

## Message from the President

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

## New Planning Awards – Submissions Close Soon

The LGNSW Planning Awards recognise excellence in planning and development services. Submissions close in two weeks' time (25 August).

## LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

Secure your seat for our next planning series event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August. Registrations close Monday 21 August 2017.

## LGNSW Water Management Conference – Registrations Closing Soon

Registrations close on 21 August. Book now to secure your place with over 120 of your peers at the leading water management conference in NSW.

## Survey of Telecommunications Planning Requirements for New Developments

The Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts is surveying councils to understand their planning requirements for telecommunications in new real estate developments.

## Water Resource Planning

The Department of Primary Industry – Water has put new status and issues papers for water resource plans on exhibition with submissions due 15 September 2017.

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## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 11 August 2017



**Planning Panels:** The NSW Government passed legislation yesterday mandating Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs) for Sydney and Wollongong councils. We strongly opposed the mandatory introduction of IHAPs and continue to do so. Up to now, using IHAPs has been voluntary and some councils have chosen to use them where they have felt it was appropriate. The Government's justification for mandating panels was reducing corruption in planning decisions. However, what has happened is that significant planning decisions have been taken out of the hands of local people and their representatives, and put into the hands of State Government. This change also means decisions may end up being less sensitive to communities' needs than previously, and there will be additional cost and bureaucracy. Local councillors and planning staff have a deep and

intimate understanding of how significant decisions affect their communities. Government-appointed bureaucrats may have different agendas. The NSW Government talks about building stronger local government on one hand and then makes decisions like this. Deeply disappointing. See our [media release](#) issued earlier this week.

**Council visits:** This week LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate and I visited Cabonne where I presented service awards to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, councillors and former councillors for their long and dedicated service to their communities. The following day we met councillors and staff at Goulburn-Mulwaree Council.

**EA/PA conference:** Today more than 110 personal and executive assistants from local government gathered in Sydney for the 2017 LGNSW PA/EA Conference. This annual event provides a valuable opportunity for staff to share experiences and build networks and skills. Congratulations to Julie Prout from Gilgandra Council for the best event organised by an executive assistant and Woollahra Council's Patricia Vella who was awarded Assistant of the Year earlier today.

**LGNSW Finance Summit:** Those interested in the growing infrastructure challenge facing local government should not miss the LGNSW Finance Summit (11-12 September). Open to members and non-members, this event will explore new and emerging opportunities for innovative funding, delivery and management of local infrastructure. Hear from our keynote speaker, respected economist Saul Eslake and others on the topics of regional infrastructure, funding and financing options, managing infrastructure projects, Smart Cities, City Deals, the Greater Sydney Commission, liveability, sustainability and productivity. Places are limited and filling up fast. See our [website](#) for details including the program and to register.

**Australian Institute of Company Directors:** This week LGNSW signed an agreement to work with AICD to deliver two programs to improve governance in local government. We are excited to be working with such a well-respected provider of governance education. See full details of future courses in next week's Weekly. These programs will complement the many other offerings for newly elected people after the September elections.

**Inclusive Tourism:** LGNSW's workshop series across regional NSW is helping councils and local businesses realise the economic and social benefits that inclusive tourism can bring to their areas. Register now if you haven't already for events scheduled in [Ballina](#), [Port Macquarie](#), [Tamworth](#), [Parkes](#), [Orange](#), [Katoomba](#) and [Broken Hill](#).

**LGNSW Planning Awards:** A reminder that submissions for our inaugural planning awards close in two weeks' time (25 August) so get your entry in soon. [Read more](#).

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

## 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

### General Interest

#### Item 3: New Planning Awards – Submissions Close Soon

The LGNSW Planning Awards recognise excellence in planning and development services. Submissions close in two weeks' time (25 August).

#### Item 4: LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Register Now

The final Events Network meeting for 2017 will be held on 18 September.

#### Item 5: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

Secure your seat for our next planning series event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August. Registrations close Monday 21 August 2017.

#### Item 6: LGNSW Water Management Conference – Registrations Closing Soon

Registrations close on 21 August. Book now to secure your place with over 120 of your peers at the leading water management conference in NSW.

### Learning

#### Item 7: New short courses: Training Needs Analysis and Cyber Security

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

#### Item 8: Upcoming public courses

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

#### Item 9: LGNSW's Development Programs

LGNSW offers programs to help you develop skills to achieve personal and career goals.

#### Item 10: LGNSW Writing Courses

LGNSW offers short courses to improve minute taking, correspondence as well as report writing, grammar and punctuation.

### Planning

#### Item 11: Survey of Telecommunications Planning Requirements for New Developments

The Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts is surveying councils to understand their planning requirements for telecommunications in new real estate developments.

### Water

#### Item 12: Water Resource Planning

The Department of Primary Industry – Water has put new status and issues papers for water resource plans on exhibition with submissions due 15 September 2017.

## In the News

### **Item 13: Local Government NSW Media**

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW

### **Item 14: ALGA Newsletter**

View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association

## Awards

### Item 1: Award Opportunities

**View the latest award opportunities for local government**

#### **New Planning Awards – Submissions Close Soon**

The LGNSW Planning Awards recognise excellence in planning and development services. Submissions close in two weeks' time (25 August).

## Conferences and Events

### Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

**View upcoming conference and events relevant to local government**

#### **LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch**

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#### **LGNSW Water Management Conference – Registrations Closing Soon**

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## General Interest

### Item 3: New Planning Awards – Submissions Close Soon

**The LGNSW Planning Awards recognise excellence in planning and development services. Submissions close in two weeks' time (25 August).**

The 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 cooperation, participation and the delivery of positive and practical outcomes in planning and development.

The winners will receive vouchers for planning-related training at an institution of their choice, of up to \$500 for individuals and \$1500 for councils.

The award categories are:

- **Outstanding Individual Contribution - Excellence in Leadership**
  - Division A: Metropolitan (within the Greater Sydney Commission's districts)
  - Division B: Large Regional (population over 30,000, outside the Greater Sydney Commission's district)
  - Division C: Rural/Regional (population under 30,000, outside the Greater Sydney Commission's districts)
- **Team or Council - Culture Change Through Innovation and Excellence**
  - Division A: Metropolitan
  - Division B: Large Regional
  - Division C: Rural/Regional

There is no entry fee for the awards but applications 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 LGNSW's [website](#).

#### **Dates**

Applications close 25 August 2017

#### **Online information**

[LGNSW Planning Awards 2017](#)

[Judging and submission information](#)

#### **Award Presentation**

LGNSW Planning Breakfast on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at Parliament House

#### **Contact**

Events

02 9242 4000

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

Ref: R16/0027 TA

## General Interest

### Item 4: LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Register Now

**The final Events Network meeting for 2017 will be held on 18 September.**

This year's meeting will be hosted by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. The theme is 'Integrating new Event Elements and Building in Audience Sectors for your Events'.

Hear from:

- Wesley Enoch, Director of the Sydney Festival, speaking on Indigenous Inclusiveness
- Alastair Lyall, Manager, Events from NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, will talk about programming Australia Day celebrations in an inclusive way
- Margaret Pollard, Manager, Event Strategy and Coordination from NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, will launch the new event starter kit
- Vyvienne Abla, from Vyva Entertainment on Partnering with Youth to develop events that matter
- Averil Yeo, Senior Event Officer, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet on presenting programming events to a theme and budget
- Brett Dobbie, Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics NSW Police, updating councils on what they need to do to ensure the safety of their attendees.

#### **Dates and location**

Monday 18 September June 2017  
9.30am – 2.00pm  
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Yuin Room, Level 21, 52 Martin Place  
Sydney  
Level 27, 123 Pitt Street  
Sydney

#### **Cost**

No charge

#### **Online information**

Program

Register now

#### **Contact**

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

**Ref:** R11/0021 TA

Full program available on [LGNSW's website](#).

#### **Members only**

This event is nearly sold out and offered to LG Event Network members only. It is free to attend but delegate numbers are limited to two people per council. To secure seats please book online now.

For further information, including transport and accommodation options, and registration, visit the [LGNSW Events Network](#).



## General Interest

### Item 5: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

**Secure your seat for our next planning series event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August. Registrations close Monday 21 August 2017.**

Part of LGNSW's series on planning issues relevant to local government, the topic for this event is regional planning, infrastructure and economic development.

The program will include:

- **Ken Gillespie, NSW Regional Infrastructure Coordinator** on delivering key infrastructure to support growth, economic and social development in regional NSW.
- **Alison Frame, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment** on planning reforms and what they mean for councils.
- **Robyn Hobbs, NSW Small Business Commissioner, NSW Department of Industry** on regional economic development – helping to reduce red tape.

Guests will also have an opportunity to discuss issues of particular interest with the speakers.

Councillors and mayors, administrators, general managers, interim general managers and planning directors will find this event useful. Participants will be eligible for continuing professional development points from the Planning Institute of Australia.

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

LGNSW thanks Elite Sponsor, UrbanGrowth NSW and co-host Wagga Wagga City Council.

#### **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](mailto:events@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R16/ 0025 TA

## General Interest

### Item 6: LGNSW Water Management Conference – Registrations Closing Soon

**Registrations close on 21 August. Book now to secure your place with over 120 of your peers at the leading water management conference in NSW.**

This conference is a must-go for water utility managers and professionals with an interest in urban water supply, sewerage services and broader sustainable water management issues.

This event is a rare opportunity to discuss the latest challenges and ideas, innovation and technology in your sector with colleagues and industry experts.

For full details, download the registration brochure and program from the conference [web page](#).

Delegates can share knowledge with peers from more than 50 NSW councils and benefit from expert presentations, case studies and discussions including:

- The NSW Government's urban water policy priorities
- Security and quality of urban water supplies
- Customer-centred economic regulation
- Drinking water quality management
- Delivering challenging infrastructure
- Intelligent water networks and smart water meters
- Discussion of innovative strategic data use and analysis.

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, the 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](mailto:events@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R16/0015 TA

## Learning

### Item 7: New short courses: Training Needs Analysis and Cyber Security

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

#### Training Needs Analysis

Monday 4 September 2017

This one-day workshop, for learning and development professionals and managers will give you the skills and tools to conduct a training needs analysis.

Topics include:

- Training Needs– approaches and tools
- Identifying indicators for a needs analysis
- Defining the goals or purpose of the training
- Identifying an alternative solution to the perceived need
- Analysing training needs
- Templates and processes for assessing requirements.

A follow-up webinar will be conducted three months after the workshop to discuss applied learning and 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 current issues surrounding cyber security and how to reduce risks.

Topics include:

- Secure email usage – why email is a threat and what we can do to play our part, business email compromise and email spoofing
- Password security – how to create strong passwords and why you should, 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 the 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.

Each session will be combination of talk, demonstration and practical tasks to explore issues and provide solutions.

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au) 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](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 8: Upcoming public courses

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

#### **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 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](#)

#### **Social Media for Councils**

Sydney, Tuesday 22 August 2017

Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to communicate better 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 manage difficult situations in a safe way with minimal stress. [More information](#)

#### **Time Management**

Sydney, Thursday 31 August 2017

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

#### **Needs Analysis Workshop**

Sydney, Monday 4 September 2017

Develop skills and get tools to undertake a training needs analysis. [More information.](#)

#### **Introduction to Local Government**

Sydney, Monday 4 September 2017

Gain a better understanding of the structure of a council, the roles of elected members, general managers and staff and the relationships between local government the community and other tiers of government. [More information](#)

#### **Customer Service Excellence**

Sydney, Thursday 7 September 2017

Learn how to provide outstanding customer service by improving your listening and questioning skills. Learn to turn difficult situations into a positive customer experience. [More information](#)

#### **Local Training**

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

#### **Online information**

[LGNSW Training](#)

#### **Cost**

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](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 9: LGNSW's Development Programs

**LGNSW offers programs to help you develop skills to achieve personal and career goals.**

#### Programs for Women

The Springboard Women's Development Program helps women in non-management positions develop the skills and knowledge needed to further advance their careers.

It helps to:

- Set and achieve personal goals
- Focus on priorities
- Acquire ideas, skills and confidence
- Make positive decisions and take action.

The program includes sessions on time management, assertiveness, dealing with change, conflict resolution, problem solving, goal setting, stress management, networking, communication and action planning.

#### Programs for Men

The Navigator Men's Development Program consists of four workshops over three months. Topics include time management, assertiveness, dealing with change, conflict resolution, problem solving, goal setting and stress.

Navigator is a training and development program specifically designed for men to reach their full potential.

It helps to identify the clear, practical and realistic steps they need to take in their lives and then develop the skills and determination to achieve these goals.

Each workshop also features a high profile guest speaker.

All workshops are held in Sydney but interested councils outside the metropolitan area should contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for more information.

#### **Dates**

#### **Springboard Women's Development Program**

Mentor training – Wednesday 30 August 2017 (half day)

Workshop 1 – Thursday 31 August

Workshop 2 – Thursday 21 September

Workshop 3 – Thursday 12 October

Workshop 4 – Thursday 2 November

#### **Navigator Men's Development Program**

Workshop 1 – Thursday 7 September

Workshop 2 – Thursday 5 October

Workshop 3 – Thursday 26 October

Workshop 4 – Thursday 23 November

#### **Online Registration**

[Springboard Women's Development Program](#)

[Navigator Men's Development Program](#)

#### **Cost**

Members: \$1,320 incl. GST

Non-members: \$2,640 incl. GST

(Includes four workshops for participants and a half-day workshop for mentors)

#### **Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 10: LGNSW Writing Courses

**LGNSW offers short courses to improve minute taking, correspondence as well as report writing, grammar and punctuation.**

#### Improving Your Minute Taking Skills

Sydney, Tuesday 29 August 2017

Understand the importance of minutes for successful governance in formal and informal settings. This workshop follows internationally accepted minute taking processes, including tips to save time and effort. [More information.](#)

#### Improving Your Correspondence Writing

Sydney, Wednesday 6 September 2017

Learn the basic principles of effective letter and email writing. This workshop uses a variety of council documents as examples including business letters, 'saying no' letters, letters of complaint and emails. These will teach you skills to achieve your purpose and promote your organisation. [More information.](#)

#### Improving Your Grammar and Punctuation

Sydney, Tuesday 10 October 2017

Increase the professional standard of your writing by applying the rules of grammar and punctuation. Learn to identify errors, use punctuation marks effectively, construct phrases, sentences and paragraphs and give impact to your statements. [More information.](#)

#### Improving Your Report Writing

Sydney, Thursday 2 November 2017

Gain the skills needed to write effective, clear and concise reports. Working individually and in groups, this interactive course will cover topics such as target audience, purpose, layout, structure, grammar and punctuation, proof-reading and evaluation. [More information.](#)

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

#### Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

#### Registrations

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

#### Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4081

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

## Planning

### Item 11: Survey of Telecommunications Planning Requirements for New Developments

**The Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts is surveying councils to understand their planning requirements for telecommunications in new real estate developments.**

This will help the department streamline telecommunications provisioning. It will also allow councils to see how they compare to their peers.

The survey consists of three questions and should take no more than ten minutes to complete. [Complete the survey online.](#)

For any queries regarding the survey on telecommunications in new developments please email <mailto:greenfields@communications.gov.au> or contact [the Department of Communications and the Arts](#), phone (02) 6271 1172.

#### **Online information**

[Survey of Local Council Requirements for Telecommunications in New Developments](#)

#### **Enquiries / Further Information**

Director of Construction Policy on  
(02) 6271 1172 or at  
[greenfields@communications.gov.au](mailto:greenfields@communications.gov.au)

**Ref: R90/0954 RC**

## Water

### Item 12: Water Resource Planning

**The Department of Primary Industry – Water has put new status and issues papers for water resource plans on exhibition with submissions due 15 September 2017.**

The papers are available from the Department's [water resource plan exhibitions web page](#), along with others currently being exhibited.

Recently published papers include those for:

- [Lachlan and South Western Fractured Rock and New England Fractured Rock and Northern Basalts](#)
- [Western Porous Rock and Eastern Porous Rock and](#)
- [NSW Great Artesian Basin Shallow](#).

Between now and 2019, the government will develop 22 water resource plans for surface and groundwater regions in the NSW section of the Murray-Darling basin. These plans will ensure compliance with the basin plan's sustainable diversion limits and other targets. They will also define economic, social and environmental objectives relevant to each region.

Water resource plans will include already existing water sharing plans made under the *Water Management Act (NSW) 2000*. These will remain the guide for directing water sharing in NSW.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Water will conduct targeted consultation on individual water resource plans including:

- Working directly with licence holders, user and industry groups, local government, environment groups, Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders
- Establishing stakeholder advisory panels for each surface water resource plan.

Stakeholders will also be able to make written submissions on status and issues papers for their regions and the draft water resource plans. If a plan requires adjustments to water sharing rules, DPI Water planners will hold consultation sessions with affected groups.

Regional organisations of councils have also been invited to participate on advisory panels for each water resource region. This is a result of advocacy by LGNSW to DPI Water.

We believe councils are critical to the water resource planning process because of their role in providing drinking water and because they represent the social, economic and environmental values of their communities.

For more information see [DPI Water's water resource plan page](#).

#### Online information

[DPI Water: Water resource plans](#)

#### LGNSW Contact

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LGNSW

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

Ref: R90/1056-12 SM



## **In the News**

### **Item 13: Local Government NSW Media**

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

### **Item 14: ALGA Newsletter**

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