 40 foundational LDATs. It's expected that many of these will be groups already working together on community development or harm prevention/reduction initiatives.

LDATs can apply for grants each year they participate in the program. An LDAT entering the program in the first year can apply for grants in the second, third and fourth years.

An LDAT can include representatives from local government, local community groups, local traders/business associations, police, schools and local not-for-profit organisations. For a group to be approved as a LDAT, and be eligible for funding, it needs to fulfil the following criteria:

- Have an organisation with capability that can act as the lead agency and provide a convening and auspice role to the LDAT, and to manage and administer any grant funds
- Have cross-sector support and membership from at least two other organisations across the community, and
- Have members with a demonstrated track record in successfully working in their community.

Funding priorities include harm reduction and prevention in the areas of:

- Crystalline methamphetamine ('ice')
- Alcohol
- Community action on other existing and emerging drugs
- Family alcohol and drug protective factors
- Priority populations (including Indigenous).

Communities with one or more of the following features will be prioritised for grants:

- Above average levels of unemployment
- Regional centres and geographical remoteness
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- High population of Indigenous people
- Areas of high population growth
- Social disadvantage
- Specific priority population group
- High levels of alcohol and other drug harms.

The grant application consists of a two-step process, starting with a review of eligibility. Those deemed eligible will progress to the grant application stage.

Applications close 5 pm on 8 February 2017.

Dates

Applications close 5 pm on 8 February 2017

Online information

[Alcohol and Drug Foundation](#)

Ref: R90/1075-04 LG

Community

Item 9: Art of Ageing Exhibition Available to Tour Regional NSW

Councils are encouraged to apply to host The Art of Ageing photographic exhibition in 2017/18.

As part of the renewal of the NSW Ageing Strategy, The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) has created an exhibition documenting the lives of older people in photographs and stories, and is seeking expressions of interest from regional organisations in NSW to host the exhibition.

FACS is offering the exhibition, created with assistance from artist Louise Hawson, free of charge. Host organisations are expected to cover freight costs but can apply for assistance when applying online.

The exhibition package includes two sets of 14 mounted photographs and two sets of 15 mounted text panels.

For details on selection criteria, curatorial content, and terms and conditions contact ageing@facs.nsw.gov.au or Jordan Saragih on 02 8753 8849.

Applications can be made using Smartygrants on the [Art of Ageing exhibition page](#). Applications close 11.59 pm, Tuesday 28 February 2017.

Dates

Applications close 11.59 am, Tuesday 28 February 2017.

Online information

[Art of Ageing exhibition](#)

Contact

ageing@facs.nsw.gov.au

Jordan Saragih

02 8753 8849

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 10: NSW Community Safety Fund

Councils are encouraged to apply for NSW Community Safety Fund for infrastructure and service delivery projects.

The NSW Community Safety Fund will provide \$10 million over four years for community safety initiatives that will reduce crime and anti-social behavior.

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available for community safety initiatives with crime prevention focus including those that:

- Address local crime hot spots
- Address anti-social behavior in communities
- Promote safe and inclusive use of public space
- Promote collaborative approaches to community safety and crime reduction, prevention and detection initiatives.

Grant applications will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- Demonstrated crime or community safety issue
- Relevance and effectiveness of application in addressing identified crime and safety issue
- Value for money and extent of public benefit derived from proposal
- Project management methodology, capacity to deliver and likelihood of success
- Performance monitoring of program
- Compliance with the guidelines and grant application checklist documents.

Consideration will also be given to ensure funding is allocated with the appropriate mix of:

- Infrastructure and service delivery projects
- Geographic spread of projects to avoid over servicing particular areas
- Areas with a high rate or high volume of crime.

LGNSW welcomes the new inclusion of councils as eligible applicants in the second round of the Community Safety Fund and encourages NSW councils to apply.

Dates

Applications Close 5 pm Monday 20 February 2017

Online information

[Crime Prevention](#)

Contact

NSW Department of Justice
02 8688 8666 or
csf@justice.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0125-12 LG

Community

Item 11: Unit Costing in Community Care Training

LGNSW is offering unit costing in community care training in February for small to medium community care services run by councils.

Community care coordinators and managers will benefit from the workshop, which will:

- Describe the key steps of unit costing
- Define how to develop a unit cost for service type or program
- Provide access to a unit costing tool
- Apply practical tools and resources in developing unit costs
- List the step by step process to determine the unit cost of services.

Register online, fees apply.

Dates and location

6 February, Sydney

Online information

[Unit costing in community care](#)

Cost

\$99 (incl. GST)

Contact

Margaret Kay

LGNSW

margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au

(02) 9242 4082

Ref:

R05/0058

R96/0126-02 MK

Community

Item 12: Cricket NSW Facility Audit

Councils are encouraged to participate in the final stage of Cricket Australia's NSW audit.

Cricket NSW, in partnership with Cricket Australia, is conducting an audit to establish the future facility needs of cricket across the country and identify priority areas for investment. The NSW audit is funded by Australian Cricket.

The audit is being conducted in three stages with the first two (Metropolitan Phase 1 and Regional Phase 1) already complete.

The third and final stage (Regional Phase 2) commences shortly. To assist with information gathering, Cricket NSW is asking that councils grant its representatives access to facilities and amenities.

Data collected will be shared and will ensure that the Cricket Sporting Code, in collaboration with all levels of government, develops the right facilities in the right locations to continue growing cricket for girls and boys equally.

Facilities that provide quality experiences for players, coaches, spectators, volunteers and officials are vital to ensuring that cricket participation continues to grow. Cricket grounds, practice facilities, local pavilions and indoor venues provide an environment where communities come together and future cricket stars develop their skills.

Cricket NSW thanks councils for their support with the audit to date.

Online information
[National facilities audit](#)

Contact
Teale Blessington
Community Facilities & Grants
Coordinator
Teale.Blessington@cricketnsw.com.au
Ref: R90/1198 MK

Community

Item 13: LGNSW's Aged and Disability Forum and Training

Registrations are open for the Local Government NSW Aged and Disability Forum in March 2017, and training sessions.

Aged and Disability Forum

The forum will inform and support councils on care reforms and discuss implications for their services. It will feature presentations on home care packages, steps to become National Disability Insurance Scheme ready, workforce planning, change management, and a Yarning session on inclusiveness that will focus on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The forum is free of charge to all relevant council staff but registration is essential.

Training

To further prepare councils for the sector reforms, LGNSW is also organising training courses for council-operated aged and disability services. Topics include:

- ABC Unit Costing in Community Care – Monday, 6 February 2017. Register now. Fees apply.
- Workforce Planning in Community Care – Monday, 27 March 2017. Register now. Fees apply.
- Marketing in Community Care – Wednesday, 5 April 2017. Register now. Fees apply.

Dates, location and online information

Aged and Disability Forum

11.30 am – 4.15 pm, 14 March 2017
Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street

ABC Unit Costing in Community Care

10.00 am – 2.30 pm, 6 February 2017
Sydney

Workforce Planning in Community Care

10.00 am – 2.30 pm, 27 March 2017
Sydney

Marketing in Community Care

10.00 am – 2.30 pm, 5 April 2017
Sydney

Contact

Margaret Kay
margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au
02 9242 4082

Ref:

R05/0058
R96/0126-02

Environment

Item 14: Developing a NSW Koala Strategy

The NSW Government is seeking community input into the development of a NSW Koala Strategy and the Saving our Species Iconic Koala Project.

Comments are sought on a state-wide framework to ensure koalas will continue to live and thrive in NSW, in particular on the following:

- Developing a NSW Koala Strategy - a whole-of-government approach to the management of the koala as a threatened species and as an iconic species to the community.
- Draft Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project, which sets out a framework for on-ground koala conservation actions for 2016-21 and forms an important part of the proposed koala strategy. The Saving our Species Iconic Koala Project will build on the valuable contributions made by individuals and groups across the state to conserve koalas.

Community information sessions are being held in the following locations:

- Lismore – Tuesday 7 February
- Coffs Harbour – Wednesday 8 February
- Port Macquarie – Thursday 9 February
- Port Stephens – Monday 13 February
- Bega – Tuesday 14 February
- Gunnedah – Thursday 16 February
- Campbelltown – Monday 20 February

Registration is now open with sessions commencing at 4.30 pm. A webinar is also planned with more detail to be made available soon.

For further information contact koala.strategy@environment.nsw.gov.au.

LGNSW will prepare a submission based on council feedback. Please email a copy of your council's submission or issues to be raised on your behalf to [Kirsty McIntyre](mailto:Kirsty.McIntyre@lgnsw.org.au), LGNSW Senior Policy Officer by 20 February 2017.

Online information

[Developing a NSW koala strategy](#)

Submissions due 3 March 2017

Submissions to LGNSW due 20 February 2017

Contact

Kirsty McIntyre

Senior Policy Officer

kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R95/0007 KM

Environment

Item 15: Asbestos Renovation Roulette Brochures for Councils

Renovation Roulette brochures with information for homeowners and renovators on safely managing asbestos in the home are available from SafeWork NSW free of charge.

Brochures were distributed to councils for asbestos awareness month in 2016 as part of asbestos awareness packages. SafeWork NSW has now produced them in six languages:

- English
- Korean
- Chinese traditional
- Chinese simplified
- Arabic
- Vietnamese

Contact [Karyn Davidson](#), SafeWork NSW to order brochures.

Online information

[Asbestos awareness](#)

Contact

Karyn Davidson

SafeWork NSW

02 4321 5912

karyn.davidson@safework.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R11/0034 SC

Environment

Item 16: Building Resilience to Climate Change Grants

Successful recipients of the third round of the Building Resilience to Climate Change program grants have been announced.

LGNSW congratulates the recipients who will share grants worth \$497,156 for projects that respond to climate change risks and vulnerabilities.

The program is a partnership between the NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage and LGNSW. It includes three rounds of grants:

- **Round 1 (2014)** - A total of \$432,500 was distributed across six projects.
- **Round 2 (2015)** – A total of \$457,830 was distributed across eight projects.
- **Round 3 (2016)** – A total of \$497,156 will be distributed across seven projects.

The third round focused on projects that build the resilience of vulnerable communities or adapt priority infrastructure. Projects included:

- Cobar airport climate resilient master plan
- Dubbo CBD heat island amelioration
- Building adaptive capacity against rising coastal groundwater
- Building resilience into infrastructure assets
- Adapting priority coastal recreational infrastructure for climate change
- Developing and trialling a northern rivers emerging vector response plan
- Adaptation action plans for priority infrastructure and vulnerable communities.

LGNSW received 34 high-quality applications requesting \$2.4 million worth of grants. A complete list of successful projects is available on the [LGNSW website](#).

Online information

[Building Resilience to Climate Change program](#)

Contact

Denise Anderson
LGNSW
Senior Policy Officer - Environment
02 9242 4056
denise.anderson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R14/0016 RH

Finance

Item 17: Webinars on ESPL Implementation

Further webinars to assist councils in implementing the Emergency Services Property Levy covering the topics of land classification and start-up cost reimbursement are now available.

Based on LGNSW's advocacy, NSW Treasury provided detailed "how to" information to councils regarding the preparatory work the NSW Government wants councils to do for the proposed introduction of the Emergency Services Property Levy (ESPL) on 1 July 2017. This includes a detailed ESPL implementation manual and a series of webinars.

It is important to note that the ESPL legislation has not yet been introduced to the NSW Parliament. NSW Treasury originally hoped to introduce the legislation in February/March but timing could be impacted by this week's Government 'reset'.

LGNSW has been contracted by NSW Treasury to help them deliver these webinars.

The current webinars cover the following topics:

- **Land classification**

Webinars 5, 6 and 7 outline and explain the classifications applying to land for ESPL purposes, especially government land, public benefit land, industrial and commercial land, and the vacant land sub-classification.

- **Recording and claiming ESPL start-up costs**

Webinar 8 explains how councils will be reimbursed for reasonable start-up cost in implementing the ESPL, what reimbursement options they can choose (by 31 January 2017) and what requirements are associated with each option. NSW Treasury has agreed to meet the upfront costs incurred by councils that undertake the requested preparatory work in anticipation that the ESPL legislation will be passed and introduced in February/March 2017.

NSW Treasury has advised that emails about the webinars will be sent to all council (councils' nominated ESPL contacts) shortly for distribution across council as required.

Feedback to LGNSW

To inform LGNSW's ongoing advocacy on the ESPL implementation, LGNSW encourages councils to provide feedback to us on any concerns. [Email LGNSW](#).

Webinar access

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

Username: council

Password: #emergency

ESPL questions

Questions on the ESPL implementation should be directed to NSW Treasury

ESPL.info@treasury.nsw.gov.au

LGNSW contact

Sascha Moege, Senior Policy Officer
02 9242 4045

sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R12/0060 SM

Finance

Item 18: Building Better Regions Fund – Round 1 Applications Open

The Building Better Regions program provides funding for infrastructure projects and community investment that will create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities.

Community groups and councils are invited to submit applications for round one of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF), which supports community and infrastructure projects outside Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra.

The \$297.7 million fund supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future.

There are two streams of funding available under the program. Both streams opened on 18 January 2017. The infrastructure projects stream will close at 5 pm on 28 February 2017 and the community investments stream will close at 5 pm on 31 March 2017.

Visit the [Building Better Regions Fund](#) page to lodge an application or find out about an information session near you.

Online Information
[Building Better Regions Fund](#)

BBRF Contact
Whil Prendergast
0427 672 815
whilemina.prendergast@regional.gov.au

Ref: R90/1160-08 SMcB

Water

Item 19: NSW Health Advice on Microbial Health Based Targets

NSW Health and DPI Water have emailed councils in December recommending that local water utilities do not try to apply the NHMRC's proposed draft microbial health-based targets and continue to apply their drinking water management systems (DWMS) and optimise water treatment processes.

The email was in response to the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) recently released consultation paper on microbial health-based targets to be considered for inclusion in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 (ADWG).

NSW Health and DPI Water expect that it would take many months for NHMRC to consider submissions and revise the ADWG to include a microbial health-based targets regime. The proposed regime could also change considerably before it becomes part of the ADWG.

NSW Health and DPI Water advised they will work together to develop appropriate implementation plans if and when a microbial health-based targets regime is established.

Local water utilities with concerns about their treatment barriers can contact the NSW Health local public health unit or [Bill Ho](#), Manager Water & Sewerage, DPI Water.

NSW Government submission

NSW Health has prepared a consolidated NSW Government submission supporting in-principle the inclusion of a microbial health-based targets regime in the ADWG. The submission suggests several changes and considerations to better adapt the regime to NSW supply system conditions, and also requesting that the NHMRC consults early on the revised draft.

LGNSW submission

LGNSW provided a submission to NHMRC in November opposing the proposal to include microbial health-based targets in the ADWG, arguing for a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis before considering proposals any further.

Addressing cryptosporidium risk in DWMS

Once established, microbial health-based targets would help address the potential risk posed by cryptosporidium, as well as risks from other pathogens. Cryptosporidium is a disease-causing protozoa that is resistant to disinfection by chlorine in normal drinking water concentrations.

NSW Health advises that the current [ADWG's turbidity fact sheet](#) recommends "where filtration alone is used as the water treatment process to address identified risks from cryptosporidium and giardia, it is essential that filtration is optimised and consequently the target for the turbidity of water leaving individual filters should be less than 0.2 NTU and should not exceed 0.5 NTU at any time."

Regardless of whether cryptosporidium has been identified as a potential risk, a DWMS should include:

- Optimisation of existing water treatment processes to achieve the lowest possible turbidity

NHMRC information

[Visit the National Health and Medical Research Council website for more details.](#)

LGNSW Submission

[LGNSW's submission on the proposed health based target](#)

ADWG

[Australian drinking water guidelines](#) (Turbidity fact sheet is available on page 1001 of the ADWG).

Contact

NSW Health/DPI Water
Contact the NSW Health local Public Health Unit, or Bill Ho, Manager Water & Sewerage, DPI Water
02 9842 8495
0458 244 847
bill.ho@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

LGNSW

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

Ref: R16/0021 SM

- Standard operating procedures and critical control points to give practical guidance on operation of treatment processes (including the response to significant deterioration in raw water quality)
- An action list to address risks that have been identified; Examples may include actions carried out upstream of the treatment plant, such as catchment management practices and/or the on-line monitoring of raw water turbidity.

Learning

Item 20: 2017 Diary Dates for LGNSW Conferences, Forums and Network Meetings

Make a note of key LGNSW events, conferences and forums in 2017.

These events provide opportunities for local government professionals and elected representatives to network and develop their skills and knowledge.

ABC Unit Costing in Community Care

Monday, 6 February 2017 - Sydney

[More information.](#)

Learning and Development Network meetings

Tuesday 28 February 2017 – Sydney

Tuesday 6 June 2017 – Sydney

Tuesday 6 September 2017 – Sydney

Tuesday 12 December 2017 – Sydney

[More information.](#)

Human Resource Network meetings

Wednesday 1 March 2017 – Sydney

Wednesday 7 June 2017 – Sydney

Wednesday 6 September 2017 – Sydney

Wednesday 13 December 2017 – Sydney

[More information.](#)

LGNSW Tourism Conference

12-14 March 2017, Manning Entertainment Centre – Taree

[More information.](#)

Aged and Disability Forum

14 March 2017, Sydney Masonic Centre – Sydney

[More information.](#)

Workforce Planning in Community Care

Monday, 27 March 2017 – Sydney

[More information.](#)

Marketing in Community Care

Wednesday, 5 April 2017 – Sydney

[More information.](#)

Events Network Meeting

Friday 7 April 2017 – Penrith

[More information.](#)

Employment Law Seminar

Friday 28 April 2017, Swissotel – Sydney

[More information.](#)

Good Governance Forum

Thursday 11 and Friday 12 May 2017 – Sydney

(Check the [website](#) for updates)

Online information [Events and training](#)

Contact

LGNSW

02 9242 4000

lgnsw@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012

Executive and Personal Assistants' Conference

Friday 21 July 2017, Swissotel – Sydney
[More information.](#)

Local Government Week

31 July – 6 August 2017, Events across NSW
[More information.](#)

Local Government Week Awards Dinner

3 August 2017, Sydney
[More information](#)

LGNSW Water Management Conference

4-6 September 2017, Dubbo RSL Memorial Club, Dubbo
[More information.](#)

Finance Summit

Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 September 2017– Sydney
[More information.](#)

Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards

11 October 2017 – Sydney
[More information.](#)

National HR Conference

15-17 November 2017, Luna Park – Sydney
[More information.](#)

LGNSW Annual Conference

4-6 December 2017, Hyatt Regency – Sydney
[More information.](#)

Updated details will be available on the LGNSW website shortly.

Learning

Item 21: LGNSW Writing Courses

LGNSW offers a suite of short courses designed to improve skills in report and correspondence writing, minute taking, grant application writing and grammar.

Courses include:

Improving Your Report Writing

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.](#)

- Sydney – Wednesday 1 March 2017, Thursday 8 June 2017

Improving Your Minute-Taking Skills

Participants will develop an understanding of the importance of minutes for successful governance in informal and formal settings, gain essential minute-taking skills and learn tips to save time and effort. This workshop follows internationally accepted minute-taking processes. [More information.](#)

- Sydney – Wednesday 22 March 2017

Writing Winning Grant Funding Applications

Learn to write persuasive proposals, submissions and grant applications to maximise success. This workshop uses an interactive approach including group discussion, individual writing exercises and a small group proposal writing project. [More information.](#)

- Sydney – Thursday 30 March 2017

Improving Your Correspondence and Writing Skills

Focus on the basic principles of effective letter and email writing at this practical and interactive workshop. Using a variety of real council documents including business letters, saying 'no' letters, letters of complaint and emails as examples, learn the skills needed to achieve your purpose and promote your organisation. [More information.](#)

- Sydney – Wednesday 3 May 2017

Improving Your Grammar and Punctuation

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.](#)

- Sydney – Tuesday 27 June 2017

[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](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 22: Workforce Planning Workshop – February and March 2017

Learn about workforce planning, its purpose and benefits, steps involved and resources available to councils to prepare workforce plans.

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

Topics covered include:

- The local government context – *NSW Local Government Act 1993* requirements, the local government workforce profile and trends
- Purpose and benefits of workforce planning
- Key steps for developing a workforce plan
- Where are we now – using metrics and identifying trends
- The future – making sense of the data
- Identifying gaps, undertaking gap analysis and developing strategies and actions to address gaps
- Communicating with key stakeholders, and
- Finalising a workforce plan.

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

Dates and location

Tuesday 14 February 2017
Wednesday 15 March 2017
Sydney

Cost

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

Online information and registration

[Workforce planning](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 23: LGNSW Upcoming Courses: January and February

LGNSW is offering the following public workshops to local government professionals and elected members.

Handling Difficult People

- Sydney – Wednesday 25 January 2017
- Wagga Wagga – Wednesday 14 June 2017

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

Time Management

- Sydney – Wednesday 15 February 2017

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

Recruitment and Selection Skills

- Sydney – Friday 17 February 2017

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

People and Performance

- Sydney – 22 February 2017

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

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

- Sydney – Friday 24 February 2017
- Ballina – Monday 3 April 2017
- Narrabri – Monday 29 May 2017
- Wagga Wagga – Tuesday 13 June 2017

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

Springboard Women's Development Program (four-day program) and Mentors' Development Program (half-day program)

Springboard dates:

- Tuesday 28 February 2017
- Tuesday 14 March 2017
- Tuesday 4 April 2017
- Tuesday 2 May 2014

Mentors' program:

- Monday 27 February 2017 (half-day)

Women in non-management positions will develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to further advance their careers. [More information.](#)

LGNSW's [calendar of courses](#) is available online. Alternately, contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have workshops delivered for your council or in partnership with other councils in your region.

Online information

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

Registrations

[Learning solutions](#)
[registrations](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

In the News

Item 24: Local Government NSW Media

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