

## Message from the President

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

## Education and Child Care SEPP and Infrastructure SEPP

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has released a proposed new Education and Child Care Facilities State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) as well as draft amendments to the existing Infrastructure SEPP. Submissions are due 24 March 2017.

## LGNSW Submission to Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs)

LGNSW has made a submission on the Government's proposals to improve the policy framework for voluntary planning agreements.

## Aged and Disability Forum

Council staff working in ageing and disability are reminded to register for LGNSW's free Aged and Disability Forum on 14 March in Sydney.

## Flying-Fox Grants Program – Funding round closes soon

The second round of funding to help councils implement actions in flying-fox camp management plans closes on 17 February. Apply now!

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## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 10 February 2017



As I write there has been no announcement from the Government about forced amalgamations. We have been working hard, mostly behind the scenes this week, to make sure our sector's voice is heard. I commend the Government for taking a considered, consultative approach before reaching a decision, and look forward to a resolution soon.

In the meantime, amalgamated and unamalgamated councils are 'getting on with the job' of delivering for their communities. There is a lot of great work going on within councils and more broadly.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has released a proposed new Education and Child Care State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) as well as draft amendments to the existing Infrastructure SEPP. LGNSW's Chief Executive Donna

Rygate received an update on this from the DP&E on Wednesday. LGNSW will be making a submission before the 24 March deadline and it's essential that councils voice their opinion too. As drafted, the Education SEPP will deny community involvement in the planning process on vital issues such as traffic, parking, road safety, noise and privacy. [Read more.](#)

In other planning news, LGNSW has made a submission on proposals to improve the policy framework for voluntary planning agreements. [Read more.](#) We have also made a submission on fire and safety draft regulations. [Read more.](#)

Donna and senior LGNSW staff had their regular catch up with the Office of Local Government on Monday. There was a lot of discussion about next steps for various initiatives given a new Minister is in place. When we have any clarity about things like JOs, Phase 2 of the Act review or the Far West Initiative we will let members know.

On Wednesday LGNSW's Vice President – Metro/Urban Cr Bill Pickering, LGNSW's Director – Advocacy Kylie Yates and I attended the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) strategic planning meeting. The ALGA board considered new issues, reviewed priorities and agreed on strategies. It was a productive meeting.

On Thursday senior staff met with David Clarke, the NSW Department of Industry's Group Director – Governance and Strategy. They discussed new Crown land legislation as well as land negotiations with councils and Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Have a good weekend and take care in the hot weather.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Rhoades". The signature is cursive and fluid.

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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### General Interest

#### Item 4: LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 – Register now

The Hon Adam Marshall MP, NSW's new Minister for Tourism and Major Events will officially open LGNSW's upcoming conference in Taree 12 – 14 March.

#### Item 5: NSW Local Government General Manager Remuneration Report 2015/16 early bird discount

Order LGNSW's annual general manager remuneration report before Friday 10 March and benefit from a 20 per cent early bird discount.

#### Item 6: NSW Local Government 2016/17 Remuneration Survey

Councils are encouraged to participate in LGNSW's annual local government remuneration survey which collects comparative data for the sector.

#### Item 7: LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Register now

LGNSW's events network will meet on Friday 7 April at Penrith's iFLY Downunder.

#### Item 8: Workplace Responses to Gender-Based Violence – Free Webinar

Council managers and HR staff are invited to participate in a free webinar on how employers can address gender-based violence as a workplace issue.

### Community

#### Item 9: Aged and Disability Forum

Council staff working in ageing and disability are reminded to register for LGNSW's free Aged and Disability Forum on 14 March in Sydney.

#### Item 10: Childcare SEPP

The NSW Government has released a draft Education and Childcare State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). Councils are encouraged to provide input to LGNSW's submission on issues relating to childcare services.

#### Item 11: Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards

Local government organisations are invited to enter the MAPDA awards which celebrate excellence in design and communication in the museum and gallery sector across Australia and New Zealand.

### **Item 12: Create NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces – Grants Open**

Councils are eligible to apply for funding under the Arts NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative to open up new and innovative arts sites, and boost local participation.

## **Environment**

### **Item 13: Flying-Fox Grants Program – Funding round closes soon**

The second round of funding to help councils implement actions in flying-fox camp management plans closes on 17 February. Apply now!

## **Finance**

### **Item 14: Draft Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Released for Comment**

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is inviting comment on the draft Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (update 25).

## **Planning**

### **Item 15: Education and Child Care SEPP and Infrastructure SEPP**

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has released a proposed new Education and Child Care Facilities State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) as well as draft amendments to the existing Infrastructure SEPP. Submissions are due 24 March 2017.

### **Item 16: LGNSW submission to Fire Safety Draft Regulations**

LGNSW has made a submission in response to proposed new regulations which aim to improve fire safety in new buildings and building work.

### **Item 17: LGNSW Submission to Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs)**

LGNSW has made a submission on the Government's proposals to improve the policy framework for voluntary planning agreements.

## **Roads and Transport**

### **Item 18: Transport Connectivity Report Released**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities has tabled its report, 'Harnessing Value, Delivering Infrastructure'.

## **Learning**

### **Item 19: Mayors' Weekend – 18 and 19 March 2017**

LGNSW is offering a seminar for NSW mayors, deputy mayors and aspiring mayors to help address complex leadership challenges.

### **Item 20: LGNSW Upcoming Courses: February – March 2017**

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

### **Item 21: LGNSW services to enhance strategic thinking and planning**

LGNSW offers training programs and consultancy services to develop the strategic thinking and planning capabilities of senior staff and elected members.

### **Item 22: Local Government Procurement Training**

Local Government Procurement offers a range of training courses for council staff.

## **In the News**

### **Item 23: LGP News**

View the latest edition of LGP News distributed by Local Government Procurement.

**Item 24: ALGA Newsletter**

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

## Awards

### Item 1: Award opportunities

#### **Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards**

Local government organisations are invited to enter the MAPDA awards which celebrate excellence in design and communication in the museum and gallery sector across Australia and New Zealand.

## Conferences and Events

### Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

#### **LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 – Register now**

The Hon Adam Marshall MP, NSW's new Minister for Tourism and Major Events will officially open LGNSW's upcoming conference in Taree 12 – 14 March.

#### **LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Register now**

LGNSW's events network will meet on Friday 7 April at Penrith's iFLY Downunder.

#### **Workplace Responses to Gender-Based Violence – Free Webinar**

Council managers and HR staff are invited to participate in a free webinar on how employers can address gender-based violence as a workplace issue.

#### **Aged and Disability Forum**

Council staff working in ageing and disability are reminded to register for LGNSW's free Aged and Disability Forum on 14 March in Sydney.

#### **Mayors' Weekend – 18 and 19 March 2017**

LGNSW is offering a seminar for NSW mayors, deputy mayors and aspiring mayors to help address complex leadership challenges.

#### **Local Government Procurement Training**

Local Government Procurement offers a range of training courses for council staff.

## Grants and Funding

### Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

#### **Create NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces – Grants Open**

Councils are eligible to apply for funding under the Arts NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative to open up new and innovative arts sites, and boost local participation.

#### **Flying-Fox Grants Program – Funding round closes soon**

The second round of funding to help councils implement actions in flying-fox camp management plans closes on 17 February. Apply now!

## General Interest

### Item 4: LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 – Register now

**The Hon Adam Marshall MP, NSW's new Minister for Tourism and Major Events will officially open LGNSW's upcoming conference in Taree 12 – 14 March.**

The Minister will discuss how the NSW Government plans to work with industry and local councils to grow tourism in NSW.

Themed 'Tourism is everyone's business', the conference covers challenges and opportunities the NSW local government tourism industry faces, including:

- Inclusive tourism – how to make your destination accessible, building an inclusive culture and how to market to the target audience
- Developing and improving Indigenous tourism and product
- Maximising the economic benefits of emerging market segments
- Understanding the needs of nature tourists and how to grow this sector in your area
- Leading your community to enjoy tourism and events
- Activating and sharing art, culture and heritage

[Register online](#) 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 5: NSW Local Government General Manager Remuneration Report 2015/16 early bird discount

**Order LGNSW's annual general manager remuneration report before Friday 10 March and benefit from a 20 per cent early bird discount.**

The general manager remuneration report provides comparative data on general managers' 'cost-to-council' remuneration.

This year's report contains legacy data for the financial year period 2011/12 to 2015/16.

The legacy report provides trend data of council's general manager remuneration compared with other councils in the comparison group. This data can be used to monitor the relativity of general manager remuneration across the sector. It is useful data to consider when attracting or retaining general managers or when considering performance-based increases in remuneration.

Reports provide comparisons against:

- All councils
- Urban or rural councils, based on the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) classification
- Comparison groups based on LGNSW Management Solutions classification (councils with similar demographics)
- Local government Remuneration Tribunal determinations effective from 1 July 2015
- Comparison groups based on OLG regions.

Reports will be delivered to general managers from March 2017.

Please contact [Debra Law](#) to order a copy.

**Date**

Early bird discount offer ends close of business Friday 10 March 2017

**Further information**

[NSW Council Comparatives – Remuneration](#)

**Contact**

Debra Law  
Divisional Coordinator  
02 9242 4142  
[debra.law@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:debra.law@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I09/0016 MA

## General Interest

### Item 6: NSW Local Government 2016/17 Remuneration Survey

**Councils are encouraged to participate in LGNSW's annual local government remuneration survey which collects comparative data for the sector.**

All participating councils will receive a complimentary summary of the median total remuneration package (TRP) for positions surveyed (general managers, directors, managers and supervisors/specialists).

The data collected is particularly useful for budget planning and remuneration reviews and gives crucial support to recruitment activities and decision making on HR related issues.

To order survey packs, please contact Debra Law. Completed surveys (and remuneration report orders) should be received by close of business Friday 24 February 2017.

A discount on reports will be applied for councils that have participated in the survey for the past two years.

**Online information**  
[LGNSW Remuneration Survey and Reports](#)

**Contact**  
Debra Law  
Divisional Coordinator  
02 9242 4142  
[debra.law@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:debra.law@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I09/0016 MA

## General Interest

### Item 7: LGNSW Events Network Meeting – Register now

#### LGNSW's events network will meet on Friday 7 April at Penrith's iFLY Downunder.

Themed 'Creating iconic events to grow your visitor economy and skill set', the meeting will be hosted by Penrith City Council whose staff will share their experience and insights on:

- Tourism and events in Penrith
- Stakeholder relations & sponsorship
- Case study: Creating an Iconic Event – Real Festival
- Case study: Working in Partnership – Hosting Major Events
- iFLY Presentation & Tour

#### Members only

This event is offered to LG Event Network members only. It is free to attend but delegate numbers are limited to two people per council. Please book early (for catering and seating purposes). For further information, including transport and accommodation options, and registration, visit the LGNSW [Events Network](#).

#### Special offer

Penrith City Council and iFly are offering attendees an [optional iFLY Introductory offer](#). The offer includes two indoor skydives for one person (\$81.75, reduced from \$109), and can be redeemed on the day of the event or any weekday in April. Please register your interest during the online registration process.

#### Dates and location

Friday 7 April 2017  
9.30am – 2pm  
Conference Room  
iFLY Downunder  
Panthers Precinct  
123 Mulgoa Road  
Penrith

#### Cost

No charge

#### Online information

[Register now](#)

#### Contact

Karen Rolls  
02 9242 4050  
[karen.rolls@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:karen.rolls@lgnsw.org.au)

Ref: R11/0021 TB

## General Interest

### Item 8: Workplace Responses to Gender-Based Violence – Free Webinar

**Council managers and HR staff are invited to participate in a free webinar on how employers can address gender-based violence as a workplace issue.**

Gender-based violence is the leading cause of death, disability and ill-health among women aged 15-44. It affects one in four women in Australia. Their experiences of violence may impact their health and safety in the workplace, as well as productivity and retention.

This webinar will help employers understand how to develop and implement policy and responses to support employees who have experienced gender-based violence, as well as provide behavior management for those who may use violence.

Participants will learn about:

- Trauma and other impacts of sexual assault and domestic violence
- How a traumatised person may present in the workplace
- Skills in responding compassionately to a person who has experienced sexual assault and/or domestic or family violence
- Workplace strategies to create a supportive workplace culture
- Tactics used by perpetrators.

This webinar is suitable for HR personnel, managers and other leaders invested in creating cultures of respect and safety for staff impacted by gendered violence. It is presented by The Full Stop Foundation (Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia).

**Dates and location**

Tuesday 14 February 2017  
1pm – 1.45pm

**Online information**

[Webinar Registration](#)

**Cost**

Free

**Ref:** R90/0071-03 LG

## Community

### Item 9: Aged and Disability Forum

**Council staff working in ageing and disability are reminded to register for LGNSW's free Aged and Disability Forum on 14 March in Sydney.**

At the forum council staff can:

- Receive information and support on the aged and disability care reforms
- Discuss the implications for their services.

Highlights include key presentations on:

- Home care packages
- Steps to be NDIS ready
- Workforce planning
- Change management

There will also be a yarning session on inclusiveness, focusing on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The forum is free of charge to all relevant council staff. Registration is essential for catering purposes.

**Dates and location**

14 March 2017  
11.30 am to 4.15 pm  
Sydney Masonic Centre  
66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

**Cost**

Free

**Online information**

[Aged and Disability Forum](#)

**Contact**

Margaret Kay  
LGNSW  
[margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au)

02 9242 4082

**Ref:** R05/0058 MK

## Community

### Item 10: Childcare SEPP

**The NSW Government has released a draft Education and Childcare State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). Councils are encouraged to provide input to LGNSW's submission on issues relating to childcare services.**

The NSW Government is proposing the following changes to the planning system:

- Aligning the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care Facilities into the NSW planning system.
- Simplifying and streamlining the planning approval process by allowing certain early childhood education and care facilities to be assessed as exempt or complying developments.
- Referring development applications that do not meet key national requirements to the Department of Education early in the assessment process, allowing applicants to make any necessary modifications early in the design process.
- Allowing early childhood education and care facilities to be temporarily relocated (through an exempt development process) in the event of an emergency.
- Amend all local environmental plans to permit centre-based child care in all R2 low density residential and IN2 light industrial zones, allowing child care centres in more locations closer to homes and workplaces.
- Introduce the Child Care Planning Guideline, which contains key national requirements and design guidance for child care facilities.

These changes will not affect the requirement for early childhood education and care providers to apply for a service approval to operate a service. In NSW the Department of Education is the regulatory authority which reviews and approves applications for service approvals.

As long as all planning controls have been met, the proposed SEPP will allow the following types of facilities to be considered as exempt development:

- All home-based child care facilities on all land, including land prone to bushfires with appropriate protection measures
- School-based child care, as long as facilities comply with the National Quality Framework
- Mobile child care
- Temporary relocations of child care facilities in the event of an emergency.

#### **Dates and location**

Comments on issues relating to childcare service provision to LGNSW by 10 March

#### **Online information**

[Draft-Education-SEPP](#)

#### **Contact**

Margaret Kay  
[margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:margaret.kay@lgnsw.org.au)  
02 9242 4082

**Ref:** R90/0124 MK

## Community

### Item 11: Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards

**Local government organisations are invited to enter the MAPDA awards which celebrate excellence in design and communication in the museum and gallery sector across Australia and New Zealand.**

The Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards are open to all non-commercial museums, galleries, zoos, botanical gardens, historical societies, libraries, keeping places, science centres and other cultural organisations. Members and non-members of Museums Australia are eligible to enter, subject to different entry fees.

Categories include: exhibition catalogue, book, poster, invitation, magazine, exhibition branding, websites, labels, multimedia, and film, video, audio and interactives for delivery over the internet or on mobile devices.

Entries are judged on the following criteria:

- Original creative idea, innovative concept
- Design skills in the expression and extension of the idea through suitable typography, photography, illustration, form structure and material use
- The publication's ability to communicate effectively and meaningfully
- Production and technical values, suitable stock, production process, colour quality and consistency, embellishments or incorporating ecological concerns.

Materials must have been produced between 1 January and 31 December the year prior to the awards.

The awards will be presented at the Museums Australia National Conference in Brisbane on Monday 15 May 2017.

**Dates and location**

Entries close 16 March 2017

**Online information**

[Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Website](#)

**Contact**

[mapda@museumsaustralia.org.au](mailto:mapda@museumsaustralia.org.au)  
02 6230 0346

**Ref:** R13/0028 SW

## Community

### Item 12: Create NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces – Grants Open

**Councils are eligible to apply for funding under the Arts NSW Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative to open up new and innovative arts sites, and boost local participation.**

Sites might include popups, studios, offices, artists residencies and rehearsal spaces.

The initiative aims to encourage property owners or managers, including councils, to offer new or unused spaces for making and programming art works over the next two years.

#### Who can apply?

- Professional artists, creative partnerships, cultural groups and arts organisations based in NSW
- Community groups, unincorporated entities and non-government organisations based in NSW
- Government property owners managers based in NSW.

For the purposes of this initiative, Arts NSW defines Western Sydney as the following local government areas: Blacktown; Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, The Hills District, Liverpool, City of Parramatta, Penrith and Wollondilly.

#### Funding

Funding of between \$10,000 and \$60,000 is available per application.

Projects must commence on or after 1 July 2017 but can run until 30 June 2019.

Applications can be made using the [online Smartygrants](#) process and close on Monday 6 March 2017.

**Applications close**  
5pm, Monday 6 March 2017

**Online information**  
[Western Sydney Making Spaces Initiative, Arts NSW Website](#)

**Online Applications**  
<https://artsnsw.smartygrants.com.au/>

**Contact**  
Augusta Supple  
Western Sydney Project Officer  
02 9995 0533  
[augusta.supple@arts.nsw.gov.au](mailto:augusta.supple@arts.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R13/0028 SW

## Environment

### Item 13: Flying-Fox Grants Program – Funding round closes soon

**The second round of funding to help councils implement actions in flying-fox camp management plans closes on 17 February. Apply now!**

The flying fox grants program, funded by the Office of Environment and Heritage and administered by LGNSW, comprises funding under three streams.

**Stream 1** - Implementing emergency flying fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts.

- Maximum grant size: \$50,000
- Applications close Sunday 30 April 2017.

**Stream 2** - Preparing flying fox camp management plans.

- Maximum grant size: \$15,000
- Applications close Sunday 30 April 2017.

**Stream 3** – Implementing approved actions in flying fox camp management plans.

- Maximum grant size: \$50,000
- A second round of stream three funding opened 2 January and closes Friday 17 February 2017.

Grants are open to NSW local government organisations including councils, county councils and regional organisations of councils. Collaboration with other partners is encouraged, particularly where multiple camps are involved or a camp is across tenures.

Proposals require matching funds or in-kind contributions on a one-to-one basis. Proposals with higher matching cash contributions may be more competitive in the assessment process.

For further information regarding the streams, eligibility criteria and applications process, go to the [LGNSW flying-fox grants program page](#).

#### Online information

[Flying foxes grant program](#)

#### Contact

Susy Cenedese  
Strategy Manager  
LGNSW  
02 9242 4080  
[susy.cenedese@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:susy.cenedese@lgnsw.org.au)

Rod Hardwick  
Project Officer  
LGNSW  
0439 098 172  
[rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:rod.hardwick@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R16/0011 RH

## Finance

### Item 14: Draft Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Released for Comment

**The Office of Local Government (OLG) is inviting comment on the draft Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (update 25).**

The draft code includes a supplement providing guidance to new councils in preparation of their financial statements for the period from formation to 30 June 2017.

The OLG has updated the draft code in response to sector feedback, policy changes and changes to the Australian Accounting Standards.

Councils can attend a webinar on Tuesday 14 February 2017 from 9.30am for an overview of the changes in the current draft.

The OLG has also updated the information relating to *AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures* on its [website](#) including links to other policies and guidance, additional Q&As and information pertaining to the similarities and difference in pecuniary interest disclosures and related party disclosures.

#### Key changes

Key changes to the code include:

- Note 9 – Infrastructure, property plant and equipment

The draft code clarifies the requirement for councils to perform a full revaluation of investment properties (at fair value) when material changes have occurred.

- Note 28 – Related party disclosures

The draft code includes a new note for the required disclosures associated with AASB 124 – Related Party Disclosures.

All councils are required to comply with AASB 124, with the exception of the 19 new councils proclaimed on 12 May 2016. Bayside Council is required to comply as it was proclaimed after the commencement of the standard.

- Special Schedule 7 – Report on infrastructure assets

The updated schedule provides further clarity in relation to asset classes. It also includes the mandatory requirement to report on the 'cost to bring assets to agreed service level' performance indicator.

- Appendix L – Deletions to draft code #25

A new appendix illustrates significant deletions made to the draft code #25.

- Supplement for new councils

A supplement has been prepared providing guidance to new councils in preparation of their financial statements for the period from formation to 30 June 2017. It includes the following additional disclosures for new councils and should be read in conjunction with code #25:

- Income statement – Gain on local government amalgamation

A disclosure of the assets and liabilities transferred from former councils and any accounting policy adjustments.

- Statement of cashflows

A disclosure of the cash transferred from amalgamation of councils.

#### Online information

[OLG's website](#)

#### Feedback

Email [code@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:code@olg.nsw.gov.au) by 1 March 2017

#### Webinar on draft code

Tuesday 14 February 2017  
9:30am

[Register now](#)

Registration closes 13 February 2017

**Ref:** R90/0397-05 SM

- Note 1 (a) – Basis of preparation in accounting policies  
Sample wording for the basis of preparation of the financial statements.
- Note 29 – Local Government amalgamation  
A detailed account of the assets and liabilities received from the former councils.

Due to the fact that this is the first and, in addition, a unique reporting period, when preparing general purpose financial statements, new councils will not be required to disclose budget information, comparatives, and note 16 – material budget variations. See fact box for more information.

## Planning

### Item 15: Education and Child Care SEPP and Infrastructure SEPP

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has released a proposed new Education and Child Care Facilities State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) as well as draft amendments to the existing Infrastructure SEPP. Submissions are due 24 March 2017.

The proposed Education SEPP will expand the exempt, complying and development-without-consent provisions for schools, TAFEs, universities and child care centres. While the intention is to restrict these provisions to the simpler applications, LGNSW has concerns about the scope of development that will be able to be approved as 'complying', especially in relation to schools.

The complying development process will deny community involvement in the process, and may down play important issues that can be more rigorously assessed under the development application (DA) process. Critical issues of concern to both users and residents include traffic, parking, road safety, noise and privacy.

The proposed changes to the approval process for child care facilities seem to be less problematic from a council perspective, as there appears to be more appreciation that child care centres warrant a DA process unless they are co-located on school grounds. Key changes are listed below:

#### For educational establishments

- Allowing all new schools and many extensions to existing schools (up to four storeys) to be approved as complying development
- Lowering the threshold for State Significant Development to \$20 million for schools, enabling them to be approved by the relevant Sydney or regional planning panel
- Introducing a certificate of compliance from RMS in relation to traffic for school developments
- Inserting a concurrence role for the Department of Education for schools.

#### For child care facilities

- Enabling school-based child care to be approved as exempt or complying development
- Mandating the permissibility of child care centres in all R2 and IN2 Zones
- Applying a state-wide planning guide for all child care centres that are approved as a DA.

For more information on the draft child care planning policy please [see item 10](#).

Amendments to the existing Infrastructure SEPP are also on exhibition. These changes will primarily apply to health facilities, commuter hubs, and police activities and council operational land in particular.

LGNSW will be making a submission and would appreciate councils' views on the proposed changes. Please forward comments and copies of submissions to [Jenny Dennis](#).

**Submissions due**  
Friday 24 March 2017

#### DP&E website information

[Draft education and child care SEPP](#)

[Draft Infrastructure SEPP](#)

#### Contact

Jenny Dennis  
Senior Policy Officer  
02 9242 4094  
[jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R15/0028 JD

## Planning

### Item 16: LGNSW submission to Fire Safety Draft Regulations

**LGNSW has made a submission in response to proposed new regulations which aim to improve fire safety in new buildings and building work.**

Proposed changes to provisions for fire safety in the design, construction and approval of new buildings and building work have been on exhibition since December.

The changes are the first of a number of reform priorities for building regulation announced by the NSW Government last year. LGNSW's submission supports the proposed changes in relation to fire safety reforms as they are a first step towards improving certifier regulation on which LGNSW has advocated for many years.

LGNSW has requested that the NSW Government further consult local government professionals (who are well placed to provide more detailed technical input on this issue) as guidelines, practice notes and transitional arrangements are developed.

Read [LGNSW's submission](#).

**LGNSW submission**  
[LGNSW's submissions page](#)

**Fire Safety Reforms**  
[DP&E website](#)

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

**Ref:** R04/0080 JP

## Planning

### Item 17: LGNSW Submission to Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs)

**LGNSW has made a submission on the Government's proposals to improve the policy framework for voluntary planning agreements.**

The submission provides a response to three draft documents relating to voluntary planning agreements (VPAs) placed on public exhibition last year by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. The documents are a draft Ministerial Direction, a draft Practice Note and a draft Planning Circular.

LGNSW's submission also comments on proposed amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which relate to the execution of planning agreements. (The EP&A Act amendments were announced in early January 2017 and are on exhibition until 10 March).

The Government's proposal to update the framework for VPAs reaffirms the legitimacy and importance of VPAs in the planning system. This is reassuring given the unwarranted criticism of VPAs by sections of the development sector and the Government's previous proposals in the 2013 Planning White Paper to specifically reduce the opportunity for councils to be able to use VPAs.

LGNSW is strongly supportive of the principles and policies contained in the draft Practice Note, but is concerned about the draft Ministerial Direction and proposed Act amendments.

Read the full [submission](#).

**Online information**  
[LGNSW's submission](#)

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

**Ref:** R04/0066 JP

## Roads and Transport

### Item 18: Transport Connectivity Report Released

**The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities has tabled its report, 'Harnessing Value, Delivering Infrastructure'.**

The committee has recommended developing value capture mechanisms to fund new transport infrastructure and the development of high speed rail to facilitate new patterns of settlement in Australia.

The committee also recommended:

- Developing a framework for the specification and evaluation of proposals for the development of a high speed rail network in eastern Australia
- Investigating options for private funding of high speed rail through value capture
- Monitoring and investigating other technological innovations for transport connectivity.
- Recognising the potential of value capture to contribute to the costs of new transport infrastructure
- Developing a system for coordinating the planning and funding of major infrastructure projects across all levels of government
- Coordinated procurement of vehicles and rolling stock for transport infrastructure
- Establishing value capture mechanisms for individual transport infrastructure projects as a condition of federal funding
- Developing a toolkit of value capture mechanisms that can be applied by all levels of government
- Continued roll-out of City Deal-type agreements with the various state, territory and local governments
- Developing a consistent and coordinated approach to the application of value-capture to major infrastructure projects, with the Australian Government acting as the single-point for the collection of value capture revenues

[Download a copy of the report.](#)

**Download a copy of the report**  
[Harnessing Value, Delivering Infrastructure](#)

**Further information**

Contact the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities at:

02 6277 2352  
[itc.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:itc.reps@aph.gov.au)  
[www.aph.gov.au/itc](http://www.aph.gov.au/itc)

**Ref: R90/0552 RC**

## Learning

### Item 19: Mayors' Weekend – 18 and 19 March 2017

**LGNSW is offering a seminar for NSW mayors, deputy mayors and aspiring mayors to help address complex leadership challenges.**

Mayors are the face of local government. Theirs is an important and demanding role. Mayors are expected to provide the leadership required for councils to work effectively and address community priorities.

Topics include:

- Current issues and challenges facing mayors and their councils
- The Mayoral Toolkit – the changing role of mayors and important 'tools of the trade'
- The mayor as community leader – locally and at the regional level
- The mayor as council leader – working with other councillors, chairing meetings
- The mayor and general manager
- State-local relations.

The seminar will include short background presentations, comments by expert panelists and 'roundtable' discussion amongst participants.

**Dates and location**

Saturday 18 March and Sunday 19  
March 2017  
Sydney

**Online information and registration**  
Mayoral Weekend**Cost**

LGNSW Members - \$1,320.00 incl.  
GST

Non- members - \$2,640.00 incl. GST

**Contact**

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 20: LGNSW Upcoming Courses: February – March 2017

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

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

#### **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)**

Sydney – Tuesday 28 February 2017 (Day 1), Tuesday 14 March 2017 (Day 2), Tuesday 4 April 2017 (Day 3), Tuesday 2 May 2014 (Day 4);

Mentor's Development Program – Monday 27 February 2017 (half-day) [More information](#)

The LGNSW Springboard program assists women in non-management positions to develop skills and knowledge in order to reach greater career goals.

#### **Improving Your Report Writing**

Sydney – Wednesday 1 March 2017

Learn to write effective, clear, concise and reader-friendly reports for your managers and your organisation. [More information](#)

#### **GIPA Act Advanced Training**

Sydney – Tuesday 7 March 2017

This advanced course is for those who have completed the introductory module or have some Freedom of Information or GIPA Act experience. [More information](#)

#### **Supervisor Series**

Sydney – Wednesday 8 March and Thursday 9 March 2017

This two day program is designed to aid the soon-to-be-appointed or newly-appointed supervisor. [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

## Learning

### Item 21: LGNSW services to enhance strategic thinking and planning

**LGNSW offers training programs and consultancy services to develop the strategic thinking and planning capabilities of senior staff and elected members.**

Programs include:

#### **Understanding Strategic Thinking (NEW program)**

Sydney – Friday 24 March 2017

This practice-focused, one-day workshop will introduce the concept of strategic thinking, explore the skills involved, and consider how they can be used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of your organisation. The program includes a mix of presentations, case studies, individual exercises and group discussions.

It is designed for senior staff, managers, strategists, HR professionals, mayors and councilors who see opportunities to get better results through new ways of working. [More information.](#)

#### **Workforce Planning**

Sydney – Wednesday 15 March 2017

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

#### **IP&R Review and Revision (customised service)**

LGNSW's IP&R review and revision service provides independent guidance and facilitation to assess council's progress and activities in pursuing the vision and goals of the Community Strategic Plan. It also:

- Builds the capabilities of staff to address future IP&R tasks and other planning activities
- Provides in-house training and oversight for community engagement activities
- Fosters a whole-of-council understanding of IP&R
- Involves councilors to reinforce the importance of long term outlook and civic leadership
- Is tailored to the needs of each council, ensuring that the review process is well directed, efficient and cost-effective.

[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](#)

**Registrations**  
[Learning Solutions](#)  
[Registrations](#)

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

**Contact for IP&R service**  
LGNSW Management  
Solutions  
02 9242 4161

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 22: Local Government Procurement Training

Local Government Procurement offers a range of training courses for council staff.

#### Procurement for Local Government

Casino – Thursday 16 March 2017

Gain a comprehensive understanding of the purchasing function within the NSW local government sector. Learn the end-to-end procurement life-cycle and practical ways to apply principles within council. [More information.](#) [Register online.](#)

#### Contract Management Essentials

Casino – Friday 17 March 2017

Understand the key principles of managing contracts in the local government sector, and learn about the contract management life-cycle and procurement principles.

[More information.](#)

[Register online.](#)

#### Planning and Specifications

Sydney CBD – Wednesday 29 March 2017

Based on key best-practice procurement plan writing and specifications development, participants will learn how to construct a basic plan to develop requirements, ensuring that contract arrangements are effective and practical. [More information.](#)

[Register online.](#)

#### Spend Analysis for Savings, Efficiencies, Compliance & Collaboration

Sydney CBD – Wednesday 5 April 2017

This practical one-day course will provide you with the ability to look for efficiencies, savings and reinforce compliance. It will cover internal analysis, external factors such as economic development and how to drive fact based procurement and contract management decisions. This course will particularly suit procurement and finance professionals. [More information.](#)

[Register online.](#)

#### Advanced Contract Management

Sydney CBD – Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 May 2017

This two-day course, designed to advance skills in contract management, is suitable for people managing (or planning or manage) high-risk, complex contracts. A large portion of value is extracted (or lost) post contract award. Through advanced contract management, you can manage risk, increase innovation, reduce waste and increase efficiency. [More information.](#) [Register online.](#)

#### Evaluation, Supplier Selection and Contract Establishment

Sydney CBD – Wednesday 24 May 2017

This one-day course supports supplier selection and evaluation techniques aligned to probity and value for money. Learn key tips on setting up evaluation criteria for the quotation and tender stage to ensure the right supplier is selected. Designed for staff either currently involved in quotation/tender evaluations or about to do so, participants will come away with practical skills applicable in the local government context. [More information.](#) [Register online.](#)

All Local Government Procurement (LGP) training can be conducted in-house at a location of your choice. For further information; view the [LGP Training Calendar](#) or contact, [LGP Training](#) or 02 8270 8709.

**Online information**  
[LGP Training website](#)

**Registrations**  
[LGP Training Calendar](#)

**Contact**  
LGP Training  
02 8270 8709  
[training@lgp.org.au](mailto:training@lgp.org.au)

**Ref:** R05/0057

## In the News

### Item 23: LGP News

[View the latest edition of LGP News distributed by Local Government Procurement.](#)

### Item 24: ALGA Newsletter

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