

Message from the President

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

Planning Amendment Bill Introduced to NSW Parliament

Amendments to planning legislation were introduced into the NSW Parliament this week.

LGNSW Annual Conference 2017 – Voting Delegates

The closing date to advise LGNSW of the names of members' voting delegates for the LGNSW Annual Conference 2017 is 1 November 2017.

Nominations for Local Government Procurement Awards

If you know of an individual or organisation deserving of recognition, consider nominating them for a local government procurement award.

LGNSW Tourism Conference 2018 – Be Part of the Program

LGNSW is calling for expressions of interest from councils wishing to showcase their achievements at the next LGNSW Tourism Conference (12 -14 March 2018).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 20 October 2017



President's message 20 October 2017

LGNSW Tourism Conference – Congratulations to Parkes Shire Council, selected from a shortlist of eight to host our next annual tourism conference (12 - 14 March 2018). The conference provides the perfect opportunity to showcase the contributions that councils make towards tourism in NSW. With its excellent museums, award-winning Elvis festival, arts and heritage and the dish (CSIRO Observatory), Parkes is very well qualified to host this event. We are calling for expressions of interest from councils wishing to present case studies and from anyone who wants to take up sponsorship opportunities. Proposed topics can be found on the [LGNSW website](#). [Read more](#).

LGNSW Annual Conference – Members have been advised of their voting entitlements for the LGNSW Annual Conference (4-6 December). Ordinary and associate members need to advise LGNSW of the names of their delegates for voting on conference motions. Ordinary members also need to advise LGNSW of the names of their delegates for voting in the LGNSW Board election. [Complete and submit the relevant forms via our website](#) by the deadline (12 midnight AEDT, 1 November 2017). [Read more](#).

Communication Working Group (Planning) – On Wednesday, LGNSW hosted the first of a planned series of meetings to discuss communication challenges and opportunities in this era of fast-paced planning reform. At the request of a number of councils, the inaugural meeting included a background briefing on mandatory IHAPs. We're looking at options for a broader, future-focused communication program to support councils facing the significant challenges imposed by population change and the need to ensure the economic benefits of growth are spread right across NSW. Council communication staff who'd like to participate are invited to register their interest by emailing communications@lgnsw.org.au

Capable Councils – Chief Executive Donna Rygate and LGNSW staff were in Sydney CBD, Bankstown, Orange and Cowra this week for the penultimate week of workshops in our Capable Councils series. To register for remaining workshops at Queanbeyan and Deniliquin, [visit the LGNSW website](#).

Arts and Culture Roadshow – Senior staff joined Create NSW at an arts conference organised by Outback Arts and its Arts and Culture Roadshow in western NSW this week. The group travelled to Dubbo, Cobar, Warren, Coonamble and Gilgandra to catch up with council arts and culture staff, see the programs and activities councils run in their communities and to inform people about LGNSW's Cultural Planning training. Create NSW also discussed opportunities for councils to partner with the State Government. The visits were a great opportunity to highlight the vital role councils play in this area.

Planning Amendment Bill – This week, the NSW Government introduced its [planning amendment bill](#) into the Parliament. LGNSW made a comprehensive submission when the draft bill was exhibited in earlier this year and we are continuing to advocate on critical issues for our sector. The Environmental Planning and Assessment Bill 2017 is significant for councils because it introduces changes affecting development assessment, local plan-making, community participation and decision-making processes.



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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The closing date to advise LGNSW of the names of members' voting delegates for the LGNSW Annual Conference 2017 is 1 November 2017.

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The NSW Office of Emergency Management is developing a Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy for NSW and is seeking feedback on a discussion paper by 1 December 2017.

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Amendments to planning legislation were introduced into the NSW Parliament this week.

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The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is asking councils to complete a survey about sustainable residential building in NSW.

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The NSW Government has created an Office of Housing Coordination as part of its housing affordability package, announced in June.

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Register for the upcoming Local Government Procurement Conference before 3 November to secure an early bird discount.

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If you know of an individual or organisation deserving of recognition, consider nominating them for a local government procurement award.

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LGNSW is calling for expressions of interest from councils wishing to showcase their achievements at the next LGNSW Tourism Conference (12 -14 March 2018).

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Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

View the latest award opportunities for local government.

Nominations for Local Government Procurement Awards

If you know of an individual or organisation deserving of recognition, consider nominating them for a local government procurement award.

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

National Local Government Human Resources Conference 2017

The National Local Government HR Conference (15-17 November), themed 'Brave New World', is only four weeks away.

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Register for the upcoming Local Government Procurement Conference before 3 November to secure an early bird discount.

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General Interest

Item 3: National Local Government Human Resources Conference 2017

The National Local Government HR Conference (15-17 November), themed 'Brave New World', is only four weeks away.

The conference will feature local government and corporate speakers, interactive workshops and case studies, and provide opportunities for human resource professionals to exchange best practice knowledge across the sector.

Topics include:

- Learning to accelerate your performance
- Measuring & Benchmarking excellence
- Enabling customer centric organisational shift
- Organisational culture building
- The Future of Work
- Managing performance with crucial conversations
- Organisational Change
- Learning Pathways
- Investigating allegations of bullying
- Attracting & Retention in remote/regional areas
- Using Social Media as a business advantage
- An organisation's Holistic Wellbeing Framework.

The conference is being hosted by LGNSW in partnership with other local government associations.

See the LGNSW website for more information and to register.

Dates and Location

Wednesday 15 – Friday 17 November 2017
Luna Park, Sydney

Further information

[National LG HR Conference 2017](#)

Registrations

[Register now](#)

Cost

Member full registration: \$1,290 incl. GST
Non-member and corporate full registration:
\$2,580 incl. GST

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 4: Community Engagement Strategy for Crown Land Management

The NSW Department of Industry is exhibiting a community engagement strategy to bring openness and transparency to decisions about Crown land used by the community.

The strategy will apply to non-council Crown land managers and is a statutory requirement of the new *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

It will be used by department staff and non-council Crown land managers (i.e. current reserve trust managers that are not local councils), to support community engagement on a range of Crown land actions including licences and leases, sales and the preparation of plans of management. Councils should be aware of the new processes affecting stakeholders that manage Crown land in their local communities.

The strategy is supported by a toolkit that contains practical, step-by-step guidance to support department staff and non-council Crown land managers as they carry out engagement.

Together, these documents provide a solid foundation for reliable, practical and real-world engagement about Crown land.

Councils are covered by the community engagement provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

More information is available on [the Crown Land and Water website](#).

Online information

Further Information

Email:

community.engagement@crownlnd.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 1300 886 235

R95/0025 SMcB

General Interest

Item 5: Australian Government Digital Economy Strategy – Open for Comment

The federal Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is seeking comments on a Digital Economy Strategy consultation paper.

The strategy, which is being developed in consultation with industry, businesses, government, community and the private sector, outlines the benefits of Australia's digital transformation.

The strategy will focus on how the government, the private sector and the community can work together to:

- Build on our competitive strengths and develop new ones
- Develop world-leading digital business capability for globally engaged, innovative, high-growth businesses
- Drive a culture and mindset that supports lifelong learning, a global outlook, and respond positively to change
- Address the 'digital divide' in skills and confidence to help all Australians succeed in a digital economy.

The discussion paper outlines the Australian Government's current digital agenda and the strategy's scope. For more information and to download the discussion paper, visit the [Department of Industry, Innovation and Science website](#).

Submissions close on Thursday 30 November 2017.

**Further information/download
the discussion paper**

Enquiries

digitaleconomy@industry.gov.au

Ref: R90/0954 RC

General Interest

Item 6: LGNSW Annual Conference 2017 – Voting Delegates

The closing date to advise LGNSW of the names of members' voting delegates for the LGNSW Annual Conference 2017 is 1 November 2017.

Members were advised of their voting entitlements for the LGNSW Annual Conference on 10 October 2017.

Ordinary and associate members need to advise LGNSW of the names of their delegates for voting on motions, while ordinary members also need to advise LGNSW of the names of their delegates for voting in the LGNSW Board election, by 12 midnight (AEDT) on 1 November 2017. Nominations received after this time/date cannot be accepted.

Forms for advising LGNSW of the names of members' nominated voting delegates are available on the [annual conference page of the LGNSW website](#).

Date

The closing date to advise LGNSW is 12:00 midnight (AEDT) on 1 November 2017.

Online information

[Local Government NSW Annual Conference](#)

Contact

Australian Electoral Commission
Renee Damasena
Returning Officer
02 9375 6361

LGNSW
Adam Dansie
Senior Manager Industrial
Relations
02 9242 4000

Ref: R16/0028 AD

Emergency Management

Item 7: NSW Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy – Open for Comment

The NSW Office of Emergency Management is developing a Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy for NSW and is seeking feedback on a discussion paper by 1 December 2017.

The [discussion paper](#) presents an opportunity for organisations to make suggestions about what should be included in a future strategy to enhance the critical infrastructure resilience of NSW, and councils are encouraged to comment.

A state-wide resilience strategy will help keep the lights on, the water running, and help people and goods flow through transport and trade routes, even in emergencies.

The work we all do before a disaster helps save lives, protect property and prepares communities for those challenging times during and immediately after a disaster.

To view the discussion paper and provide feedback, visit the [Emergency New South Wales website](#).

Key Date

Submissions close 1 December 2017.

Discussion Paper**Online Information**

[Emergency New South Wales](#)

Send Submissions to:

submissions@mpes.nsw.gov.au

R14/009 smcb

Ref: R90/0497 SMcB

Emergency Management

Item 8: Floodplain Management Australia Conference – Call for Abstracts

Floodplain Management Australia is calling for abstracts for its annual conference (Gold Coast, 29 May - 1 June 2018).

The Floodplain Management Australia Conference is a highly respected flood risk management event. It has been held annually for more than 50 years.

The conference theme is 'Waterways of Success: Developing flood resilience in our communities', with a focus on Australian and international achievements in flood risk management and practical examples from the Gold Coast's network of waterways, rivers, creeks, lakes, canals and coastlines.

The steering committee is looking for high quality papers from across Australia in the following streams:

- Flood resilience and risk management
- Assessing flood hazard and risk
- Modelling
- Infrastructure projects
- Adaptation to climate change
- Flood policy, guidance and best practice
- Building community resilience and engagement
- Flood emergency preparedness and management
- Recovery
- Case studies.

The content can be technical or non-technical to suit a varied audience. Tertiary students studying floodplain management or natural disaster management are particularly encouraged to participate.

Submissions close on 30 October 2017.

Key Date

Call for abstracts closes 30 October 2017

Online Information

floodplainconference.com

Registration Contact

East Coast Conferences
02 6650 9800 |
amy@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Ref: R90/0497 SMcB

Learning

Item 9: Public Courses for Elected Members

LGNSW offers a range of short courses to build the skills and capabilities of elected members.

Media Skills

Sydney– Tuesday 24 October 2017

Learn techniques to be more comfortable, confident and effective in dealing with the media. [More information.](#)

Mayors' Weekend

Sydney – 4-5 November 2017

This practical two-day seminar for mayors addresses the skills and knowledge mayors require and the current issues and challenges they may face. [More information.](#)

Executive Certificate for Elected Members (Block 1: 3 to 5 November 2017; Block 2: 2 and 3 December 2017, Sydney)

Delivered in partnership with the UTS Institute of Public Policy and Governance, this five-day program will help elected members understand their legislative responsibilities and build their skills and capacity to have a positive and well-informed impact on council decision making. On successful completion, participants will receive recognition against the national skills set for elected members, and one subject of credit towards the UTS postgraduate qualifications in public policy and local government. [More information.](#)

Speed Reading

Sydney – Tuesday 7 November 2017

Learn how to improve memory, double reading speed and improve comprehension in this one-day course. [More information.](#)

Chairing Effective Meeting Procedures

Sydney – Thursday 9 November 2017

Gain the skills to effectively chair, participate in and contribute to council meetings. [More information.](#)

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sydney – Friday 24 November 2017

Gain improved insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement, including practical approaches and engagement methods, and tools for effective evaluation. [More information.](#)

Social Media for Councillors

Sydney – Wednesday 29 November 2017

Gain an overview of the value of social networking and how it can be used to positively impact on community engagement and business objectives. [More information.](#)

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

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Registrations

[LGNSW Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4181

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 10: Upcoming Courses for Staff

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

Courses are specifically designed for the local government sector.

Drone Operations in Local Government

Parramatta – Tuesday 24 October 2017
Tamworth – Wednesday 25 October 2017
Dubbo – Tuesday 14 November 2017

Learn more about the many applications and benefits of using drones. [More information.](#)

Media Skills

Sydney – Tuesday 24 October 2017

Develop practical techniques to be more comfortable, confident and effective in dealing with the media. This course is suitable for elected members and staff. [More information.](#)

Political Awareness

Sydney – Tuesday 31 October

Learn how to develop effective working relationships with elected representatives when formulating strategy and developing sustainable services for the community. [More information.](#)

Improving Your Report Writing

Sydney – Thursday 2 November 2017

Develop the skills to write effective, clear and concise reports for your managers and your council. [More information.](#)

Speed Reading

Sydney – Tuesday 7 November 2017

Learn how to improve memory, double reading speed and improve comprehension in this one day course. [More information.](#)

Handling Difficult People

Bathurst – Monday 13 November 2017

Help staff to manage difficult situations in a safe way with minimal stress. [More information.](#)

Award History and Interpretation

Sydney – Wednesday 22 November 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.](#)

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sydney – Friday 24 November 2017

Gain improved skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement. [More information.](#)

Local Training

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

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Registrations

[LGNSW Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Planning

Item 11: Planning Amendment Bill Introduced to NSW Parliament

Amendments to planning legislation were introduced into the NSW Parliament this week.

The Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Amendment Bill 2017 is significant for councils because it introduces changes affecting development assessment, local plan-making, community participation, and decision-making processes.

Key changes relevant to councils

Of particular relevance to councils, the amendment bill includes the following changes which were part of the draft Bill and information package exhibited earlier this year:

- Introduction of 'local strategic planning statements' which councils will be required to prepare for their areas
- Requirements for councils and planning authorities to prepare a community participation plan explaining how it will engage the community in plan making and development decisions
- A requirement for decision makers to provide reasons for their decisions has been incorporated
- Introduction of a consistent format for development control plans (DCPs), although the content of DCPs will remain open for councils to tailor
- New powers for councils to stop work on a complying development for up to seven days to investigate complaints
- Provisions to enable councils to introduce a compliance levy on development applications
- Simplified and consolidated building and subdivision provisions into a single part of the Act, and some changes to enhance the effectiveness of the building provisions.

Online information

[EP&A Amendment Bill 2017](#)

[LGNSW submission](#)

[Department of Planning and Environment's webpage](#)

Contact

Jennifer Dennis, Senior Policy Officer
jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au

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

Ref: R96/0115 JP

What's new since the exhibited draft bill?

The Bill is largely consistent with the draft Bill with two notable exceptions:

- The addition of a new object in the Act to promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, to recognise the importance of building regulations for the safety, health and wellbeing of a building occupants and users.
- Mandatory requirements for councils in Sydney and Wollongong to have an independent hearing and assessment panel (IHAP). Note: This change was introduced by a separate amendment to the EP&A Act in August 2017.

LGNSW will provide further advice to members about the implications for councils once it has reviewed the Bill in detail.

Planning

Item 12: Help shape the future of sustainable residential development in NSW

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage is asking councils to complete a survey about sustainable residential building in NSW.

The survey aims to identify drivers of, and barriers to, sustainable housing development in NSW. Feedback will inform the Office of Environment and Heritage's policy development and assist in identifying opportunities to strengthen sustainable housing development.

Please alert the most suitable staff within your council, so only one response per council is completed. For example: planning, sustainability and community engagement officers.

Dates

Closing date: Monday 23 October

Online information

Council [survey](#)

Contact

Ryan Skinner
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
Ryan.Skinner@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R91/0161 KMC

Planning

Item 13: New Office of Housing Coordination Established

The NSW Government has created an Office of Housing Coordination as part of its housing affordability package, announced in June.

The role of the Office of Housing Coordination – which sits within the Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) – is to support the government’s goal of increasing housing supply, by working with councils to fast-track re-zonings for priority precincts and other areas.

DP&E has indicated that the new office will address any bottlenecks to rolling out key infrastructure and fast-tracking the approval process to deliver more housing.

For more information read the [departmental media release](#).

Online information

[NSW Department of Planning and Environment](#)

Ref: R04/0029 JD

Procurement

Item 14: Annual Local Government Procurement Conference

Register for the upcoming Local Government Procurement Conference before 3 November to secure an early bird discount.

The conference will be held in Sydney from 30 November to 1 December 2017.

This annual conference aims to provide delegates with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to improve procurement process and practice.

Themed 'Building procurement capability and embracing innovation', the conference program will focus on technology, supplier relationship management, sustainability, innovation and future trends.

Topics will include:

- Diversity and integrity as essential ingredients for performing teams
- ISO 20400 – a guide to integrating sustainability within procurement
- Make your procurement documents capable to manage innovation
- Delivering value to your organisation into the future
- The emerging role of technology in driving social procurement outcomes
- Quantifying value
- Smarter cities and communities – making sense and making it real
- Panel session – procurement supporting counter terrorism measures
- Panel session – autonomous and driverless vehicles.

The conference is for those involved in procurement, in particular:

- Procurement managers
- Governance managers
- Purchasing officers
- Contracts managers
- General managers, directors and senior managers.

The conference package includes full attendance, a conference pack and dinner on Thursday evening.

Local Government Procurement is offering free attendance to general managers and directors who attend with staff.

Visit the [Local Government Procurement website](#) for more information.

Contact

Local Government Procurement, ph:
02 8270 8743 events@lgp.org.au

Date

30 November to 1 December 2017

Location

Sydney Masonic Centre,
66 Goulburn Street Sydney

Investment

\$990 inc GST – early bird available
until 3 November
\$1,320 inc GST – from 4 November

FREE attendance to general
managers/directors when attending
with a registered staff member

More information

View the [LGP website](#)

Ref: R05/0057

Procurement

Item 15: Nominations for Local Government Procurement Awards

If you know of an individual or organisation deserving of recognition, consider nominating them for a local government procurement award.

Nominations close on 1 November 2017.

Winners receive personalised plaques and professional development training of their choice, to the value of \$2,500.

The awards will be presented at the annual Local Government Procurement Conference dinner on 30 November 2017 at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

You may nominate yourself, another person or an organisation. There are three categories:

- Procurement professional – the nominee must have a minimum of two years' experience in procurement within NSW local government
- New procurement professional – the nominee must have less than two years' experience in procurement within NSW local government
- Sustainable procurement initiative – individuals or organisations that have demonstrated exceptional sustainable procurement work.

For further information or to download the nomination form view the [LGP website](#), or contact [Emma Murray](#), Marketing and Communications Manager or 02 8270 8710.

Contact

Emma Murray, ph: 02 8270 8710
emurray@lgp.org.au

Closing date for nominations

1 November 2017

More information

View the [LGP website](#)

Ref: R05/0057

Tourism

Item 16: LGNSW Tourism Conference 2018 – Be Part of the Program

LGNSW is calling for expressions of interest from councils wishing to showcase their achievements at the next LGNSW Tourism Conference (12 -14 March 2018).

Co-hosted by Parkes Shire Council and sponsored by Destination NSW, LGNSW's 14th annual tourism conference will be held at Parkes Leagues Club.

The conference theme is 'Tourism: past and future connect. It all adds up!' – which reflects the regional brand statement for the Parkes region.

LGNSW is inviting expressions of interest (EOIs) from councils and industry wishing to present case studies, or take up sponsorship opportunities (including trade displays).

[Download the full EOI criteria and topics.](#)

EOIs should include a short two-paragraph outline of your proposed topic or presentation and must be submitted by 9am on Monday 30 October 2017.

For more information please email [Meg Fisher](#), Manager Events and Protocol LGNSW or call her on 9242 4044.

Dates and location

Monday 12 March to Wednesday 14 March
Parkes Leagues Club, Parkes

Online information

[LGNSW Tourism Conference 2018](#)

Contact

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

Ref: R17/0009 TA

Item 17: ALGA Newsletter

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