

## **Message from the President**

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

## **NSW Budget 2017/18 - LGNSW Updated Analysis**

LGNSW has made available an online analysis of the NSW 2017/18 Budget which includes key implications for local government.

## **LGNSW Cost Shifting Survey – Closes 30 June 2017**

Councils are reminded to complete the LGNSW biennial cost shifting survey (by 30 June) which provides important information for advocacy about the extent of cost shifting onto NSW local government.

## **Fixing Country Roads Round Three - Applications Now Open**

Applications are now open for the third round of the Fixing Country Roads program.

## **Green Globes Awards – Last Chance to Enter**

Entries close (next Tuesday, 27 June) for the government's Green Globe Awards - the leading environment awards, recognising environmental excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW.

## **LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch – Expert Speaker Panel**

LGNSW's next planning series event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 25 August.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW**

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LGNSW.ORG.AU/SUBSCRIBE

## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 23 June 2017



### NSW Budget

On Tuesday, LGNSW welcomed the NSW Government Budget 2017/18 and in particular, wins in two critical areas: increased investment in Western Sydney roads and the boost to regional water infrastructure.

Our Budget blog debut was well received by members on Budget day.

### National General Assembly of Local Government

LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate and I were in Canberra for a series of inter-related meetings this week: the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Board meeting on Saturday; the regional cooperation and development forum on Sunday; the Australian Local Government Women's Association breakfast on Monday; and the National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government 2017 from Monday to Wednesday. The NGA's theme of 'Building Tomorrow's Communities' was evident throughout and goes to the heart of the role of local government in modern Australia.

ALGA's State of the Regions: Pillars of Growth report was released during the conference. It highlights the vital role of infrastructure in helping regions in Australia to increase their productivity, create jobs and improve incomes.

### Significant Meetings

On Monday, Donna and I met with representatives of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation to talk about Joint Organisations. LGNSW has been pushing the Government for action on this for some time and will continue to do so. We strongly support JOs having the three key functions that have been on the table for some time - regional strategic planning, regional advocacy, and regional interface with government. We also support boundaries being those that work for councils and their communities, and JOs being available in the metropolitan area.

Between Wednesday and Friday, Donna continued her series of meetings with amalgamated councils heading to the September polls, this week with Queanbeyan-Palerang, Snowy Monaro Regional Council, Snowy Valleys Council and Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council.

Donna also had teleconference discussions with senior government officials about building cladding, a major issue given the London building fire tragedy. It is important that local government is part a constructive whole of government response, where all players do their bit including the agencies that are part of the Australian Building Codes Board, those that manage the certification scheme, etc.

### Upcoming Conferences

Registrations are now open for three key conferences in coming months – the LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September), the NSW Local Government Property Professionals Conference (12-13 October) and the National Human Resource Management Conference (15–17 November). Book early to secure your place.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

**President**

## Contents Page

### Awards

#### Item 1: Award Opportunities

View the latest Award opportunities for local government

### Conferences and Events

#### Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

View upcoming conference and events relevant to local government

### Grants and Funding

#### Item 3: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities

### General Interest

#### Item 4: NSW Budget 2017/18 - LGNSW Updated Analysis

LGNSW has made available an online analysis of the NSW 2017/18 Budget which includes key implications for local government.

#### Item 5: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch – Expert Speaker Panel

LGNSW's next planning series event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 25 August.

#### Item 6: LGNSW Finance Summit – Registrations Now Open

The 2017 LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September) will focus on investing in growth infrastructure. Registrations are open.

#### Item 7: LGNSW Good Governance Forum – Limited Places

Limited places remain for next week's Good Governance in Action Forum on the 'Who, What and How' of strengthening governance practices (28-29 June, Sydney).

#### Item 8: National Local Government HR Conference – Registrations Open

Registrations are open for the 2017 national local government HR conference themed 'Brave New World' (Sydney 15–17 November).

#### Item 9: NSW Local Government Property Professionals Conference

Registrations are now open for a conference for property professionals working within and alongside local government (Nowra, 12-13 October).

#### Item 10: Postgraduate Courses for Local Government Professionals

Enrolment applications close on 30 June 2017 for local government postgraduate courses at University of Technology Sydney.

#### Item 11: LGNSW Water Management Conference 2017 – Program Highlights

The program for the LGNSW's Water Management Conference (4-6 September, Dubbo) is now available online.

#### Item 12: StateCover and Local Government Super - Call for Nominations for Non-executive Director Positions

Expressions of interest are now being sought from eligible, suitably qualified councillors who wish to be considered for appointment to the Boards of LGSS or StateCover.

## Community

### **Item 13: Regional Arts Fund Applications for 2018 - Now Open**

The Australian Government invites applications to the Regional Arts Fund 2018, an initiative that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities.

### **Item 14: New \$100 Million Regional Cultural Fund**

The NSW Government has announced a new \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund for regional towns and cities to develop new and existing arts and culture projects over the next four years.

### **Item 15: Nominations Open for NSW Volunteer of the Year**

Councils are encouraged to submit nominations for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards 2017.

## Environment

### **Item 16: Office of Environment and Heritage - Customer Satisfaction Survey**

The Office of Environment and Heritage invites councils to complete a survey about how it is meeting needs and ways to improve service.

### **Item 17: Green Globes Awards – Last Chance to Enter**

Entries close (next Tuesday, 27 June) for the government's Green Globe Awards - the leading environment awards, recognising environmental excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW.

## Finance

### **Item 18: LGNSW Cost Shifting Survey – Closes 30 June 2017**

Councils are reminded to complete the LGNSW biennial cost shifting survey (by 30 June) which provides important information for advocacy about the extent of cost shifting onto NSW local government.

## Learning

### **Item 19: LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference**

Register now for LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference (11 August 2017).

## Roads and Transport

### **Item 20: Fixing Country Roads Round Three - Applications Now Open**

Applications are now open for the third round of the Fixing Country Roads program.

### **Item 21: Road User Charging Seminar**

Councils are invited to a seminar on the potential introduction of road user pricing and its implications (Sydney, 8 August 2017).

## In the News

### **Item 22: Local Government NSW Media**

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW

### **Item 23: ALGA Newsletter**

View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association.

## Awards

### Item 1: Award Opportunities

#### **Nominations Open for NSW Volunteer of the Year**

Councils are encouraged to submit nominations for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards 2017.

#### **Green Globes Awards – Last Chance to Enter**

Entries close (next Tuesday, 27 June) for the government's Green Globe Awards - the leading environment awards, recognising environmental excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW.

## Conferences and Events

### Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

#### **LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch – Expert Speaker Panel**

LGNSW's next planning series event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 25 August.

#### **LGNSW Finance Summit – Registrations Now Open**

The 2017 LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September) will focus on investing in growth infrastructure. Registrations are open.

#### **LGNSW Good Governance Forum – Limited Places**

Limited places remain for next week's Good Governance in Action Forum on the 'Who, What and How' of strengthening governance practices (28-29 June, Sydney).

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Registrations are open for the 2017 national local government HR conference themed 'Brave New World' (Sydney 15–17 November).

#### **NSW Local Government Property Professionals Conference**

Registrations are now open for a conference for property professionals working within and alongside local government (Nowra, 12-13 October).

#### **Postgraduate Courses for Local Government Professionals**

Enrolment applications close on 30 June 2017 for local government postgraduate courses at University of Technology Sydney.

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The program for the LGNSW's Water Management Conference (4-6 September, Dubbo) is now available online.

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#### **Road User Charging Seminar**

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## Grants and Funding

### Item 3: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

#### **Regional Arts Fund Applications for 2018 - Now Open**

The Australian Government invites applications to the Regional Arts Fund 2018, an initiative that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities.

#### **New \$100 Million Regional Cultural Fund**

The NSW Government has announced a new \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund for regional towns and cities to develop new and existing arts and culture projects over the next four years.

#### **Fixing Country Roads Round Three - Applications Now Open**

Applications are now open for the third round of the Fixing Country Roads program.

## General Interest

### Item 4: NSW Budget 2017/18 - LGNSW Updated Analysis

**LGNSW has made available an online analysis of the NSW 2017/18 Budget which includes key implications for local government.**

The [LGNSW analysis](#), the 'as-it-happened' blog and pre-Budget submission can be accessed at the [Budget webpage](#).

LGNSW has welcomed the Budget and claimed wins in two critical areas:

- Increased investment in Western Sydney roads
- Budget boost to regional water infrastructure.

Other existing programs affecting local government have been largely maintained.

LGNSW media releases issued on Budget day are also available by clicking on the following links:

- [Media Release: Local Govt Welcomes Increased Road, Water Funding](#)
- [Media Release: NSW Govt Moves to Soothe the Regions](#)

**LGNSW budget analysis**  
[NSW Government Budget](#)

**LGNSW contact**

Sascha Moege

LGNSW

02 9242 4045

[sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au)

**NSW Budget Papers 2017/18**

[www.budget.nsw.gov.au](http://www.budget.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R01/0012 SM



## General Interest

### Item 5: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch – Expert Speaker Panel

**LGNSW's next planning series event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 25 August.**

The special guest speakers will include:

- **Lieutenant General (Retd) Ken Gillespie AC DSC SCM** – Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- **Alison Frame** – Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy, NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- **Robyn Hobbs OAM** – NSW Small Business Commissioner, NSW Department of Industry

Lieutenant General Gillespie will outline his role in identifying and overcoming roadblocks in the rollout of the local infrastructure program and engagement with local councils and communities to support regional NSW economic and social development.

Alison Frame will speak about planning reforms and what they may mean for councils and Robyn Hobbs will discuss how to reduce red tape to promote business growth and development. The panel will discuss challenges and opportunities within regional planning, infrastructure and economic development. There will be time for questions and a light lunch (included).

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

The program is designed to be of interest to councillors and mayors, administrators, general managers, interim general managers and planning directors. Attendees will be eligible for continuing professional development points from the Planning Institute of Australia.

LGNSW thanks UrbanGrowth NSW, the Elite Sponsor of the LGNSW Planning Series.

RSVPs will be accepted until Friday 18 August 2017 unless sold out prior. To secure a place, [book online](#) now.

**Dates and location**

Friday 25 August 2017

11.45am – 2.30pm

Wagga Wagga City Council Chambers,  
corner Bayliss and Morrow Streets,  
Wagga Wagga, NSW

**Online information**

[LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch](#)

[Registration](#)

**RSVP**

By Friday 18 August 2017

**Cost**

\$66 for LGNSW members

\$110 for non-members

**Contact**

Karen Rolls

LGNSW

02 9242 4050

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

**Ref:** R16/ 0025 TA

## General Interest

### Item 6: LGNSW Finance Summit – Registrations Now Open

**The 2017 LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September) will focus on investing in growth infrastructure. Registrations are open.**

The forum will explore policy and practice in funding local infrastructure particularly in the context of the significant public assets councils manage and the limited means to generate revenue.

Highly-regarded Australian economist, Saul Eslake will deliver the keynote address on the macro-economic outlook of the environment in which local governments operate.

The one-and-half day forum will:

- Outline the economic context in which councils operate
- Highlight critical issues in funding and managing council assets
- Reveal opportunities for councils to access infrastructure funding
- Showcase strategic and innovative case studies of council practice in funding infrastructure needs.

Other invited speakers include representatives from the Commonwealth and NSW governments, Infrastructure Australia and NSW councils.

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

**Dates and Location**

11-12 September 2017

Barnet Long Room, Customs House  
Level 1, 31 Alfred St,  
Circular Quay, Sydney

**Further information and registrations**

[LGNSW Finance Summit](#)

**Cost**

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

**Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions  
(02) 9242 4181  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## General Interest

### Item 7: LGNSW Good Governance Forum – Limited Places

**Limited places remain for next week's Good Governance in Action Forum on the 'Who, What and How' of strengthening governance practices (28-29 June, Sydney).**

The forum will cover:

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

Speakers include:

- John McMillan AO, NSW Ombudsman
- Margaret Crawford, NSW Auditor-General
- Iain Walker, newDemocracy Foundation
- Isabella Wallington, FutureGov
- Susan Benedyka, The Regional Development Company
- Graham Sansom, University of Technology Sydney.

Elizabeth Farrelly, Sydney-based author, architecture critic, essayist and columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald, is the forum's dinner speaker. The program features prominent government, private sector and council leaders.

Designed for councillors, mayors, senior managers and key stakeholders, the forum will consider: the respective roles and responsibilities of both managers and elected members; key aspects of governance that may need to be reviewed; and how to achieve the best results.

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

**Dates and Location**

28-29 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](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## General Interest

### Item 8: National Local Government HR Conference – Registrations Open

Registrations are open for the 2017 national local government HR conference themed 'Brave New World' (Sydney 15–17 November).

Hosted by Local Government NSW, in partnership with state associations from around Australia, the conference provides an opportunity to hear dynamic and experienced speakers and meet like-minded interstate counterparts.

The conference will feature expert local government, academic, corporate and government speakers, interactive workshops and case studies to support the exchange of council best practices.

The program covers a wide range of topics relevant to the changing face of local government as well as current HR trends and themes including:

- Opportunity and innovation
- Future workforce
- Digital technologies
- Health and wellbeing
- Analytics and strategy.

Early bird registrations are available. See LGNSW's website for [more information and to register](#).

#### Dates and Location

15 – 17 November 2017  
Luna Park, Sydney

#### Further information and registrations

[National HR Conference](#)

#### Cost

Member early bird rate (by 6 Oct):  
\$1,070 (incl. GST)  
Member full registration (after 6 Oct):  
\$1,290 (incl. GST)

Non-member and Corporate early bird rate (by 6 Oct): \$2,180 (incl. GST)

Non-member and corporate full registration (after 6 Oct): \$2,580 (incl. GST)

#### Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions  
(02) 9242 4181  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

Ref: I98/0012 SA

## General Interest

### Item 9: NSW Local Government Property Professionals Conference

**Registrations are now open for a conference for property professionals working within and alongside local government (Nowra, 12-13 October).**

Shoalhaven City Council is managing and hosting the event and LGNSW is an industry partner.

The conference will feature presentations from industry experts and will cover topics such as:

- Road closures
- Compulsory acquisitions
- Easements
- Telecommunications
- NSW Aboriginal Land Claim and Native Title
- *New Crown Management Act*
- Professional development needs of local government property professionals.

The event also provides an excellent opportunity to share experiences and ideas with colleagues from councils across the state.

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

**Dates and Location**

12-13 October 2017  
Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre  
Bridge Road, Nowra

**Further information and registrations**

[NSW Property Professionals Conference](#)

**Cost**

Early bird (by 1 Aug) \$360 (incl. GST)  
Full registration: \$460 (incl. GST)

**Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions  
(02) 9242 4181  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## General Interest

### Item 10: Postgraduate Courses for Local Government Professionals

**Enrolment applications close on 30 June 2017 for local government postgraduate courses at University of Technology Sydney.**

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Institute for Public Policy and Governance (which incorporates the UTS Centre for Local Government) offers a range of accredited postgraduate courses tailored to the needs of the local government sector.

Courses include:

- Master of Applied Policy (including Local Government Studies stream) - NEW
- Master of Local Government
- Graduate Diploma in Local Government Management
- Graduate Certificate in Local Government Leadership
- Graduate Certificate in Development Assessment.

UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance Master students may also be eligible for \$5,000 scholarships. Applications close on 17 July 2017.

For further information on postgraduate courses or enrolment advice, visit the UTS:IPPG website, email [ippg@uts.edu.au](mailto:ippg@uts.edu.au) or phone (02) 9514 7884.

**Application closing date**

Friday 30 June 2017

**Online information**

UTS:IPPG website

**Contact**

UTS:IPPG

Email: [ippg@uts.edu.au](mailto:ippg@uts.edu.au)

Phone (02) 9514 7884

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## General Interest

### Item 11: LGNSW Water Management Conference 2017 – Program Highlights

**The program for the LGNSW's Water Management Conference (4-6 September, Dubbo) is now available online.**

This annual conference presents local government with information on water policy, water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council-owned and operated local water utilities.

This year's program covers:

- The future of water utilities – the next generation of urban water services, achieving liveability and harnessing the digital economy
- A continued discussion of institutional and regulatory arrangement for local water utilities in regional NSW
- Drinking water incidents, risk-based drinking water management systems and microbial health-based targets
- Smart metering and networks and solution for small to medium sized water utilities
- Infrastructure projects and their challenges
- Water security and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The conference attracts delegates from NSW and interstate councils including councillors and general managers, water managers, engineers, technical managers, policy makers from government agencies and key industry stakeholders. It is a must-attend event for local government staff involved in water management - providing the opportunity to hear from experts, liaise with peers and discover how other councils engage and manage this critical utility.

Register now to benefit from the early-bird discount (available until 14 July 2017). Registrations close COB Monday 21 August. [Download the registration brochure.](#) [Download the draft program.](#)

Dubbo Regional Council is hosting this year's conference. See travel and accommodation options on [LGNSW's website](#).

The conference is made possible by the support of sponsors: Department of Primary Industries, Water Directorate and Wastelink.

#### Dates and location

Monday 4 – Wednesday 6 September 2017

Dubbo RSL Memorial Club  
178 Brisbane Street, Dubbo

#### Online Information

[LGNSW Water Management Conference 2017](#)

#### [Registration](#)

#### Contact

Events Team  
02 9242 4000  
[events@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:events@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R16/0015 TA

## General Interest

### Item 12: StateCover and Local Government Super - Call for Nominations for Non-executive Director Positions

**Expressions of interest are now being sought from eligible, suitably qualified councillors who wish to be considered for appointment to the Boards of LGSS or StateCover.**

LGNSW nominates four directors to the Boards of LGSS Pty Ltd (LGSS) and StateCover. To be eligible for appointment as a LGNSW representative, applicants must be a councillor of a council that is a member of LGNSW. LGNSW representatives on the StateCover Board must also be a councillor of a Council member of StateCover. Appointments may be for terms of up to four years (LGSS) and three years (StateCover).

**Local Government Super (LGS)** is the default superannuation fund for employees of local government in NSW. It has approximately 90,000 members and manages over \$9.5 billion in assets. LGSS Pty Limited (LGSS) is the Trustee for LGS and is responsible for making strategically sound decisions within a competitive commercial environment on behalf of its members.

Successful candidates should demonstrate knowledge of, and experience in, superannuation or the broader investment/finance sectors, as well as skills and experience in business strategy, risk management, IT, governance and working in an APRA regulated environment. They should also demonstrate an understanding of trustee duties, and relevant legislation including the SIS Act and regulations, and the Corporations Act.

Applicants should understand and agree to accept the time commitment involved (approximately 50 days per year) and the ongoing professional development requirements.

**StateCover Mutual** is an APRA regulated specialised workers' compensation insurer of NSW local government organisations, insuring approximately 90% of eligible councils with a combined workforce of 30,000. StateCover is a not-for-profit organisation, providing Workers Compensation and Work Health and Safety services to its insured members.

Successful candidates must have Director experience, and should demonstrate knowledge of, and experience in long tail insurance or the broader insurance/finance sectors. Specialised skills and experience are also required in a number of the following areas: business strategy, risk management, finance, actuarial, investment, IT, governance, marketing and operating in an APRA-regulated environment. They should also demonstrate an understanding of relevant legislation including the Corporations Act.

Applicants should understand and agree to accept the time commitment involved (approximately 25 days per year) and the ongoing professional development requirements.

**Councillors wishing to be considered** for appointment as a LGNSW representative on the Board of LGSS or StateCover must satisfy the requirements of their "Fit and Proper Policies". Information packs containing further details about the positions and the selection criteria must be obtained by prospective applicants, and are available from [Bilyana Milenkovski](#) at LGNSW.

**Applications close Friday 14 July 2017.**

**Dates**  
Applications Close  
14 July 2017

**Contact**  
[bilyana.mitreviski@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:bilyana.mitreviski@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I97/0015



## Community

### Item 13: Regional Arts Fund Applications for 2018 - Now Open

The Australian Government invites applications to the **Regional Arts Fund 2018**, an initiative that supports sustainable cultural development in regional and remote communities.

Designed to benefit regional and remote arts practitioners, arts workers, audiences and communities, the program is managed by Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts NSW.

Eligible projects must be based or delivered in regional NSW and fall under the following two grants categories:

- New Initiatives
- Partnerships.

The arts or cultural focus of projects can include:

- visual arts
- circus
- dance
- film
- literature
- music
- theatre
- puppetry
- digital media
- cross-art-form works.

Projects are also eligible for multi-year funding for up to two years.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed projects with their local Regional Arts Development Organisation for support prior to submission. Those seeking more than \$20,000 in funding for new initiatives or partnerships must discuss their application with the Grants & Projects Manager at Regional Arts NSW by calling (02) 9270 2501 or emailing [funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au](mailto:funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au).

Funding for the 2018 round is available for projects commencing between 1 January and 31 December 2018.

**Dates**

Applications close on Thursday 10 August 2017, 5pm AEST

**Online information**

[Regional Arts NSW](#)

**Contact**

(02) 9270 2501

[arts.funding@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:arts.funding@arts.nsw.gov.au)

[funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au](mailto:funding@regionalartsnsw.com.au)

**Ref:** R13/0028 SW

## Community

### Item 14: New \$100 Million Regional Cultural Fund

**The NSW Government has announced a new \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund for regional towns and cities to develop new and existing arts and culture projects over the next four years.**

The Regional Cultural Fund will invest in new arts and cultural facilities and upgrade existing spaces including galleries, theatres, libraries, museums and halls. The fund can also be used to support projects that take exhibitions on tour and provide easy viewing access.

In addition, galleries and museums will also be able to apply for operational funding to support the delivery of services.

There are four categories of funding:

- Large scale regional cultural infrastructure projects over \$1 million
- Medium scale regional cultural infrastructure projects between \$60,000 and \$1 million
- Small scale regional cultural infrastructure projects under \$60,000
- Operational projects.

Expressions of interest for the fund open on 17 July 2017. Successful projects will be invited to provide additional information.

For more information or to request a copy of the program guidelines (when available), email [regional@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional@arts.nsw.gov.au).

**Dates**

Expressions of Interest  
open from 17 July 2017

**Online information**

[Create NSW](#)

**Contact**

[regional@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional@arts.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R13/0028 SW

## Community

### Item 15: Nominations Open for NSW Volunteer of the Year

#### Councils are encouraged to submit nominations for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards 2017.

The NSW Centre for Volunteering is calling for nominations for this year's awards under the seven categories:

- Young - 24 years and under
- Adult - 25 to 64 years
- Senior - 65 years +
- Volunteer Team
- Excellence in Volunteer Management
- Corporate Volunteer Individual
- Corporate Volunteer Team.

The winners of the young, adult and senior categories will be eligible for the award of Volunteer of the Year.

Nominations close Friday 14 July 2017.

**Dates**

Nominations close 14 July 2017

**Online information**

[Volunteering Awards](#)

**Online information**

[Volunteering](#)

**Ref:** R92/0106 CM

## Environment

### Item 16: Office of Environment and Heritage - Customer Satisfaction Survey

**The Office of Environment and Heritage invites councils to complete a survey about how it is meeting needs and ways to improve service.**

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is working towards greater customer centricity and is conducting this annual survey to understand about how it meets customers' needs and expectations.

The closing date for the customer satisfaction survey is Wednesday 5 July.

LGNSW encourages members to complete the survey, as it will inform and improve OEH's interaction with local government.

**Dates and location**

Survey closing date – 5 July 2017

**Contact**

Rohit Mandanna  
Program Manager  
Customer Centric Program  
02 9995 6002  
[rohit.mandanna@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rohit.mandanna@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R04/0043 SC

## Environment

### Item 17: Green Globes Awards – Last Chance to Enter

**Entries close (next Tuesday, 27 June) for the government's Green Globe Awards - the leading environment awards, recognising environmental excellence, leadership and innovation in NSW.**

There are 10 award categories which recognise and reward ideas and solutions that help our environment.

The awards also provide an opportunity to showcase green, game changing individuals, organisations and businesses.

Categories of particular interest for councils include:

- Public Sector Leadership
- Natural Environment
- Sustainability Champion
- Climate Change Leadership
- Resource Efficiency
- Built Environment

The Office of Environment and Heritage can provide assistance with applications. See [more information](#) online, email [greenglobes@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:greenglobes@environment.nsw.gov.au), or call 1300 361 967.

**Entries Close**

5pm Tuesday, 27 June 2017

**Online information**

[Green Globe Awards](#)

**Contact**

OEH - 1300 361 967

[greenglobes@environment.nsw.gov.a](mailto:greenglobes@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
u

**Ref:** R98/0021-03 DA

## Finance

### Item 18: LGNSW Cost Shifting Survey – Closes 30 June 2017

**Councils are reminded to complete the LGNSW biennial cost shifting survey (by 30 June) which provides important information for advocacy about the extent of cost shifting onto NSW local government.**

The survey results will provide data for a public report to support local government's argument for cost shifting to end. It will also assist monitor compliance with the national Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Intergovernmental Relations on Local Government Matters (2006).

LGNSW undertakes cost shifting surveys regularly as recommended by the Independent Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of NSW Local Government. In 2006 the Inquiry confirmed that both the NSW and Australian Government often transfer responsibilities onto local government without funding them.

Previous surveys undertaken by LGNSW show that cost shifting onto NSW local government amounts to around 6-7 per cent of councils' total income before capital amounts and has increased significantly from \$380 million in 2005/06 to \$670 million in 2013/14.

This survey asks councils to estimate the cost associated with more than 20 identified cost shifting examples with the option to add further examples.

Completed the survey now (by Friday 30 June 2017).

**Due date**

Friday 30 June 2017

**Online information**

[Cost Shifting Survey](#)

**Further Information**

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**Ref:** R06/0023 SM

## Learning

### Item 19: LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference

#### Register now for LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference (11 August 2017).

Themed 'Building the Best', the conference will provide an ideal environment for personal and executive assistants from across local government to learn from colleagues and guest speakers.

The conference features keynote addresses, panel discussions and workshops. Topics include:

- The power of the word
- The future of the personal and executive assistant
- 'Tips from the Top' – mayoral and general manager perspectives
- Developing technology skills and getting up to speed on the latest in apps
- Building a framework for health and performance
- The art of networking
- Creating your impression for success.

The welcome dinner will feature guest speaker, comedian and performer Julia Zemiro, host of Rockwiz, Eurovision Song Contest and Home Delivery.

Senior staff should encourage personal and executive assistants, other administrative and support staff to attend this important professional development and networking event.

#### **Date and location**

Friday 11 August 2017  
Swissotel  
68 Market Street, Sydney

#### **Online Information and registration**

[Conference information](#)  
[Registration](#)

#### **Cost**

LGNSW Members: \$770 incl GST  
Conference and welcome dinner on  
Thursday 10 August  
Non- members: \$1,540 GST incl,  
Conference and welcome dinner on  
Thursday 10 August

#### **Accommodation**

Swissotel  
02 9238 8855  
quote "Local Government NSW  
Conference"

#### **Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions  
02 9242 4181  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Roads and Transport

### Item 20: Fixing Country Roads Round Three - Applications Now Open

#### Applications are now open for the third round of the Fixing Country Roads program.

The NSW Government's Fixing Country Roads program provides targeted funding to councils to repair and upgrade regional roads in NSW with an emphasis on projects which improve the efficiency of freight transport networks.

Applications for the program's third funding round are open until Friday 1 September 2017.

This round of funding will have three streams:

- Roads and bridges construction
- Bridge and route load assessments
- Truck washes.

Councils are advised to refer to the program guidelines for information on eligibility, assessment and the application process (refer to link in the information box).

To be considered for funding, all applications must be submitted via the online [Freight Funding Portal](#) and mandatory documents uploaded online at the end of application form.

LGNSW welcomes the NSW Government's commitment to local government through the Fixing Country Roads program, and in particular the \$100 million commitment to round three announced in this week's state budget. This represents significant support for councils especially those seeking to specifically improve freight access and connectivity on local roads in NSW. It also acknowledges the many years of advocacy undertaken by LGNSW and councils.

#### Information

[Fixing Country Roads Round Three Program Guidelines](#)

#### Further information

Email: [freight@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:freight@transport.nsw.gov.au)

Ref: Ref: R90/0985 RC



## Roads and Transport

### Item 21: Road User Charging Seminar

#### **Councils are invited to a seminar on the potential introduction of road user pricing and its implications (Sydney, 8 August 2017).**

The forum, hosted by the [Institute for Sensible Transport](#), will focus on the potential introduction of a network-based, road user charge and the implications for local government.

The seminar will address key areas of concern for the three levels of government, such as:

- How might a distance and time based price on car use influence transport choice?
- Could a per km fee be calibrated to reduce rat running on local streets?
- Should local governments receive a proportion of the revenue generated?
- How should future revenue be invested - back into roads, or better public transport and safer streets for walking and cycling?
- Will a future of shared transport reduce local government car parking revenue, and what strategies can help mitigate this budget threat?
- How might low income, outer suburban households deal with a road user price, and what mechanisms can be embedded to make it fair?
- What is the political acceptability of road user pricing and how might it be enhanced?

[Registration and information.](#)

#### **Dates and Location**

Tuesday 8th August 2017  
9:00am – 4:30pm

Customs House, Circular Quay,  
Sydney

#### **Online information**

[Registration and further information](#)

Ref: R90/0724 RC

## **In the News**

### **Item 22: Local Government NSW Media**

**View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW**

### **Item 23: ALGA Newsletter**

**View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association.**