

Message from the President

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

Submit Motions for LGNSW Annual Conference

Members are encouraged to submit motions by Monday 9 October for this years' LGNSW Annual Conference (Sydney, 4-6 December).

Subscription Offer for Workforce Analytics reports

Councils can save by paying upfront for LGNSW's three workforce analytics reports when paying membership renewal fees.

New LGNSW Planning Awards

Submissions for the LGNSW Planning Awards close in three weeks' time (25 August).

LGNSW Finance Summit – register before August 10 for an early bird discount

It's all about infrastructure at this year's LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September, Sydney).

Finalists Announced for Excellence in the Environment Awards

The LGNSW Excellence in the Environment awards recognise outstanding achievements by local government for managing and protecting the environment.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 4 August 2017



Local Government Week: Local Government Week once again provided a great opportunity for councils to showcase the wonderful work they do and to recognise real excellence. Councils held special events, competitions and other community engagement activities and promoted their services and special news via social media. Last night we hosted the Local Government Week Awards, celebrating exceptional work by councils from right across the State. Among the awards presented were those for excellence in communication, disability inclusion and arts. Congratulations to all the winners. See our [media releases](#). Also see the conversation on Twitter [#lgweek2017](#).

Environment and Planning Awards: On the topic of recognition, in 2017 we are celebrating the 20th year of the Excellence in the Environment Awards. Local government continues to demonstrate genuine commitment to the environment, undertaking terrific local projects that benefit local communities and contribute to global efforts. I am pleased to announce the 32 environment award finalists (see our [website](#)). Please join us to celebrate and share best practice at the Finalists' Forum and Awards ceremony on 11 October 2017. [Read more](#).

Also, don't forget to get your entries in for the inaugural LGNSW Planning Awards. Planning is a big part of what councils do, and prizes are available for winning individuals and councils. Entries close on 25 August. [Read more](#).

Cross border issues: A number of our councils adjoining the Victorian border have previously suggested to us that establishing a Cross Border Commission in Victoria, similar to that already existing in NSW, would assist councils in both states to identify and resolve common issues. We got on to our Victorian counterpart, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) about this, and MAV came back to us this week with some good news. They share our view and are working with their government on the development of a business case in coming months.

Regional conferences: The conferencing industry is worth \$145 million to regional NSW every year. Tourism Minister Adam Marshall reached out to LGNSW to ask us to make sure members knew that the NSW Government has launched a new a regional conferencing strategy and action plan today to drive more business events and visitors to regional NSW. The \$6 million strategy will see a regional conferencing unit in Destination NSW to work closely with industry and destination networks. It also includes a [new website Meet in Regional NSW](#), a conferencing toolkit and grants. [Read more](#).

Annual conference: The LGNSW Annual Conference (4-6 December) is four months away. Important information is on the way to mayors and general managers about registering to attend, and registering delegates to vote for motions and in the Board election. Member councils can now also propose motions to be debated at conference (see our [Annual Conference webpage](#) for guidance).

Board meeting: Today the LGNSW board met with a packed agenda. We have endorsed numerous submissions on issues like biodiversity regulation and reforms, NSW travelling stock reserves, noise control, pesticide regulation, energy from waste technology and one to Liquor and Gaming NSW on the Local Impact Assessment Review. We also discussed the local government capability framework, market research, the emeritus mayor award and draft advocacy position statements.

Other significant meetings: On Thursday board member Cr Denise Osborne and I attended a meeting of the Bushfire Coordinating Committee, and on Friday our Chief Executive Donna Rygate and senior staff hosted another meeting with representatives of key NSW departments to continue to tackle ongoing issues associated with cladding, certification and building safety.

Happy (what's left of) local government week!

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: Submit Motions for LGNSW Annual Conference

Members are encouraged to submit motions by Monday 9 October for this years' LGNSW Annual Conference (Sydney, 4-6 December).

Item 5: Subscription Offer for Workforce Analytics reports

Councils can save by paying upfront for LGNSW's three workforce analytics reports when paying membership renewal fees.

Item 6: New LGNSW Planning Awards

Submissions for the LGNSW Planning Awards close in three weeks' time (25 August).

The awards are sponsored by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Item 7: LGNSW Finance Summit – register before August 10 for an early bird discount

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Community

Item 8: Before and After School Care Funding

Funding of up to \$30,000 is available from the NSW government to establish new out of school hours care services or expand existing ones.

Item 9: Capital Works Funding for Preschools

Funding is available under the Start Strong Capital Works Grants program to increase the number of pre-school places.

Item 10: Child Protection Measures and Child-Safe eLearning

Regulatory changes providing greater protection for children are now in force in NSW and a range of child safe eLearning packages has been launched.

Item 11: 2017 NSW Grandparents Day Photo Competition

Help promote the Grandparents Day photo competition and celebrate Grandparents Day 2017.

Item 12: NSW Seniors Festival Grants

Councils can apply for funding for events and activities during Seniors Week Festival (4-15 April 2018).

Item 13: Seeking Proposals to Tackle Youth Unemployment

The NSW Office of Social Impact Investment is seeking proposals which address youth unemployment.

Item 14: Strong and Resilient Communities Grants Open

Councils can apply for federal government social cohesion grants for projects that build community resilience and promote inclusiveness.

Environment

Item 15: Finalists Announced for Excellence in the Environment Awards

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Item 16: Living Waterways Workshops

Register now to attend one of four regional Living Waterways Workshops organized by Splash Network, WaterNSW and the Central West Environment and Waterways Alliance.

Learning

Item 17: New Short Courses for Staff

LGNSW has introduced two new courses for council staff in response to requests from members.

Item 18: Upcoming Courses –August 2017

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

Planning

Item 19: NSW Government Increases Thresholds on Section 94 Contributions

The current cap on Section 94 charges for local infrastructure has increased.

Item 20: Closing Date Extended for Submissions to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry

The closing date for submissions to the parliamentary inquiry into land release and housing supply has been extended until 5 September.

Roads and Transport

Item 21: Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme

Applications are invited for the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme funded by Transport for NSW.

Item 22: Councils Can Now Close Their Own Roads

Councils will be given the power to close council roads without needing approval from the Minister for Lands and Forestry.

In the News

Item 23: Local Government NSW Media

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW

Item 24: ALGA Newsletter

Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

[View the latest award opportunities for local government](#)

New LGNSW Planning Awards

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Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

[View the latest grant and funding opportunities](#)

Before and After School Care Funding

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Councils can apply for federal government social cohesion grants for projects that build community resilience and promote inclusiveness.

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Applications are invited for the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme funded by Transport for NSW.

General Interest

Item 4: Submit Motions for LGNSW Annual Conference

Members are encouraged to submit motions by Monday 9 October for this years' LGNSW Annual Conference (Sydney, 4-6 December).

All members are encouraged to submit motions for debate at Conference.

Proposed motions should meet the board-endorsed criteria ([available online](#)), be strategic, affect members statewide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions.

When drafting motions please consider the resolutions and outcomes of last year's conference by viewing the [2016 Action Report](#).

Furthermore, LGNSW has recently revised the policy framework consisting of Policy Principles and Position Statements. These can be viewed on the [Policy Principles web page](#). Members should consider how proposed motions adhere to the policy principles or provide strong justification for a proposed motion which seeks to change LGNSW policy.

Please [submit motions online](#) by Monday, 9 October 2017 to allow for printing and distribution of the Business Paper before Conference. In line with LGNSW rules, the latest date motions can be accepted for inclusion in the Conference Business Paper is 12am on Monday 6 November 2017.

Registrations to attend the conference will open in late August.

Dates and location

LGNSW Annual Conference
4 – 6 December 2017
Hyatt Regency

Online information

[Submit motions to conference](#) by 9 October 2017

Contact

Motion enquiries:
Elizabeth Robertson
Policy Officer, LGNSW
02 9242 4028

Ref: R15/0015 ER

General Interest

Item 5: Subscription Offer for Workforce Analytics reports

Councils can save by paying upfront for LGNSW's three workforce analytics reports when paying membership renewal fees.

This special offer is open until Friday 1 September 2017 to all member councils, even if membership fees have been recently paid. For \$2970 (rather than \$3575) Council will receive the LGNSW HR Benchmarking Report, the General Manager Remuneration Report and the LGNSW LG Remuneration Report.

HR Benchmarking Report

LGNSW's annual HR Benchmarking Survey collects data on a range of HR metrics, from demographics to absenteeism and workplace health and safety. With a high participation rate amongst NSW councils, this customised report provides valuable comparative data that helps councils to:

- Understand their workforce trends
- Compare their workforce data with other councils
- Manage people and employee costs
- Inform workforce planning to achieve better outcomes.

LGNSW General Manager Remuneration Report

This report provides comparative data on the cost of employing a general manager and is a valuable source of information for recruiting or reviewing a general manager's salary package.

LGNSW LG Remuneration Report

This remuneration report provides comparative data for general managers, directors, managers, supervisors and specialists across NSW using LGNSW and OLG council classifications. The data is useful for budget planning and remuneration reviews and supports recruitment activities and decision making on HR-related issues.

For more information about LGNSW's workforce analytics reports and the benefits of this offer contact us on 02 9242 4142 or email lgms@lgnsw.org.au.

Online information

[HR Metrics](#)

[LGNSW LG Remuneration Survey and Reports](#)

Contact

Debra Law
Divisional Coordinator
02 9242 4142
debra.law@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I09/0016 MA

General Interest

Item 6: New LGNSW Planning Awards

Submissions for the LGNSW Planning Awards close in three weeks' time (25 August).

These awards are being presented for the first time in 2017 to recognise both individuals and councils who have demonstrated excellence in planning and development. The awards focus on leadership and culture change, innovation and excellence. They recognise actions to promote co-operation, participation and the delivery of positive and practical outcomes in planning and development services.

Individual winners will receive a voucher for up to \$500 each and winning councils will receive vouchers for up to \$1500 for planning-related training and education at an institution of the winner's choice.

There is no entry fee for the awards but applications from LGNSW-member councils must be received by COB Friday 25 August.

Winners will be announced at the LGNSW Planning Breakfast on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at Parliament House.

The awards are sponsored by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

For more information about each category and the submission criteria, see the LGNSW [planning awards page](#).

Dates

Applications close 25 August 2017

Online information

[LGNSW Planning Award 2017](#)

Award Presentation

LGNSW Planning Breakfast on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at Parliament House

Contact

Events
02 9242 4000
events@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/0027 TA

General Interest

Item 7: LGNSW Finance Summit – register before August 10 for an early bird discount

It's all about infrastructure at this year's LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September, Sydney).

This is your chance to find out how to get more infrastructure funding and meet the people who make local infrastructure policy.

Hear about the state government's infrastructure investment strategy and what it means for local councils. Find out how other councils fund infrastructure. Discuss the socially responsible management of investment funds and explore the challenges in funding and managing council assets.

Highly-regarded economist Saul Eslake will deliver a keynote address on the big-picture economic outlook in which local government operates.

He will be joined by leading speakers from government and the private sector including:

- Lieutenant-General Ken Gillespie, NSW Regional Infrastructure Co-ordinator
- Greg Woodhams from the Greater Sydney Commission on delivering infrastructure to support growth
- Paula Svarcas from the Cities Division of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Ian Goodwin – Deputy Auditor General of the Audit Office of NSW
- The Clean Energy Finance Corporation on the opportunities under its Local Government Finance Program
- TCorp (NSW Treasury Corporation)

The forum will also feature innovative council infrastructure funding case studies.

This summit will be of value to councillors, general managers and finance managers, corporate service managers, asset managers and economic development and planning professionals.

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
Non-members: \$1980

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Community

Item 8: Before and After School Care Funding

Funding of up to \$30,000 is available from the NSW government to establish new out of school hours care services or expand existing ones.

Schools, councils and not-for-profit providers who wish to apply should demonstrate an unmet demand for out of school hours care places in the local community.

The government hopes to deliver up to 45,000 additional places. [More information.](#)

Online information

[Before and After School Care Fund](#)

Contact

Elsa Lat

Early Childhood Education
Directorate

Telephone: 02 9244 5057

Email: elsa.lat@det.nsw.edu.au

Ref: R91/0075 ER

Community

Item 9: Capital Works Funding for Preschools

Funding is available under the Start Strong Capital Works Grants program to increase the number of pre-school places.

Round three of this government grant program is open to fund the construction of new pre-schools and to expand existing services.

Applications should aim to increase the number of places for children in the year before school to 600 hours. They should also aim to increase places in outer regional, remote and Aboriginal communities.

The grants program is open to not-for-profit community pre-schools and mobile pre-schools where there is a demonstrated shortage of places.

Apply online by Friday 18 August.

Dates

Applications close Friday 18 August

Online information

[Capital Works Grants](#)

Contact

Early Childhood Education
Directorate

Phone: 1300 755 426

Email: capital.works@det.nsw.edu.au

Ref: R91/0075 ER

Community

Item 10: Child Protection Measures and Child-Safe eLearning

Regulatory changes providing greater protection for children are now in force in NSW and a range of child safe eLearning packages has been launched.

Child protection measures – Working with Children Check

An amendment to the Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013, expands the meaning of 'direct contact' to include electronic and online communication. It applies to workers providing counselling, mentoring or distance education to children.

This means these workers will now require a Working With Children check.

Child Safe training

Child Safe training has been highlighted by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as being important in keeping children in institutions safe from abuse and neglect.

The Office of the Children's Guardian has launched a range of Child Safe eLearning packages.

Topics include:

- Policies and procedures
- Organisational culture
- Risk management
- Reporting allegations
- Recruitment processes
- The Working With Children Check.

Online information

[Child protection measures](#)

[Child safe e-learning](#)

Contact

Office of the Children's Guardian

02 8219 3600

Email:

kids@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0080 ER

Community

Item 11: 2017 NSW Grandparents Day Photo Competition

Help promote the Grandparents Day photo competition and celebrate Grandparents Day 2017.

NSW Grandparents Day will be held on Sunday 29 October and the Department of Family and Community Services has launched a photography competition to celebrate, with the chance to win one of two prizes of up to \$1500.

Photographs must include images of an older person. See terms and conditions on the FACS website.

There are two categories – 18 years and over and one for primary and high school students.

Dates

Applications opened 19 July 2017
and close 1 September 2017

Online information

For more information visit the NSW Grandparents Day website

Contact

grandparentsday@facs.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0126 CM

Community

Item 12: NSW Seniors Festival Grants

Councils can apply for funding for events and activities during Seniors Week Festival (4-15 April 2018).

The Department of Family and Community Services is offering \$200,000 in funding for the annual Seniors Week Festival in three categories.

- **Category 1**
Up to \$1000 for small-scale local community events and activities.
- **Category 2**
\$1001–\$5000 for larger local community events and activities.
- **Category 3**
\$5001–\$10,000 for large scale community and/or regional events and activities.

Councils can apply for all categories. Category three is available exclusively to local government. Grants in categories two and three must be matched by at least 50 percent of the applicant's own resources.

See the [Grants Program objectives](#) and the [2018 Grants Program guidelines](#) before submitting an application.

Next year's NSW Seniors Festival will be held from 4-15 April 2018 with the theme Inclusive Communities.

Dates and location

Applications close Friday 8 September 2017 at 11.59pm.

Online information

[NSW Seniors Festival – Grants Program](#)

Contact

[Department of community and Family Services](#)

Ref: R90/0123 ER

Community

Item 13: Seeking Proposals to Tackle Youth Unemployment

The NSW Office of Social Impact Investment is seeking proposals which address youth unemployment.

This office encourages investment in social services and infrastructure with a view to achieving social change. Funding is based on achieving agreed social outcomes and comes from public, private and not-for-profit sources.

The NSW government has committed \$10 million for social impact investment for projects targeting high-needs young people in areas of widespread unemployment.

It is seeking innovative partnerships to address youth unemployment. Investment proposals should demonstrate:

- robust methods to measure outcomes
- measurable benefits to the NSW Government in terms of savings, avoided costs and/or productivity gains
- a service likely to achieve social outcomes
- a balance of sharing risks and returns between investors, service providers and government

For more information about social impact investment please visit the [Office of Social Impact Investment](#).

Dates and location

Request for Proposals closes 9am on Monday 18 September 2017

Online information

[Request for Proposals – Social Impact Investment](#)

Contact

Murtaza Unwala

02 9228 3513

socialimpactinvestment@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0129 ER

Community

Item 14: Strong and Resilient Communities Grants Open

Councils can apply for federal government social cohesion grants for projects that build community resilience and promote inclusiveness.

The Strong and Resilient Communities grants are available in two categories:

- **Community Resilience Grants** which aim to build strong, secure, harmonious and cohesive communities. Grants will be provided to address issues in communities which are at risk of low social cohesion, and/or racial, religious or cultural intolerance.
- **Inclusive Communities Grants** which aim to increase the social and economic participation of vulnerable and disadvantaged people and families and enhance their life-time wellbeing and sense of community belonging.

Councils and other community organisations can apply up until 2pm Wednesday 23 August for projects between 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2021.

Dates

Applications close 2pm Wednesday
23 August 2017

Online information

[Community Grants Hub: Grants page](#)

[Australian Government – Grant Connect](#)

Contact

Community Grants Hub

P: 1800 020 283

E: support@communitygrants.gov.au

Ref: R90/0071 ER

Environment

Item 15: Finalists Announced for Excellence in the Environment Awards

The LGNSW Excellence in the Environment awards recognise outstanding achievements by local government for managing and protecting the environment.

Local government continues to demonstrate innovation in environmental management and sustainability. This year the awards attracted over 66 entries from many councils across NSW. For a list of finalists see LGNSW's [awards webpage](#).

The awards will be presented at UTS Aerial Function Centre, Ultimo on Wednesday 11 October. MC Adam Spencer will present the awards over lunch, which will follow a Finalists' Forum. The forum showcases finalists' projects and will also celebrate 20 years of local government leadership in environment. Join us after lunch for networking drinks.

Full day tickets are available for LGNSW members at \$120 per person or \$66 for the Finalists' Forum only. Non-member rates are available and sponsors and finalists receive two complimentary tickets to both the Finalists' Forum and the awards presentation lunch.

LGNSW appreciates the continued support from the award's sponsors including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Environment Protection Authority, SafeWork NSW, NSW Ministry of Health, the Water Directorate, and the Department of Primary Industries.

Dates and location

Wednesday 11 October 2017
UTS Aerial Function Centre
Ultimo

Finalists and event information

Contact

Denise Anderson
9242 4056
denise.anderson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R98/0021 DA

Environment

Item 16: Living Waterways Workshops

Register now to attend one of four regional Living Waterways Workshops organized by Splash Network, WaterNSW and the Central West Environment and Waterways Alliance.

The workshop introduces participants to the Living Waterways Framework. The framework encourages councils to move from traditional stormwater engineering solutions to more integrated alternatives through sensitive water design.

Held in Wollongong, Orange, Parramatta and Newcastle, the workshops will provide the skills to:

- identify ways to meet community and environmental outcomes through good design
- communicate and engage with stakeholders
- identify best practice options and understand technical specifications
- promote collaborative thinking
- critique a water-related project using the Living Waterways Framework
- work through grant criteria to develop projects which take advantage of upcoming grant programs.

To participate in the workshop, councils need to:

- register a multi-disciplinary team of five to eight people
- nominate a water-related project to apply the Living Waterways Framework and work through grant criteria
- nominate a team leader.

For more information [go online](#) or contact kristy.good@blacktown.nsw.gov.au

Dates and location

21 August: Wollongong
23 August: Orange
25 August: Parramatta
5 September: Newcastle

Online information

[Living Waterways Workshops](#)

Fees

\$2,000 + GST (min 5 and max 8 participants)

Contact

Kristy Good
kristy.good@blacktown.nsw.gov.au
0459 366 938

Ref: R14/0016 DA

Learning

Item 17: New Short Courses for Staff

LGNSW has introduced two new courses for council staff in response to requests from members.

Training Needs Analysis

Monday 4 September 2017

Designed for learning and development professionals or managers who identify the development needs of staff, this one- day workshop provides the skills and tools to conduct a needs analysis.

Topics include:

- Training Needs Analysis – approaches and tools
- identifying indicators for a TNA
- defining goals or purpose of the learning solution
- identifying an alternative solution to the perceived need
- analysing training needs
- templates and processes for assessing requirements.

A follow-up webinar will also be conducted three months after the workshop to discuss applied learning and to address further questions.

Cyber Security and Awareness

Thursday 14 September and Thursday 30 November 2017

This one day course will give employees a greater understanding of the current issues surrounding cyber security and how to reduce risks.

Topics include:

- secure email usage – why email is a threat, what we can do to play our part, business email compromise and email spoofing
- password security – how to create strong passwords and why, password managers and how to use them, multi-factor authentication
- phishing – what it is and why it is a problem, how to detect and avoid phishing
- social engineering – how it works, techniques to foil social engineers, what to do if you suspect you've been compromised
- mobile devices in the workplace – risks and steps to take to minimise risk, VPNs
- social media – benefits and risks, separating work from play online
- personal data and protecting privacy – protecting your customers' personal information.

The training consists of a series of sessions including a combination of talk, demonstration and practical tasks.

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have courses delivered locally for your organisation or in partnership with other organisations in your region.

Location

Sydney

Online Registration

[Training Needs Analysis](#)

[Cyber Safety and Awareness](#)

Cost

Members: \$660 incl. GST

Non-members: \$1,320 incl. GST

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 18: 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 which have influenced the development of the series of State Awards. [More information.](#)

Workplace Behaviour – Drawing the Line

Sydney, Wednesday 16 August 2017

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

People and Performance

Sydney, Thursday 17 August 2017

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

Social Media for Councils

Sydney, Tuesday 22 August 2017

Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to better communicate and connect with your community on social media. [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 (four 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 for 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 by improving goal setting and time management. [More information.](#)

Local Training

Visit the [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

Planning

Item 19: NSW Government Increases Thresholds on Section 94 Contributions

The current cap on Section 94 charges for local infrastructure has increased.

A ministerial direction – the [Environmental Planning and Assessment \(Local Infrastructure Contributions\) Direction 2017](#) - issued to councils amends the existing 2012 Ministerial Direction. It puts in place new, higher thresholds for contribution rates.

[DP&E website - Infrastructure Funding](#)

Ref: R90/0538-08 JP

The changes are part of the Government's Housing Affordability Strategy announced in June. The package includes \$369 million for the Local Infrastructure Growth Scheme (LIGS) over the next three years. LIGS funds the gap between what eligible councils can charge developers in infrastructure levies (under capped contributions) and what it actually costs councils to build infrastructure. The scheme will be gradually phased out as the cap on developer contributions increases.

The caps will be lifted by \$5000 progressively over the next three years as follows:

- \$35,000 in greenfield areas and \$25,000 in infill areas on 1 January 2018
- \$40,000 in greenfield areas and \$30,000 in infill areas on 1 July 2018
- \$45,000 in greenfield areas and \$35,000 in infill areas on 1 July 2019 and
- lifted entirely on 1 July 2020.

In other areas a threshold will be established consistent with the existing caps at \$30,000 in greenfield areas and \$20,000 in infill areas. Where a contributions plan exceeding the threshold is proposed, the council can have the plan assessed by IPART. Once the assessment is finalised, council has adopted a final plan, and the Minister for Planning (or the Minister's delegate) has advised the council of the outcome, a council will be able to charge the full contribution amount as a condition of development consent.

The [Ministerial Direction](#), a [Planning Circular](#), [frequently asked questions](#) and further information about the changes to LIGS are all available on the [Department of Environment and Planning](#) website

Planning

Item 20: Closing Date Extended for Submissions to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry

The closing date for submissions to the parliamentary inquiry into land release and housing supply has been extended until 5 September.

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning announced an inquiry into land release and housing supply in July, allowing only three weeks to make submissions. The Committee has now extended the date.

The committee is looking at how land, housing and infrastructure are delivered across the state. It is also considering what changes could be made to better integrate delivery and improve performance.

The inquiry will focus on:

- the resources and support needed by the department for delivery of a housing supply process and the co-ordination and funding of enabling infrastructure.
- delivery mechanisms following rezoning to construction
- the complementary roles of state authorities, local councils and utilities
- the different characteristics of Greater Sydney and non-metropolitan NSW
- other related matters.

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

Closing date for submissions
5 September 2017

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

LGNSW contact
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Ref: R05/0071 JP

Roads and Transport

Item 21: Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme

Applications are invited for the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grant Scheme funded by Transport for NSW.

The Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS) provides subsidies for constructing or upgrading bus stop infrastructure owned and maintained by councils in regional areas.

The scheme maximises benefits to regional bus passengers by supporting:

- more accessible passenger transport, especially better connections between bus stops and surrounding communities
- an increase in the use of passenger transport in country areas through improved awareness of bus stop locations, kerbside information and improved security
- the development of minor infrastructure to complement passenger service development.

A total of \$3.25 million is available in this biennial 2017/19 funding round.

Councils should read the [scheme guidelines](#), note the application timetable and the funding limits for each project.

Applicants should ensure that each proposed project complies with relevant standards, including but not limited to, the [Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport](#). Helpful hints for rural bus stop infrastructure can be found in the [Australian Human Rights Commission guidelines](#).

Applications close
31 October 2017

Online information
[CPTIGS web page](#)

Grant applications
[Apply online for CPTIGS grants](#)

Related information

[Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport](#)

[Australian Human Rights Commission accessible bus stops guidelines](#)

TfNSW contacts

Talk to your [TfNSW Regional Area Manager](#)

or the TfNSW Grants officer on:

0466 346 240
email: CPTIGS@transport.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0421 RC

Roads and Transport

Item 22: Councils Can Now Close Their Own Roads

Councils will be given the power to close council roads without needing approval from the Minister for Lands and Forestry.

This change is part of the recommendations of the comprehensive review of Crown land. Parliament has also passed amendments to the *Roads Act 1993*, which are due to begin in early 2018.

The amendments will give councils the power to close council roads without requiring Ministerial approval.

This will reduce red tape and double handling and will allow councils to make strategic decisions about their roads. It is an acknowledgement that councils are responsible for maintaining and operating these roads and that it is appropriate that councils decide when they should be closed.

The move is a positive outcome for councils and is a direct response to council submissions to the Crown Lands Management Review white paper.

The new powers are backed by stringent safeguards to ensure council road closures are appropriate and do not deny access to a property.

This includes thorough consultation requirements – councils must advertise proposed closures before closing a road and must notify landowners whose properties adjoin the road.

Relevant public authorities must also be notified including transport authorities such as Roads and Maritime Services, fire services and the Department of Planning and Environment.

Further details will be provided to councils by the NSW Department of Industry – Lands and Forestry, in coming months. In the meantime, please [email the department](#) with any enquiries.

The [Lands & Forestry website](#) also has updated information on the legislation.

Online information

For further information email:
legislation@crowmland.nsw.gov.au

Or go to the DPI webpage:
www.crowmland.nsw.gov.au

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In the News

Item 23: Local Government NSW Media

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

Item 24: ALGA Newsletter

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