

Message from the President

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

LGNSW Finance Summit

LGNSW's 2017 Finance Summit on 11-12 September will focus on investing in local infrastructure. Register before 10 August for an early-bird special.

Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Training Scholarships

Applications are now open for Aboriginal employees in NSW councils to apply for scholarship funding to attend asbestos-related training and conferences.

New Fire Safety Regulations come into effect October 2017

New fire safety regulations for new and existing buildings come into force in October.

Options Paper on Short Term Accommodation

The NSW Government has released an options paper on short term accommodation.

Post-Election Programs for Councils

LGNSW offers two post-election programs that can be tailored to the needs of individual councils.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 28 July 2017



Amalgamations: In a surprise to no-one, we enthusiastically welcomed the announcement yesterday from Premier Berejiklian and Minister Upton that the Government would abandon the forced amalgamation of 14 metropolitan councils. It's been a long, hard struggle and, as we approach local government week (next week), it is fantastic that we can celebrate this decision as a win for local democracy. See our media release.

I commend the people in those 14 councils that have had to deal with uncertainty for a very long time, and the people working hard for their communities in the 20 amalgamated councils.

Now's the time for us to come together as a united sector. We must drive reform that addresses the very real financial sustainability issues we face, and we must continue to grow our capability to deliver for the people and places we serve. We remain keen to work in partnership with the Government and yesterday's announcement gives us a solid foundation to move forward.

Planning panels: We understand the Government is still considering the mandatory imposition of local planning panels on metropolitan councils and on many regional councils. I have written to the Planning Minister expressing LGNSW's firm opposition. Individual councils should be left to decide whether they consider it appropriate to use panels or not. The State Government has failed to make a case for them. I question the validity of arguments about improving housing affordability particularly in light of recent statistics - and public statements by the Minister himself - about record housing approvals. The forced introduction of local planning panels will not only create additional bureaucracy, but also extra cost for councils and applicants.

Murray-Darling Basin Plan: On Wednesday the NSW Government announced an independent investigation into issues raised by the ABC's 4 Corners program about the Murray Darling Basin. We recognise the need for, and support the implementation of sustainable management that protects the environmental health and productive base of river systems.

Building cladding: LGNSW secured a briefing for relevant councils this week from the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation on the progress of the NSW Government's Taskforce on External Cladding, and today Minister Kean announced a ten point plan – see media release here. Many councils are already well underway in identifying buildings of potential concern. LGNSW has been working very hard to ensure there is transparency, that all authorities do their bit, and in particular that our demands for action around the private certification system are heard. We will continue to do so.

New Housing Supply Association: On Wednesday our Chief Executive Donna Rygate and I attended a launch by the Planning Minister of a new Housing Supply Association (HSA), an organisation representing developers, builders and professional service providers. It's stated aim is to 'assist Government to address the housing supply crisis through constructive dialogue and input into policy formulation'. As the representative body of the sphere of government closest to communities, we look forward to future, regular dialogue with the HSA.

Coastal management: Coastal councils will be pleased to hear that we've had a recent advocacy win regarding funding for coastal management. Previously only councils with certified coastal management plans were eligible. Now some low risk coastal management actions are also eligible, without the need for certified plans to be in place.

Other significant meetings: On Monday Donna and senior staff attended a regular catchup with the Office of Local Government and on Tuesday, the Keep NSW Beautiful litter conference where Minister Upton gave an address and several LGNSW members presented innovative litter management case studies. On Wednesday senior staff attended a briefing at Ausgrid to discuss how it proposes to improve tree trimming practices. On

Thursday, Donna attended the Committee for Economic Development of Australia's State of the State address by the Premier where she outlined economic and social development plans.

Reminders: Book before 10 August to take advantage of the LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September) earlybird special. We hold this summit annually to discuss financial issues affecting the sector, this year focusing on the challenges of infrastructure funding. We've got some crackerjack speakers lined up including Lieutenant-General Ken Gillespie NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordinator and Chief Commissioner Greater Sydney Commission Lucy Turnbull.

In closing, it is Local Government Week next week (31 July -6 August). It's not too late to get involved. See our website for ideas and don't forget to use #LGWeek2017 to tweet about your council and its activities.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

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Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

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Capable Councils – LGNSW Services and Programs for Councillors

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Post-Election Programs for Councils

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General Interest

Item 3: LGNSW Finance Summit

LGNSW's 2017 Finance Summit on 11-12 September will focus on investing in local infrastructure. Register before 10 August for an early-bird special.

Good infrastructure is essential to a community's economic, social and cultural development. Guest speakers Lucy Turnbull from the Greater Sydney Commission and Regional Infrastructure Coordinator Lieutenant-General Ken Gillespie, will discuss infrastructure policy and good practice from a range of councils.

The forum will:

- discuss the economic context in which councils are operating
- 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 speakers include:

- Saul Eslake – Economist
- Paula Svarcas – Assistant Secretary, Cities Division, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Kiersten Fishburn – General Manager, Liverpool City Council (Western Sydney City Deal)
- Michael Comninos – Director, Astrolabe Group

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

Dates and Location

Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 September 2017

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

Further information and registrations [LGNSW Finance Summit](#)

Cost

Early bird 20% discount will be applied to registrations received by 10 August 2017
LGNSW members: \$990 incl GST
Non-members: \$1,980 incl GST

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 4: Registrations Open - NSW Councils' Night Time Economy Forum

Council staff are invited to register for the first-ever NSW Councils' Night Time Economy forum.

The forum, in Parramatta on 12 October, will bring together local government professionals to share approaches to shaping vibrant, safe and sustainable night time economies.

Council staff will present the following themes:

- place making and urban design
- strategy, policy and research
- planning and regulation
- culture and creativity
- services, infrastructure and safety.

There will also be panel discussions and a policy practitioners' workshop.

The forum is organised by the local government night time economy working group which includes LGNSW and the councils of Wollongong City, City of Sydney, City of Newcastle, City of Parramatta and Waverley Council.

Please register [online](#) for this event. For further information, including a copy of the program, please visit the [Night Time Economies page](#) on the LGNSW website.

Date and Location

Thursday 12 October 2017

Parkroyal Hotel, 30 Phillip St,
Parramatta NSW

Cost

\$20

Registrations

[NSW Councils' Night Time Economy Forum](#)

Contact

Elizabeth Robertson
Policy Officer
LGNSW

elizabeth.robertson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R17/0010 ER

General Interest

Item 5: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

The Deputy Secretary of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment Alison Frame, will be the guest speaker at LGNSW's next planning event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

Alison Frame is one of three speakers at the forum which is part of LGNSW's series on planning initiatives for local government. The event will be hosted by Wagga Wagga City Council.

She will provide an overview of planning reforms and what they mean for councils.

Robyn Hobbs, OAM will share insights on how to improve regional development by helping reduce red tape.

Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, will talk about how infrastructure supports growth, economic and social development in regional NSW.

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

This event will be of interest to councillors and mayors, administrators, general managers and planning directors. Participants 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.

RSVP by Monday 21 August. To secure a place, [book online](#) now.

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 LGNSW members
\$110 non-members
Includes lunch

Contact

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

General Interest

Item 6: LGNSW Water Management Conference

Secure your place at the LGNSW Water Management Conference (4-6 September).

This LGNSW Water Management Conference is an annual event, coordinated by local government for local government.

This year's conference will focus on the latest water policy initiatives and trends, provide updates on emerging technology, solutions to technical issues and case studies on urban water supply and sewerage services and cover broader sustainable water management issues.

The event will be of interest to councillors, general managers, water managers, engineers, technical managers and policy makers.

The exhibition next to the conference will provide delegates with insights into:

- water and waste water technologies and equipment
- meter reading technology and devices
- innovative water solutions
- policy, planning, infrastructure and regulation priorities
- water industry bodies
- engineering services
- irrigation systems
- monitoring technology
- water industry consultancies

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

Registrations close COB Monday 21 August. [Download the registration brochure](#) and the [draft program](#).

The conference is made possible by the support of sponsors, the 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, LGNSW
02 9242 4000
events@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0015 TA

Community

Item 7: Nominations for National Disability Awards

The Department of Social Services is calling for nominations for the 2017 National Disability Awards.

These awards are part of the United Nations International Day of People with Disability celebrations, marked each year on 3 December.

They recognise individuals, teams and organisations who have improved the lives of Australians with disability.

The National Disability Awards Ceremony will be held on the International Day of People with Disability (3 December).

Please help promote the awards by spreading the word through your networks and local media. Promotional resources are available here [2017 National Disability Awards Stakeholder kit](#).

Dates

Nominations close Sun 6 August 2017

Online information

[2017 National Disability Awards](#)

Contact

ipdwd@dss.gov.au or visit

[International Day of People with Disabilities Website](#)

Ref: R05/0055 CM

Community

Item 8: Report on Proposed Changes to Prevent Legionnaires Diseases in NSW

There are implications for councils in the public consultation report on proposed changes to the regulation of water-cooling systems.

NSW Health has released their public consultation report on the [Proposed Changes to the Regulation of Water-Cooling Systems to Prevent Legionnaires' Disease in NSW](#).

NSW Health received 53 submissions to the discussion paper including 22 from local government.

The report provides a summary of the submissions and recommends a way forward.

The proposed changes have implications for council operations and facilities and councils are strongly encouraged to review these and respond.

LGNSW welcomes any feedback as well as copies of responses from councils to incorporate into our representations.

Online information

[NSW Health Report](#)

[LGNSW Submission](#)

Contact

NSW Health

ENHWU@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Local Government NSW

Liz Gemes, Senior Policy Officer

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liz.gemes@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R91/0217-02 LG

Community

Item 9: Local Community Services Association Conference

Council community services staff and those who work in targeted earlier intervention services are invited to attend this year's Local Community Services Association conference.

The conference, on 18-20 September, will focus on inclusion and diversity as a way to build connection and resilience.

The conference aims to increase the capacity of services to meet the expectations of the targeted earlier intervention reform. This includes negotiating transition plans that are more:

- inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples
- client and community focused,
- outcome and evidence driven and part of a fully integrated service system.

The program and registration form for the three day conference are available [online](#).

Dates and location

Monday 18 – Wednesday 20
September 2017

Australian Technology Park, Redfern

Online information

[Connecting Communities Conference](#)

Contact

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Development
Local Community Services
Association

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Email: lyn@lcsansw.org.au

Ref: R90/0071 ER

Environment

Item 10: Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Training Scholarships

Applications are now open for Aboriginal employees in NSW councils to apply for scholarship funding to attend asbestos-related training and conferences.

The Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Training Scholarship 2017 is offered by LGNSW and the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities with the support of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA).

There are between three and ten scholarships of up to \$1500. They can be used for courses or conference attendance fees, travel, accommodation and meals. There are also two scholarships available to attend the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Summit 2017 on 26-28 November in Canberra. ASEA will provide full conference registration and LGNSW will pay up to \$1500 towards travel, accommodation and meals.

[Read about past scholarship recipients online.](#)

The scholarships aim to increase the knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal council employees in managing asbestos and assist Aboriginal communities to respond to asbestos issues. For more details and assistance with completing the application form please contact Daniel Adler.

Key Dates

Nominations Close:

8 September 2017 (Midnight)

Online information

[Asbestos Training](#)

Application Form:

[Scholarship Application](#)

Contact Details:

Daniel Adler
Project Manager, Asbestos Policy
LGNSW

Phone: (02) 9242 4128

Email: Daniel.adler@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R11/0034: DA

Planning

Item 11: New Fire Safety Regulations come into effect October 2017

New fire safety regulations for new and existing buildings come into force in October.

The Environmental Planning Assessment Amendment (Fire Safety and Building Certification) Regulation 2017 will come into effect on 1 October 2017.

The reforms are the government's first step towards addressing building regulation issues in NSW and follow a comprehensive review of the building and certification system in 2015 (the Lambert Report).

The new regulations follow a public consultation process in January this year. LGNSW and a number of councils made a submission.

The regulations introduce the concept of "competent fire safety practitioners" who will be used in specific circumstances, changed administrative requirements for non-standard fire safety designs and new critical stage inspections targeting certain building types. The changes also give new inspection powers to Fire and Rescue NSW for multi-unit residential buildings.

An important part of these changes is the introduction of accreditation for competent fire safety practitioners. The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation is developing guidelines for an industry accreditation scheme. In addition, the Department of Planning and Environment is developing interim advice for certifiers and building owners. This advice will help certifiers and building owners determine the competency of the fire safety practitioner to endorse fire safety designs or undertake assessment work until practitioners are accredited.

These changes are the first of a series of steps proposed by the NSW Government to respond to the recommendations of the Lambert Report, some of which have been expedited as a result of the recent fire at the Grenfell Tower in London. [Further information](#).

Online Information

[DP&E web site Fire Safety Reforms](#)

[LGNSW submission on fire safety](#)

Ref: R04/0080 JP

Planning

Item 12: Options Paper on Short Term Accommodation

The NSW Government has released an options paper on short term accommodation.

Options paper for short-term holiday letting in NSW is the Government's response to a report by the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning, released in April 2017.

LGNSW made a written submission and appeared before the committee, as did several councils. Our submission recommended the government provide clearer rules which can be enforced by councils through their Local Environment Plans.

The options paper explores approaches to implement a whole of government framework, addressing land use and planning concerns, strata managed buildings and the amenity of existing residents.

LGNSW has welcomed the release of the paper as it provides for rational discussion and balanced solutions to the problems associated with the growth of short-term letting. LGNSW will consult members and other stakeholders before making its submission. Submissions are due by 31 October 2017.

LGNSW seeks council input in the development of the proposed options paper. Please provide comments or copies of council submissions to jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au.

Read the options paper [here](#) and [our submission](#).

Online Information

[Department of Planning and Environment Options Paper](#)

[Adequacy of the Regulation of Short-Term Holiday Letting in NSW - Parliamentary Report](#)

[LGNSW submission to Parliamentary Inquiry](#)

LGNSW contact

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

Ref: R04/0078 JP

Learning

Item 13: Capable Councils – LGNSW Services and Programs for Councillors

LGNSW offers a diverse range of services and programs for new and long-serving councillors.

Programs can be tailored to the needs of individual councils and conducted locally. They include workshops, seminars and coaching options.

Induction

- Elected Life – a one-day program covering the roles, responsibilities, skills and knowledge required of elected members
- Working Together to Deliver – a two-day workshop to establish and strengthen working relationships between councillors and senior executives
- Mayors Weekend – a two-day program for mayors, addressing current issues and challenges, skills and knowledge required of mayors and developing effective relationships with stakeholders
- Executive Certificate for Elected Members – a five-day program run in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney
- PD-in-a-Box – a self-assessment tool for councillors to help identify areas for capability development (using the LGNSW Local Government Capability Framework).

Basic Skills workshops

LGNSW also offers other one-day courses for elected members, including:

- Model Code of Conduct for Councillors
- Chairing and Effective Meeting Procedures
- Know your Planning
- Financial Issues for Local Government
- Social Media for Councillors
- Speed Reading
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

Tailored Services

- Mentoring for Councillors and Mayors
- In-house Service Reviews
- Organisational Structure Reviews
- Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) review and revision program.

Cost

Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions for a quote on running these programs in your local government area

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 14: Post-Election Programs for Councils

LGNSW offers two post-election programs that can be tailored to the needs of individual councils.

Elected Life

This one-day workshop covers the skills and knowledge required of an elected member. It addresses their role and responsibilities, including community consultation, attendance at council meetings, relationships with the general manager and staff, ethical responsibilities and balancing home, work and council life.

Working Together to Deliver

This new two-day workshop will strengthen understanding and collaboration between elected members and executive staff to ensure community goals are achieved over the term of the council.

While the purpose, content and structure of the workshop will vary according to the specific issues and needs of the council, the program can be used to:

- build better understanding between councillors and staff
- more fully explore the vision for the council over the next four years
- explore perceptions of the council – what they are now and what the leadership group would like them to be
- develop the expectations and responsibilities of councillors and staff
- understand leadership and communication styles and preferences (for the purpose of becoming more aware and effective as a leadership group)
- develop joint agreements on how to work together.

Working Together to Deliver is an ideal program to bring together a new council's elected representatives and senior executives for the first time, or it can be used to improve working relationships in councils mid-way through their term.

Cost

Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions for a quote on running these programs in your local government area

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 15: Upcoming Courses –August 2017

LGNSW courses are scheduled in Sydney and regional NSW over coming weeks.

Award History and Interpretation

Sydney – Tuesday 15 August 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.](#)

Workplace Behaviour – Drawing the Line (for HR staff)

Sydney – Wednesday 16 August 2017

Examine the different standards, expectations and assumptions about appropriate workplace behavior in this three hour workshop for HR staff. [More information.](#)

People and Performance

Sydney – Thursday 17 August 2017

Learn the art of communicating with different personality types to improve staff performance and motivation. [More information.](#)

Handling Difficult People

Armidale – Thursday 24 August 2017 and Sydney – Friday 25 August 2017

Help staff to manage difficult situations in a safe way with minimal stress. [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)

This program assists women in non-management positions to develop the skills and knowledge to reach greater career goals. [More information.](#)

Improving your Minute Taking Skills

Sydney – Tuesday 29 August 2017

Learn the essential skills of good minute taking, including formats for formal and informal meetings and tips and tricks for more effective minutes. [More information.](#)

Time Management

Sydney – Thursday 31 August 2017

Become more productive through strategies to improve goal setting and time management. [More information.](#)

Local Training

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

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Cost for one day courses

LGNSW Members \$660 incl. GST
Non-members: \$1320 incl. GST

Springboard Program

LGNSW Members \$1320 inc GST;
Non-members \$2640 inc GST

Registrations

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

In the News

Item 16: Local Government NSW Media

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

Item 17: ALGA Newsletter

[View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association.](#)