

Message from the President

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

NSW Government's Land Negotiation Program – EOI Process

This week the NSW Government launched an expressions of interest process for the Land Negotiation Program, a new initiative designed to assess the most appropriate ownership and management of Crown land.

Parliamentary Inquiry - Land Release and Housing Supply

Submissions are invited to a parliamentary inquiry into land release and housing supply in NSW.

LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

LGNSW's next planning event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

LGNSW Local Government Awards

This year's Local Government Week Awards evening will be held on Thursday 3 August at Doltone House, Pyrmont.

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Message from the President

Friday 7 July 2017

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM



Board working committees

This week we hosted our regular board working committee meetings on: local government reform and the conference, sector capacity building, LGNSW policies, and the Local Government Act.

Consistent with a resolution from the last conference, the policy working group is developing overarching policy statements on key advocacy issues. This week it worked on: Aboriginal Constitutional recognition, arts and culture, multicultural communities, services in rural communities, local government constitutional recognition, building certification and regulation, planning and local decision making, sustainability, and biodiversity. These statements, and others, will be published on our website once finalised and will inform our advocacy work in these areas.

The local government reform and conference working group reviewed and discussed a draft program for the annual conference in December. The Local Government Act working group is meeting this afternoon to discuss possible future changes to the Act.

The capacity building working group discussed the LGNSW capability framework, specifically recent sector consultation, draft capabilities, tools and resources, and project implementation. We are on track to launch the framework later this year. In the meantime, [see our website](#) for more information on this very important project. A reference group, comprising elected representatives, staff from member councils, LGNSW board members and project staff, also met earlier in the week.

Land Negotiation Program

LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate and senior staff attended a launch by the Minister for Lands and Forestry of the Land Negotiation Program expressions of interest process. Local Aboriginal Land Councils and councils are being invited to take part in the next round of negotiations on Crown land in NSW. [Read more.](#)

Executive Certificate for Elected Members

Today Donna welcomed participants undertaking the [Executive Certificate for Elected Members](#) being held over five days in Sydney, in partnership with the University of Technology Sydney. This accredited course can provide a pathway for elected members to further their local government studies at a postgraduate level as well as an opportunity to build skills and knowledge needed for the role. The course will be run again in November.

Other significant meetings

Earlier in the week Donna travelled to meet with Armidale Regional Council in the last in a series of visits to amalgamated councils preparing for September elections. Senior staff met with Create NSW to discuss opportunities for councils to access the Regional Cultural Fund announced in the State Budget. We understand the fund will be launched soon. Watch this space.

NAIDOC Week

Many councils are celebrating [NAIDOC week](#) with special events and promotions via social media. This year's theme, Our Languages Matter, provided an opportunity to celebrate the role of indigenous languages and raise awareness of culture, identity and history. It was terrific to see so many members getting involved.

On a separate but related topic, LGNSW and the Office of Local Government have joined forces in a campaign to encourage Aboriginal people to stand for local government elections in September.

Local Government Week

Another important week - Local Government Week (31 July – 6 August) - is fast approaching. This annual week sees councils across NSW host a range of events and activities to promote the breadth, value and diversity of council services. Visit our website for [resources](#) and [ideas for activities](#). Also don't leave it until the last minute to [book your tickets](#) for the local government awards evening on Thursday 3 August as they often sell out.

Until next week.

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LGNSW's next planning event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

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A conference for local government property professionals is attracting strong interest from councils across NSW.

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

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Register before Friday 14 July to secure an early bird discount for the LGNSW Water Management Conference (4 – 6 September).

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The Live Music Office NSW is inviting regional councils to apply for funding to stage Live and Local micro-music festivals.

Item 11: Keeping It Real Arts Symposium 2017

Regional cultural, gallery, museum and library professionals and volunteers are invited to register for the Keeping It Real Symposium (Albury, 31 July-1 August).

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Councils from the Central NSW region are invited to attend a forum on best practice asbestos management.

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The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is seeking comment on proposed legislative amendments in relation to staged development.

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Submissions are invited to a parliamentary inquiry into land release and housing supply in NSW.

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Transport for NSW is seeking applications for the second round of NSW Boating Now funding.

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LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference (11 August 2017) provides a valuable opportunity for staff to network with peers and build skills and knowledge.

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LGNSW has scheduled a range of courses in Sydney and regional NSW over coming weeks.

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Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming Conferences and Events

LGNSW Local Government Awards

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LGNSW Water Management Conference 2017 – Early Bird deadline

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Keeping It Real Arts Symposium 2017

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Forum - Best Practice Asbestos Management for Councils

Councils from the Central NSW region are invited to attend a forum on best practice asbestos management.

LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference

LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference (11 August 2017) provides a valuable opportunity for staff to network with peers and build skills and knowledge.

Grants and Funding

Item 2: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

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NSW Boating Now Program – Applications Now Open

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General Interest

Item 3: NSW Government's Land Negotiation Program – EOI Process

This week the NSW Government launched an expressions of interest process for the Land Negotiation Program, a new initiative designed to assess the most appropriate ownership and management of Crown land.

The Minister for Lands and Forestry has written to councils and Local Aboriginal land councils (LALCs) inviting them to participate in the (voluntary) program)

The program aims to provide community representatives with the opportunity to strategically assess Crown land in local government areas and, through negotiation, have ownership transferred to them. It has been piloted in four local government areas and is now being extended to cover the rest of NSW.

The program aims to deliver:

- local ownership of Crown land to benefit local communities
- reduced red tape and a reduced regulatory burden on local government
- more efficient and streamlined land management
- recognition of the importance of land to Aboriginal people and to support sustainable spiritual, cultural, environmental and economic benefits for Aboriginal people.

Voluntary negotiations will be held between the NSW Government, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, LALCs and councils, to consider Crown land in specific areas (e.g. local government areas or LALCs) and explore which parties are best placed to own that land.

The expressions of interest process is open for six weeks from Friday, 7 July 2017 and closes at 5 pm on Friday 18 August 2017.

For more information see the NSW Department of Industry, Lands and Forestry [Land Negotiation Program webpage](#).

Dates

Expressions of interest close 18 August 2017

Online information

NSW Department of Industry, Lands and Forestry [Land Negotiation Program webpage](#).

Contact

land.negotiation@industry.nsw.gov.au
Ph: 1300 886 235

Ref: R95/0025 SMcB

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Local Government Awards

This year's Local Government Week Awards evening will be held on Thursday 3 August at Doltone House, Pyrmont.

Don't miss this significant event in the local government calendar.

The following LGNSW awards will be presented:

- The LGNSW RH Dougherty Awards
- The LGNSW Leo Kelly OAM Arts and Culture Award
- The NSW Disability Inclusion Award.

Other awards to be presented include:

- The Heart Foundation Local Government Awards, and
- The Youth Week Local Government Awards.

Tickets are available (\$143 each or \$1330 for a table of 10). Registrations close Monday 24 July 2017, if not sold out prior.

Finalists are not announced prior to the night and all entries are showcased at the event. LGNSW encourages members to attend the evening to celebrate the excellent work of peers and colleagues.

For more information about accommodation, dress code, and transport, visit [LGNSW's website](#). Invitations have been sent to all members (mayors, administrators, councillors, general managers, interim general managers).

LGNSW thanks Elite Sponsor, GDR Group, for its support.

Location

Thursday 3 August 2017
6.30pm – 10.00pm
Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf,
South Pier, Pyrmont, Sydney

Online information

[Local Government Week Awards Evening](#)

[Registration](#)

Contact

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

Ref: R16/ 0027 TA

General Interest

Item 5: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

LGNSW's next planning event will be held in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

This event will address regional planning, infrastructure and economic development. It is part of LGNSW's series on key planning initiatives relevant to local government.

Topics will include:

- **Delivering key infrastructure to support growth, economic and social development in regional NSW**, presented by Lieutenant General (Retd) Ken Gillespie AC DSC CSM, NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordinator
- **Planning reforms and what the changes will mean for councils**, presented by Alison Frame, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy, NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- **Regional economic development – helping to reduce red tape**, presented by Robyn Hobbs OAM, NSW *Small Business* Commissioner, NSW Department of Industry

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.

This event will 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.

RSVPs will be accepted until Monday 21 August 2017 unless sold out prior. To secure a place, [book online](#) now.

LGNSW thanks Wagga Wagga City Council for hosting the event, and UrbanGrowth NSW, the elite sponsor of the LGNSW Planning Series.

Dates and location

Monday 28 August 2017
11.00am – 2.00pm
Wagga Wagga City Council Chambers,
corner Bayliss and Morrow Streets,
Wagga Wagga, NSW

Online information

[LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch](#)

[Registration](#)

RSVP

By Monday 21 August 2017

Cost

\$66 for LGNSW members
\$110 for non-members

Contact

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

Ref: R16/ 0025 TA

General Interest

Item 6: NSW Local Government Property Professionals Conference

A conference for local government property professionals is attracting strong interest from councils across NSW.

Shoalhaven City Council is managing and hosting the event in Nowra on 12-13 October 2017. LGNSW is an industry partner.

The conference will feature presentations from government, legal and industry experts, covering 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 provides an excellent opportunity to share experiences and ideas with colleagues from councils across the state. It has also been approved by the Australian Property Institute (API) for 7.5 CPD points.

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 7: Facilitated In-house Service Reviews

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

Facilitated in-house service reviews provide affordable support, guidance and independent oversight and involve a co-operative effort between organisational staff and LGNSW's skilled facilitator.

Guidance and support is given in:

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

Contact LGNSW Management Solutions for more information about reviews or other consulting needs.

Online information

Facilitated in-house service review

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 MA

General Interest

Item 8: LGNSW Water Management Conference 2017 – Early Bird deadline

Register before Friday 14 July to secure an early bird discount for the LGNSW Water Management Conference (4 – 6 September).

This annual event is specifically designed for water utility managers and professionals from council local water utilities with an interest in urban water supply and sewerage services as well as broader water management issues.

This year's program covers key industry issues including the current status and effectiveness of 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.

Registrations close on 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

4 – 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

Ref: R16/0015 TA

Community

Item 10: Live and Local Micro-music Festivals – EOIs

The Live Music Office NSW is inviting regional councils to apply for funding to stage Live and Local micro-music festivals.

Grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 are available to cover fees for musicians, curators and technicians.

Councils, businesses and musicians across regional NSW are being encouraged to work together as part of an initiative that will see local musicians showcased across free family-friendly *Live and Local* micro-music festivals throughout 2017/18.

Six local government areas will be supported under the initiative. In line with the NSW Government's [Create in NSW](#) 10-year policy framework, priority will be given to applications that support under-represented groups including:

- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- young people
- people with disability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The deadline for applications is 5pm Monday 14 August 2017.

Dates

Expressions of interest close 5pm
Monday 14 August 2017.

Online information

[Live Music Office NSW Website](#)

Contact

Lucy Joseph,
Live and Local Program Manager
lucy@livemusicoffice.com.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 11: Keeping It Real Arts Symposium 2017

Regional cultural, gallery, museum and library professionals and volunteers are invited to register for the Keeping It Real Symposium (Albury, 31 July-1 August).

Albury City Council hosts this annual event, usually attended by more than 100 delegates.

The event provides opportunities for like-minded professionals to find inspiration from some of the newest practices across a diverse range of creative platforms, and cultivate new ideas, new connections and new networks.

Program highlights include:

- Keynote speaker Nicole Durling, Curator of MONA
- Arts events wizard Gotaro Uematsu from the Biennale of Sydney
- Senior Policy Officer Sally Watterson from Local Government NSW
- Rachael Vincent from Broken Hill Living Museum
- Shaun Hossack from street art agency Juddy Roller, leader of The Silo Project
- Symposium dinner at Canvas Eatery, MAMA.

There will also be presentations from library professionals on engaging with diverse communities. Research presentations will help delegates articulate the value of cultural services in the local government sector.

Registration prices are:

Early Bird - until June 30

\$120 per day (cultural paid staff), \$90 per day (volunteer / student)

Full Price - after June 30

\$140 per day (cultural paid staff), \$110 per day (volunteer / student)

Symposium Dinner

\$65 (cultural paid staff), \$50 (volunteer / speaker / student)

To see the full program and register go to the [MAMA website](#).

Dates and location

31 July - 1 August 2017
Albury Library Museum and
Murray Art Museum Albury

Online information

[Mamalbury website](#)

Contact

Narelle Vogel
Cultural Development Coordinator
(02) 6023 8753
narellevogel@alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Environment

Item 12: Forum - Best Practice Asbestos Management for Councils

Councils from the Central NSW region are invited to attend a forum on best practice asbestos management.

Join representatives from the Environment Protection Authority, SafeWork, the Office of Emergency Management, the Office of Local Government and LGNSW to discuss:

- Council case studies on asbestos management
- Emergency management
- Land contamination, waste management and illegal dumping
- Management of asbestos risks within council workplaces
- The Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils
- The NSW Ombudsman's Report 2017 into how government agencies deal with the asbestos problem
- Workshop - Forbes Shire Council Implementation of the Model Policy

This forum will be of interest to officers and staff concerned with:

- Asset management
- Emergency management
- Health, building and regulation
- Planning and development
- Properties and facilities management
- Waste management
- Work health and safety

The forum will offer participants the opportunity to explore the role that councils play in the safe management and regulation of asbestos within their local government areas.

Date & Location

Monday 31 July 2017, 9am - 2:30pm
Forbes Shire Council

Registration

[LGNSW Events](#)

Contact

Daniel Adler
Project Manager – Asbestos Policy
LGNSW
(02) 9242 4128
daniel.adler@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R11/0034 DA

Planning

Item 13: Planning Amendments Proposed - Staged Development

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is seeking comment on proposed legislative amendments in relation to staged development.

This follows a recent Court of Appeal decision which has implications for the way concept proposals are lodged.

The Court ruled that the development consent for the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct was invalid on the grounds that it was not a 'staged development application' and proposed only one subsequent detailed development application (DA), instead of multiple detailed DAs. The Court's interpretation of the *Environment Protection Authority Act* highlighted the need for a clearer definition of a 'staged development application'.

The NSW Government therefore proposes to amend the legislation so it is explicit that staged development applications can include only a concept approval and a single subsequent detailed application. Construction impacts will be fully assessed before any work can start.

Submissions are invited. Background information and details of the proposed amendment can be found on the [NSW Department of Planning and Environment website](#).

Due Date

24 July 2017

Online information

[Department of Planning and Environment webpage](#)

Contact

Jane Partridge
Senior Policy Officer, LGNSW
jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R04/0029 JP

Planning

Item 14: Parliamentary Inquiry - Land Release and Housing Supply

Submissions are invited to a parliamentary inquiry into land release and housing supply in NSW.

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment & Planning inquiry is examining how land, housing and infrastructure are delivered across the state, and changes that could be made to better integrate delivery and improve performance.

The inquiry will focus on:

- a) The resources and support needed within the Department of Planning and Environment for:
 - i. The delivery of a housing supply process
 - ii. The coordination and funding of enabling infrastructure
- b) Delivery mechanisms following the rezoning of land through to construction
- c) The complementary roles of state authorities, local councils and utilities
- d) The different characteristics of Greater Sydney and non-metropolitan NSW
- e) Other related matters.

The committee is seeking written submissions by 1 August 2017.

LGNSW will be making a submission. Please provide any feedback and comments to Jane Partridge, Senior Policy Officer, Planning, LGNSW.

Closing date for submissions
1 August 2017

Online Information

[NSW Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Planning](#)

LGNSW contact

Jane Partridge, Senior Policy Officer, Planning, LGNSW

P: 02 9242 4093

E: jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R05/0071 JP

Roads and Transport

Item 15: NSW Boating Now Program – Applications Now Open

Transport for NSW is seeking applications for the second round of NSW Boating Now funding.

Under the five-year program, \$14 million is being made annually to support the delivery of new and improved boating facilities through partnerships with local councils and other organisations.

This second funding round is for regional priority projects and boat trailer storage projects. Applications close on 20 August 2017.

The Government had initially allocated funding of \$10 million for this round of funding round but has increased this to \$17 million, as a result of savings during the program's first three years.

Transport for NSW is seeking applications from local government, other authorities, community groups and boating stakeholders.

Past projects have included new and upgraded boat ramps, boat trailer parking facilities, pontoons, jetties and sewage pump outs.

Applicants should ensure that they are familiar with the relevant NSW Boating Now Round 2 Guidelines which provide further details, including assessment criteria and application details.

Dates

Applications close 20 August 2017

Online information

[NSW Boating Now guidelines](#)

[Application form](#)

Further information

Refer to the [NSW Boating Now Frequently Asked Questions](#) or contact Transport for NSW at: maritime@transport.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0419 RC

Learning

Item 16: LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference

LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference (11 August 2017) provides a valuable opportunity for staff to network with peers and build skills and knowledge.

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.

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 incl GST, 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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 17: Upcoming courses – July and August

LGNSW has scheduled a range of courses in Sydney and regional NSW over coming weeks.

Visit the [LGNSW website](#) for a full list of courses that can be delivered in-house.

Award History and Interpretation

Moree – Tuesday 11 July 2017

Understand the application and interpretation of the Local Government (State) Award 2017 and the factors that have influenced the development of the series of State Awards. [More information.](#)

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

Ballina – Friday 21 July; Sydney – Friday 28 July; Queanbeyan – Monday 9 October

Gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in the local government context. [More information.](#)

Time Management

Sydney – Wednesday 26 July 2017

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

GIPA Act Advanced Training

Sydney – Tuesday 1 August 2017

This advanced course is for those who have completed the introductory module or have some Freedom of Information or GIPA Act experience. [More information](#)

Springboard Women's Development Program (4 day program)

Sydney – Thursday 31 August 2017 (Day 1), Thursday 21 September 2017 (Day 2), Thursday 12 October 2017 (Day 3), Thursday 2 November 2017 (Day 4);

Mentor's Development Program – Wednesday 30 August 2017 (half-day) [More information](#)

The LGNSW Springboard program assists women in non-management positions to develop skills and knowledge in order to reach greater career goals.

Local Training

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

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Cost for one-day courses

LGNSW members \$660 incl. GST

Non-members: \$1320 incl. GST

Registrations

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4081

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

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.