

# Weekly

Issue 4, 3 February 2017

## **Message from the President**

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

## **LGNSW Sydney District Plan Workshop**

Mayors, councillors and senior staff in the Greater Sydney area are invited to participate in a workshop about the draft district plans for Sydney, on Thursday 23 February 2017.

## **Cooperative Tourism Marketing – Funding Available**

Councils in six regions can now apply for funding under the Regional Cooperative Tourism Marketing Program.

## **Sport NSW – Local Government Membership**

Sport NSW has developed a membership category for local government and encourages councils to join.

## **Executive Certificate for Elected Members**

LGNSW, in partnership with the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, UTS is offering an Executive Certificate for Elected Members program in Coffs Harbour and Sydney.

## **NSW State Emergency Service Campaign – If It's Flooded, Forget It**

The NSW State Emergency Service is encouraging councils to get involved in its social media campaign featuring stories on people's near misses as a result of entering floodwater.

## **Mental Health in the Workplace**

LGNSW has a new, one-day workshop – Mental Health in the Workplace - for managers, supervisors and HR professionals responsible for staff wellbeing.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW**

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### **EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION**

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## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 3 February 2017



I was extremely encouraged by media coverage this week that reported the NSW Government may cease forced council amalgamations and give residents of already merged councils a vote on whether to de-amalgamate. We eagerly await the Government's response to these reports and if confirmed, this would of course be excellent news for the local government sector and local communities. It is my great hope that we will see a swift return to local democracy under the new Premier.

LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate and I spent a lot of Wednesday in meetings with Deputy Premier John Barilaro and the newly installed Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton, having positive and productive discussions on local government reform. I have said since the announcement of the new Cabinet on Sunday, that the appointment of Minister Upton is a positive sign that the Berejiklian Government will deliver a relationship 'refresh and reset' with the sector and listen to local communities.

[See our media release.](#)

LGNSW raised a number of key issues with the Deputy Premier - verbally and in writing - including reform issues, joint organisations, the Far West Initiative, financial sustainability, the IPART Rate Review and the Red Tape Review, the need to provide more funding for local infrastructure such as roads, and support for capability and skills initiatives. Our meeting with the Minister focused on amalgamations. We plan to continue to vigorously voice our members' positions on these issues and many others throughout 2017 and beyond.

The reinstatement of a Minister for Regional NSW was another win for the sector this week. We have lobbied for the restoration of this role for some time and see it as a positive step in the Berejiklian Government's bid to rebuild relationships with rural communities. We hope that the role, which has been taken on by Deputy Premier Barilaro, will ensure rural and regional NSW has a strong voice at the Cabinet table alongside the metropolitan area. [See our media release.](#)

Also this week, Donna met the NSW Electoral Commission's new Commissioner, John Schmidt to discuss the December 2016 local council elections and forthcoming ones. Donna also met with the Chief Executive Officer of Sport NSW. The organisation has recently developed a membership category for local government. [Read more.](#)

Our submission to the remuneration tribunal was made this week, and Donna and I attended a Local Government Procurement Board meeting, and took part in an LGNSW Board induction session. Today we held the first LGNSW Board meeting of 2017. We had a large agenda with items including the LGNSW submission in advance of the NSW budget 2017/18, the Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment Bill 2017, an update on the ESPL implementation, LGNSW's submissions on the Far West Initiative, the regulation regarding induction and ongoing professional development for mayors and councillors, and the development of a model code of meeting practice.

Mayors, councillors and senior staff in the Greater Sydney area should diarise the LGNSW District Plan Workshop on Thursday 23 February. It will be an opportunity for members to question key leaders of the Greater Sydney Commission directly about the draft district plans for their areas. [Read more.](#)

Our member research is progressing well. Thanks to all those who completed our online survey in December. Our independent market research company, Inside Story, is now conducting in-depth interviews with a sample of members. If they contact you, I encourage you to share your thoughts. The research will help us improve our member services and representation.

After such a busy start to the calendar year, I want to wish you all a happy Chinese New Year and urge you to take part in and support the local celebrations in your communities over the next several weeks.

Thank you.

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LGNSW provides career coaching and outplacement services for employees who require external support to build confidence in their performance or next career move.

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Mayors, councillors and senior staff in the Greater Sydney area are invited to participate in a workshop about the draft district plans for Sydney, on Thursday 23 February 2017.

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LGNSW, in partnership with the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, UTS is offering an Executive Certificate for Elected Members program in Coffs Harbour and Sydney.

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LGNSW has a new, one-day workshop – Mental Health in the Workplace - for managers, supervisors and HR professionals responsible for staff wellbeing.

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LGNSW is offering workshops to local government professionals and elected members between now and June.

## In the News

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## Conferences and Events

### Item 1: Upcoming conferences and events

**View upcoming conference and events relevant to Local Government**

#### **LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017**

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## Grants and Funding

### **Item 2: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government**

**View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government**

#### **Cooperative Tourism Marketing – Funding Available**

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## General Interest

### Item 3: NSW State Emergency Service Campaign – If It's Flooded, Forget It

**The NSW State Emergency Service is encouraging councils to get involved in its social media campaign featuring stories on people's near misses as a result of entering floodwater.**

The approach to the stories is based on trends emerging from recent research including:

- An analysis of human fatalities from floods 1900-2015 (Haynes et al, 2016)
- Stronger for the Storm (Howard et al., 2016) (not yet available)

A State Emergency Management Project grant helped fund the production of videos that explore different perspectives of:

- A mother that crossed a flooded river based on pressure from her passengers
- A farmer that nearly drowned after entering floodwater to rescue cattle
- A young man that entered floodwater to impress girls in the car
- A mother that turned around based on fear of putting the lives her children at risk
- A 4WD enthusiast and his experience crossing creeks and rivers
- A State Emergency Service member's traumatic experiences rescuing people from floodwater.

The stories roll out over the next six weeks with the first video available now.

Councils are encouraged to follow the campaign and share the messages from the SES Facebook page and re-tweet from the Twitter account (using hashtag #ifitsfloodedforgetit) on their own social media channels.

#### Online information

Follow the campaign via the [NSW SES Facebook page](#) and [Twitter account](#).

Ref: R90/0753 LnG

## General Interest

### Item 4: Sport NSW – Local Government Membership

**Sport NSW has developed a membership category for local government and encourages councils to join.**

The peak body for sport in the state, Sport NSW works to promote, strengthen and advocate for the sector to ensure communities enjoy the significant benefits sport and active recreation provides.

Its new local government membership category will focus on helping councils bring communities together through sport and recreation by:

- Utilising the Sport NSW network of state sporting organisations
- Accessing expertise in disability inclusion and women's sport
- Conducting education sessions for local constituents on sport-related topics
- Running programs aimed at specific community groups.

Already 13 councils have taken up Sport NSW membership. For a small fee (\$330) it provides another resource for councils to call upon to ensure that they are meeting the needs of their constituents in the area of sport and active recreation.

[Learn more](#) about becoming a Sport NSW local government member and view the [membership benefits](#).

For further information contact Sport NSW Membership Officer, [Sophie Milton](#), 02 8736 1242.

#### Online information

[Membership benefits](#)

#### Contact

Sophie Milton  
Membership Officer, Sport NSW  
02 8736 1242  
[membership@sportnsw.com.au](mailto:membership@sportnsw.com.au)

**Ref:** R90/1178 LnG



## General Interest

### Item 5: Career Coaching and Outplacement

**LGNSW provides career coaching and outplacement services for employees who require external support to build confidence in their performance or next career move.**

#### Career Coaching

Career coaching provides independent support and is ideal for organisations aiming to:

- Enhance senior managers' leadership skills
- Build the confidence of staff being moved on to higher level roles
- Help employees prepare when applying for internal positions
- Motivate or re-engage leaders and key staff
- Support staff as they transition towards retirement.

Coaching is delivered via Skype, telephone or in person, with topics tailored to suit individual needs. Coaching services can be purchased as individual sessions or in bundles for multiple sessions and staff.

As a special introductory offer, LGNSW is offering organisations a complimentary 30 minute 'lunch and learn' session delivered by Skype or in person at Sydney locations. Managers and staff will discover the benefits of coaching and meet Jane Jackson, LGNSW's coaching partner. [More information.](#)

#### Outplacement Services

LGNSW's outplacement services help organisations to support employees whose roles are being made redundant. Participants can select from a range of topics to design programs customised to their specific needs. Topics include:

- Career in review – mapping your achievements
- Professional resume development
- Behavioural interview coaching/simulation
- Psychometric tools preparation
- LinkedIn and other online marketing/branding support
- Salary negotiation coaching.

Employees receive confidential advice from career consultants on an individual basis.

Participants also have access to a comprehensive library of resources to support career transition. [More information.](#)

**Online information**  
[Management Solutions](#)

#### Contact

Mark Anderson  
02 9242 4161  
[mark.anderson@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:mark.anderson@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## General Interest

### Item 6: LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017

#### Secure your place at LGNSW's 2017 Tourism Conference in Taree (12-14 March).

This year's theme "Tourism is everybody's business" reflects the importance of gaining buy-in from the entire community to take advantage of tourism's many benefits.

The program features case studies, keynote addresses, panel discussions with industry experts, and three topic streams:

- Inclusive tourism: facilitated by the Department of Family and Community Services, the stream will include presentations from MyTravelResearch, Travability and Newcastle City Council about the latest inclusive tourism strategies.
- National parks as key tourism assets: facilitated by National Parks and Wildlife Services, the stream will feature case studies on how to successfully grow nature tourism in your region.
- Art, heritage and culture: facilitated by Heritage Near Me, Office of Environment and Heritage, the stream will include presentations on Indigenous tourism, developing cultural tourism and activating heritage spaces.

[Register online now](#) and book your [travel and accommodation](#).

#### Sponsors

LGNSW acknowledges the support of the following sponsors:

- Official Partner: Destination NSW
- Elite Sponsor: Heritage Near Me program, Office of Environment and Heritage
- Government Sponsor: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Distinguished Sponsors: The Tourism Group, Department of Family and Community Services
- Airline Partner: Regional Express

#### Dates and location

Sunday 12 March – Tuesday 14  
March 2017  
Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree

#### Online information

[LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017](#)

#### Registration

[Register online](#)

#### Contact

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

**Ref:** R16/0007 TB

## General Interest

### Item 7: Cooperative Tourism Marketing – Funding Available

#### Councils in six regions can now apply for funding under the Regional Cooperative Tourism Marketing Program.

Created by the NSW Government, the program aims to support the regional tourism industry in NSW. It is open to councils and GST-registered, tourism-sector organisations (including local or regional tourism associations and industry associations) in six new destination networks.

These networks are independent bodies created by the NSW Government in July 2016 to overhaul the way regional and rural areas attract visitors. The networks are:

- Destination Riverina Murray
- Destination Southern NSW
- Destination North Coast
- Destination Country & Outback NSW
- Destination Sydney Surrounds North
- Destination Sydney Surrounds South.

The aim of the program is to raise awareness of NSW and its regions as a visitor destination. Interested applicants are eligible to apply for between \$100,000 and \$500,000 matched funding.

Successful applicants will work with Destination NSW, the program lead, to create projects that deliver economic and/or strategic and marketing impacts for Regional NSW. Destination NSW will lead the creative campaign elements and media planning, as well as implementation and evaluation, in consultation with the successful applicants.

Applications must be made at least six months before the applicants have capacity to begin their project. The NSW Government has committed to fund the project for three years (2016-2019).

Contact [Destination NSW](#) for more information.

#### **Date**

Submission open once applicants have confirmed investment from partners; and at least six months prior to the preferred start date of the marketing project.

#### **Online information**

[Destination NSW - Regional Cooperative Tourism Marketing Program](#)

#### **Contact**

Destination NSW  
02 9931 1111  
[info@dnsw.com.au](mailto:info@dnsw.com.au)

**Ref:** R90/0483 ER

## Community

### Item 8: LGNSW Network for Refugee, Humanitarian and Migrant Settlement

#### **Councils are encouraged to join LGNSW's new local government network for refugee, humanitarian and migrant settlement matters.**

LGNSW is a member of the NSW Government Immigration and Settlement Planning Committee (GISPC). To ensure we represent councils' interests to the GISPC, LGNSW is establishing an informal, email-based network of local government personnel to facilitate:

- Consultation with councils on existing or proposed policies in order to inform LGNSW representations and advocacy
- An avenue for councils to raise settlement matters with LGNSW, which LGNSW will escalate to the GISPC and endeavour to seek resolution
- A network for NSW local government personnel to share information, collaborate, problem-solve and coordinate advocacy.

If you or your colleagues would like to join the network, please [email Liz Gemes](#) with:

- Your name
- Council
- Position
- Contact details
- Brief description of areas of involvement and/or interest in refugee, humanitarian and migrant settlement

The GISPC meets next on 21 February 2017. Please [contact LGNSW](#) by Friday 17 February with any items you'd like raised.

LGNSW has and will continue to advocate on councils' behalf for better data and resources to support settlement planning and services.

#### **Dates**

GISPC meeting 21 February 2017

Comments provided to LGNSW by 17 February 2017.

#### **Contact**

Liz Gemes  
Senior Policy Officer  
02 9242 4063  
[liz.gemes@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:liz.gemes@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R91/0040-05 LG

## Planning

### Item 9: LGNSW Sydney District Plan Workshop

**Mayors, councillors and senior staff in the Greater Sydney area are invited to participate in a workshop about the draft district plans for Sydney, on Thursday 23 February 2017.**

LGNSW has coordinated the workshop to discuss the six draft plans. They are on exhibition until March 2017 and are due to be finalised later in the year.

Participants will explore the draft plans, identify common themes and issues across each district, and have the opportunity to question key leaders from the Greater Sydney Commission about the implications of those district plans for their areas.

[Learn more and register](#) before 16 February.

**Date and location**

23 February 2017, 12.30 pm - 4.00 pm  
Sydney CBD (Venue TBC)

**Cost**

Free for members

**More information and to register**

[District plan workshop \(register by 16 February 2017\)](#)

**Contact**

Jane Partridge  
02 9242 4093  
[jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au)

Jennifer Dennis  
02 9242 4094  
[jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R05/0071JP

## Learning

### Item 10: Executive Certificate for Elected Members

**LGNSW, in partnership with the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, UTS is offering an Executive Certificate for Elected Members program in Coffs Harbour and Sydney.**

Conducted over two stages, the five-day program includes:

- A focus on good governance, local democracy, credibility and effectiveness for NSW elected members
- Access to well-respected, high-level local government practitioners and researchers who will share insights and experiences
- High-level theory and analysis on leadership, governance and the role of a councillor
- Advice on common practice and good practice for a range of topics
- Opportunities to share aspirations and challenges with peers
- In-depth discussions about the role of a councillor and local government in NSW
- Perspectives and opinions on key local government issues
- Guidance on and sharing of practical and complex solutions to common issues
- Opportunities for both new and experienced councillors to access current information about local government practice and research.

On successful completion of the program, participants will receive a University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Executive Certificate for Elected Members which can be used to apply for one subject of credit towards UTS postgraduate qualifications.

#### **Dates and location**

Block 1: 10-12 March 2017  
Block 2: 7-8 April 2017  
Coffs Harbour

Block 1: 7-9 July 2017  
Block 2: 4-5 August 2017  
Sydney CBD

#### **Online information and registration**

[Executive Certificate for Elected Members](#)

#### **Cost**

LGNSW Members: \$3500 (GST exempt)

Non-members: \$7000 (GST exempt)

#### **Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions  
02 9242 4181  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 11: Mental Health in the Workplace

**LGNSW has a new, one-day workshop – Mental Health in the Workplace - for managers, supervisors and HR professionals responsible for staff wellbeing.**

Developed with the support of LGSuper and StateCover NSW, this workshop is based on LGNSW's recently released Mental Health and Wellbeing Toolkit.

Participants will build their understanding of:

- Work design and its implications for health and wellbeing
- Reviewing and developing a psychologically healthy work culture
- Building resilience and protective factors among staff
- Promoting policies which encourage early help seeking among staff
- Supporting staff recovering from mental illness
- Increasing awareness of mental illness in the workplace and reducing the stigma.

The course facilitator will use case studies, a questionnaire, personal and participant examples and group discussion to help participants become more confident dealing with workplace health and wellbeing.

Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions to discuss running a course in-house or with other organisations in your area.

**Dates and location**

Friday 3 March 2017  
Parramatta

**Online information and registration**

Mental health in the workplace

**Cost**

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

**Contact**

Learning Solutions  
02 9242 4181  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 12: LGNSW Upcoming Courses: February – June

**LGNSW is offering the following workshops to local government professionals and elected members between now and June.**

Courses are provided at competitive rates and are specifically designed for the sector.

#### **Workforce Planning**

Sydney – Tuesday 14 February 2017

Learn about workforce planning, its purpose and benefits, steps involved and the resources available to councils to prepare workforce plans. [More information.](#)

#### **Time Management**

Sydney – Wednesday 15 February 2017

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

#### **Recruitment and Selection Skills**

Sydney – Friday 17 February 2017

Gain knowledge and skills to conduct innovative and effective recruitment and selection that captures quality talent and places the right people in the right jobs. [More information.](#)

#### **People and Performance**

Sydney – Wednesday 22 February 2017

Learn the art of managing people through a focus on communicating with different personality types and performance management communication. [More information.](#)

#### **Making Consultative Committees More Effective**

Sydney – Friday 24 February 2017

Ballina – Monday 3 April 2017

Narrabri – Monday 29 May 2017

Wagga Wagga – Tuesday 13 June 2017

Gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in the local government context. This workshop is based on regulations required under the Local Government Act, the Local Government (State) Award and internationally-accepted meeting procedures. [More information.](#)

#### **Springboard Women's Development Program (4 day program)**

Mentors program – Monday 27 February 2017 (half day)

Workshop 1 – Tuesday 28 February

Workshop 2 – Tuesday 14 March

Workshop 3 – Tuesday 4 April

Workshop 4 – Tuesday 2 May

Women in non-management positions will develop skills and knowledge in order to reach greater career goals. [More information.](#)

#### **Local Training**

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

#### **Online information**

[LGNSW Training](#)

[LGNSW Learning Calendar \(January-June 2017\)](#)

#### **Registrations**

[Learning solutions registrations](#)

#### **Contact**

LGNSW Learning Solutions  
02 9242 4081  
[learning@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA



## 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.](#)