

Message from the President

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

NSW Budget 2017/18 – LGNSW Submission

LGNSW's pre-budget submission on the State Budget 2017/18 provides a comprehensive summary of more than 50 funding recommendations across 25 portfolio areas.

New Regulations to Introduce e-Lodgment for Councils

The Department of Planning and Environment is exhibiting draft regulations, that will introduce e-Lodgment for complying development applications and development applications, until 15 March 2017.

Disaster Assistance for Bushfire-Affected Communities

The Australian and NSW Governments have jointly announced disaster assistance for seven bushfire affected communities in NSW.

Great savings on LGNSW training

LGNSW is offering a 33 per cent discount on the cost of public courses when purchased as training bundles.

Last Chance to Register - LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017

Registration for the LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 closes Wednesday (22 February).

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 17 February 2017



On Tuesday, following weeks of speculation, the Premier announced her Government's position on forced council amalgamations. As a result, all existing amalgamations will be unchanged; planned forced amalgamations in regional areas will not proceed; and pending forced amalgamations in Sydney that are subject to court proceedings will go ahead, subject to decisions of the courts.

As I said in my members' message on the day, while this was welcome news for some members it was incredibly disappointing for others. While I am pleased LGNSW's advocacy to the Deputy Premier on behalf of regional councils was successful, I am disheartened that the newly-formed Government did not listen and extend the same fair and democratic approach to city councils.

We are here for all members – amalgamated or not, city or country – and I assure you that we will continue to pursue every important reform for our entire sector, not least financial sustainability, stronger governance and greater capability in local government. [See media release.](#)

We've had a number of members get in contact seeking clarity about what the Government's announcement means for council elections. I can report DPC advice as follows:

- The councils amalgamated last year go to election as planned in September this year (and then on the normal schedule - i.e. subsequent election in September 2020).
- The councils that were pending amalgamation, for whom amalgamations have been ruled out, will also go to election in September this year (and then on the normal schedule).
- As for those councils pending amalgamation, "For any new council created in 2017 the Government will be seeking to have the election held as soon as possible, with the aim of holding them in 2017. All councils that did not go to election in 2016 will have their election on 9 September 2017, unless they are covered by a merger proposal in Sydney and they are merged beforehand. For any future Sydney mergers, either before or after 9 September, the election will be held as soon as possible, with the aim of holding them in 2017."

This week, LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate and I attended a memorial service on the 39th anniversary of the Hilton bombing, as did Board members Cr Christine Forster and Cr Linda Scott from the City of Sydney. This tragedy killed two Sydney City Council workers and one police officer, while a second officer was severely injured. As we honoured our fallen colleagues at the service, United Services Union General Secretary Graeme Kelly in his speech stressed the importance of every worker being able to go to work and come home safely each day. I couldn't agree more. It was an honour to participate in the event, and a reminder that whatever is going on around us, the safety of everyone in every workplace must be our priority.

It was encouraging to see the appointment of former Reserve Bank Governor Glenn Stevens as an advisor to the Government on housing affordability. The appointment is a welcome step away from the supply-based rhetoric of the development lobby and towards a rational debate that focuses on the range of real issues driving affordability. We also basically welcomed the NSW Department of Planning's proposal to introduce e-lodgement for development applications. We have advocated for this for a long time. [See media release.](#)

This week the Government also announced it would delay the start of the new container deposit scheme (originally scheduled for 1 July). The scheme will now commence on 1 December across 85 per cent of the state with the remainder of NSW covered by 1 February 2018. This will give councils and others the extra time they need to prepare. [See media release.](#)

We have also stepped up our advocacy on tree trimming around power lines, culminating in LGNSW and a number of council officers this week refusing to support an Ausgrid tree trimming charter unless it included specific and enforceable service standard to address excessive pruning. There is more to come on this issue.

Last week's record-breaking heat saw bushfires across the state. In response, the Australian and NSW Governments have announced disaster assistance for affected communities: Kempsey, Mid Coast, Mid-Western Regional, Narrabri, Port Macquarie Hastings, Upper Hunter and Warrumbungle. [Read more.](#)

Together Donna and I met with the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal to discuss our strong submission on behalf of the sector.

This week Donna met with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum's new Secretary-General, Dr Greg Munro. Donna also attended a catch up with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council. Topics included culture and heritage and planning law reform, economic and capacity development and amalgamations. Senior LGNSW staff participated in a NSW Federation of Housing teleconference and attended a briefing with Big Issue CEO, Steven Persson on Homes for Homes – a fund with voluntary participation that finances affordable housing through a small percentage of the proceeds of housing sales.

LGNSW put forward submissions on the Clean Air for NSW review and to the NSW Government on the NSW budget for 2017/18. The budget submission calls upon the Government to provide funding for regional roads, public libraries and local water utilities amongst many things. [Read more.](#)

There are still limited spaces available for our District Planning Workshop next Thursday (23 February). [Visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

Lastly, if you plan to attend LGNSW's Tourism Conference 2017, you need to register by COB next Wednesday (22 February). Tourism is absolutely fundamental to many councils' economic development and we look forward to welcoming you to the event. [Read more.](#)

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Registration for the LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 closes Wednesday (22 February).

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Conferences and Events

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Grants and Funding

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The Australian and NSW Governments have jointly announced disaster assistance for seven bushfire affected communities in NSW.

General Interest

Item 3: NSW Budget 2017/18 – LGNSW Submission

LGNSW's pre-budget submission on the State Budget 2017/18 provides a comprehensive summary of more than 50 funding recommendations across 25 portfolio areas.

It includes calls to increase funding for roads, water utilities, street lighting, coastal and estuary grants, local government reform and public libraries.

It also addresses issues such as NSW emergency services funding, cost shifting, pensioner rebates, biodiversity and arts and culture funding.

The submission includes proposals to:

- Increase roads funding for councils in regional NSW by \$41.5 million per annum and establish a new \$50 million Fixing Metro Roads program for metropolitan councils.
- Continued funding for local water utilities, including a new, permanent funding program to replace the \$45 million per annum Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program which ceases at the end of 2016/17.
- Use the proceeds of the sale of the electricity networks to establish a \$50 million energy-efficient, street lighting upgrade fund.
- Increase the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program from \$63.2 million to \$100 million to help councils address coastal erosion issues.
- Increase funding for public libraries to \$40 million per annum.

The submission also calls on the NSW Government to make a significant budget commitment to local government reform in 2017/18 and beyond and to establish an ongoing Local Government Improvement Fund. Local government is one of the biggest sectors in the NSW economy. It contributes by spending \$11 billion each year, maintaining and upgrading infrastructure and land assets worth \$142 billion and employing more than 50,000 people, including in rural and regional NSW.

Restrictions to councils' revenue raising ability including 40 years of rate pegging mean local councils cannot meet the needs of growing communities. Treasury Corporation's 2013 assessment of the financial sustainability of NSW councils raised serious concerns about councils' ability to fund current and future service levels. Councils also have a large and growing infrastructure renewal backlog (\$7.4 billion at 30 June 2012).

LGNSW's submission makes it very clear that local government needs adequate financial resources from the NSW Government to address the current and future infrastructure needs of communities in NSW.

LGNSW submission
[Budget 2016/17 submission](#)

LGNSW contact
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or
Shaun McBride
02 9242 4072
shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R01/0012 SM

General Interest

Item 4: Employee Engagement Survey for Local Government

Councils are encouraged to participate in The UTS Centre for Local Government's People Matters survey.

The purpose of the research is to improve sector understanding of employee experiences working in local government.

The research will investigate employee perceptions of their workplaces in areas such as: engagement and leadership; values and conduct; workplace experiences; diversity and wellbeing; and intention to stay.

Survey results will provide a snapshot of employee experiences working in local government in NSW. They can be compared to the results of the similar NSW Public Service Commission's People Matters survey.

Organisational Data Reports

Participating councils with a response rate of 15-20 per cent of overall employees (with an indoor/outdoor staff split of 65/35) will receive individual topline reports detailing their results. This provides useful data for councils' own organisational purposes and also enables them to benchmark against the overall results. Individual council results will not be included in the final research report.

For further information or to confirm your interest, please contact survey lead researcher, Sophi Bruce from the UTS Centre for Local Government by phone (02 9514 7867) or [email](mailto:sophi.bruce@uts.edu.au).

Further information and contact

Sophi Bruce
UTS Centre for Local Government
02 9514 7867
sophi.bruce@uts.edu.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 5: Last Chance to Register - LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017

Registration for the LGNSW Tourism Conference 2017 closes next week (COB Wednesday 22 February).

If tourism is a priority for your region, don't miss the final opportunity to ensure you and your staff are represented.

The event will benefit tourism, events, planning and economic development staff who will take away the latest news, thinking and ideas from expert senior industry executives and speakers.

The 2017 LGNSW Tourism Conference is co-hosted by MidCoast Council. The conference theme is 'Tourism is everyone's business'. The program will focus on:

- Promoting tourism to the accessible market
- Raising inclusion awareness
- Nature tourism
- Heritage and cultural tourism

[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

Ref: R16/0007 TB

General Interest

Item 6: NSW Local Government General Manager Remuneration Report

The NSW Local Government General Manager Remuneration Report is now available and managers who order before Friday 10 March will receive a 20 per cent early bird discount.

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

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

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

Reports, delivered electronically to the general manager, 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.

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

Date

Early bird discount offer ends COB Friday 10 March 2017

Further information

[NSW Council Comparatives – Remuneration](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I09/0016 MA

General Interest

Item 7: Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water Review

The National Health and Medical Research Council is inviting councils to complete a survey as part of its review of guidelines for managing risks in recreational water.

The primary aim of the guidelines is to protect people from threats posed by the recreational use of coastal, estuarine and fresh waters. Threats may include natural hazards such as surf, rip currents and aquatic organisms, and those from artificial sources, such as wastewater discharges.

The council is seeking comment on priority areas for review and has developed a nine-question survey about how the existing guidelines are used.

The council is a peak body that: supports health and medical research; develops health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and governments; and provides advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

Councils are asked to comment by Friday 3 March 2017.

Dates and location

Survey closes Friday 3 March 2017

Online information

[The Recreational Water Guidelines Survey](#)

Contact

NHMRC Recreational Water Team
water@nhmrc.gov.au

Ref: R90/0024-07 LG

Community

Item 8: Changes to National Education and Care Services

The Council of Australian Governments Education Council has released a decision regulation impact statement outlining imminent changes to the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations.

The council coordinates national strategic policy on school, early childhood and higher education.

The statement outlines improvements to the National Quality Framework (NQF) for early childhood education and care. It follows the release of a consultation regulation impact statement and incorporates stakeholders' views and comments gathered during consultation in late 2014/early 2015.

The NQF currently covers:

- Family day care
- Outside school hours care
- Long day care
- Preschool

The key changes to the national law are:

- A revised national quality standard to strengthen quality through greater clarity, remove conceptual overlap between elements and standards, clarify language and reduce the number of standards and elements from 18 standards to 15, and 58 to 40 elements.
- Improved oversight and support within family day care to achieve better compliance and quality across the whole sector.
- Removing supervisor certificate requirements so service providers have more autonomy in deciding who can be the responsible person in each service, and to reduce red tape.
- Introduction of a national educator to child ratio of 1:15 for services providing education and care to school age children. A 12 month transitional period will apply in NSW to allow the sector time for introduction of this new requirement.

The NSW Department of Education and Training will also host forums for service providers and peaks in mid-2017 to ensure the sector is supported and prepared for the changes to commence in October 2017.

The changes will come into effect in NSW in October 2017. A revised national quality standard will come into effect on 1 February 2018.

Dates

Changes come into effect October 2017 in NSW

Online information

[Education Council](#)

[Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority](#)

Contact

1800 619 113 or
ececd@det.nsw.edu.au

Ref: R90/0115 MK

Community

Item 9: Violence against Women in Refugee Communities Workshop

NSW Health is offering free workshops on the specific needs related to refugee women's experience of domestic violence.

The two-day workshops are for health workers, interagency workers, and bilingual and ethno-specific workers who provide services to women and children who experience domestic violence. They outline a framework for understanding domestic violence including its definition, prevalence and impact. They also address issues such as past refugee experiences, immigration and settlement.

The workshops reflect the range of cultural and social considerations that matter when working with refugee women and their children, as well as their protection preferences and contexts.

After completing the course participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of definitions, prevalence and dynamics of domestic violence, particularly in relation to refugee experiences.
- Discuss common beliefs and attitudes toward people (particularly refugees) who experience domestic violence, and how this impacts them and their access to services.
- Demonstrate the impact of domestic violence on children and child protection responsibilities.
- Understand the legal context of domestic violence, and have the ability to develop interagency relationships and strategies to enhance access to justice and safety.
- Understand best practice when working with culturally and linguistically diverse people from refugee backgrounds, the effects of racism, barriers to services and strategies to enhance culturally-competent service provision.

Dates and locations

Ashfield, 1 – 2 May 2017. Enrolment closes 3 April.

Coffs Harbour, 16 – 17 May 2017. Enrolment closes 18 April.

Parramatta, 6 – 7 June 2017. Enrolment closes 9 May.

For more information and to register, visit the NSW Health [violence against women in refugee communities'](#) webpage.

Dates and locations

Ashfield, 1 – 2 May 2017. Enrolment closes 3 April.

Coffs Harbour, 16 – 17 May 2017.
Enrolment closes 18 April.

Parramatta, 6 – 7 June 2017.
Enrolment closes 9 May.

Online information

[Violence against women in refugee communities](#)

Cost

Free for NSW participants

\$200 (+GST) for private practitioners and interstate participants

Contact

Eva Adamkiewicz, Violence
Coordinator
NSW Health Education Centre
Against Violence
eva.adamkiewicz@health.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0071 LG

Emergency Management

Item 10: Disaster Assistance for Bushfire-Affected Communities

The Australian and NSW Governments have jointly announced disaster assistance for seven bushfire affected communities in NSW.

Assistance is now available to Kempsey, Mid Coast, Mid-Western Regional, Narrabri, Port Macquarie Hastings, Upper Hunter and Warrumbungle.

The joint-funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements include:

- Help for people whose homes or belongings have been damaged
- Support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning and restoring damaged essential public assets
- Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations
- Freight subsidies for primary producers
- Grants for not-for-profit organisations.

Visit the [Australian Government Disaster Assist](#) and [Emergency NSW](#) websites for further information.

Further Information

[Australian Government Disaster Assist](#)

[Emergency NSW](#)

Ref: R90/0753 RC

Environment

Item 11: Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board

The NSW Government is inviting qualified individuals to apply for membership on the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board (by 10 March 2017).

The Board helps protect and enhance biodiversity in NSW through private land conservation and strategic biodiversity offset outcomes.

To be considered, applicants must have skills and experience in one or more of the following:

- Increasing public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the importance of biodiversity by private landholders and other community members
- Protection and conservation of biodiversity
- Management of natural resources, including agricultural land
- Agricultural land production systems
- Land-use planning and operation of local councils
- Marketing, fundraising, communications and stakeholder engagement
- Economics and financial management (including investment fund management)
- Information technology
- Law, governance and administration
- Decision-making and leadership.

Members will be able to demonstrate capabilities to assist the Board in its functions, including: delivering the private land conservation program; seeking strategic biodiversity offset outcomes; and managing and controlling related funds. Additional governance skills being sought are: setting strategy and managing risk; and managing people and achieving change.

Government sector employees are eligible to be appointed as board members but cannot receive fees. All other appointments to the Board are paid positions.

For further information, please visit the [Biodiversity Conservation Trust webpage](#). To submit an expression of interest please send a cover letter and resume to rod.plc@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Dates

Applications close 10 March 2017

Online information

[Biodiversity Conservation Trust](#)

Contact

rod.plc@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R91/0146-04 SC

Environment

Item 12: Environmental Protection Authority: Business Recycling Research

The Environmental Protection Authority is encouraging councils to provide input into research about waste and recycling in small and medium enterprises.

The agency has contracted private consulting firm, ARTD Consultants, to conduct the research and is encouraging councils to get in touch to discuss their local waste reduction and recycling programs, including priorities, skills and resources.

The Environment Protection Authority aims to use the information gathered to develop and improve local and regional programs across the state.

Councils wishing to participate should contact [Amanda Reeves](#) at ARTD Consultants before consultation closes next Friday 24 February.

Dates

Ending Friday 24 February

Contacts

Amanda Reeves, ARTD consultant
amanda.reeves@artd.com.au

Heidi Robertson, EPA
02 9995 6904

Ref: R90/0568-09 MM

Environment

Item 13: Service Station Vapour Recovery Workshops

Registration closes next Friday (24 February) for NSW Environmental Protection Authority vapour recovery workshops.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is running workshops for council officers (environment, regulatory or planning staff) to provide practical information and guidance about vapour recovery (VR) technology and compliance.

The NSW Clean Air Regulation requires the installation of control equipment to reduce petrol vapour emissions at service stations. On 31 January 2017 regulatory responsibility for VR was transitioned to councils.

Following capacity-building workshops held in late 2016, a second round of one-day workshops will be held in March.

Tuesday 7 March, Hurstville

Thursday 9 March, Parramatta

Friday 10 March, Sydney CBD

Numbers are limited to two attendees per council. The EPA may hold additional workshops based on demand.

Councils are the Appropriate Regulatory Authority (ARA) for service stations in NSW (under the *Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997*) and therefore already have responsibility for compliance and planning issues relating to petrol service stations (other than VR).

Since 2010 the EPA has been regulating the progressive upgrade of service stations from Port Stephens to Wollongong, and west to the Blue Mountains with VR technology. This role transitioned to councils on 31 January 2017. As this compliance role is new for many environment officers, the EPA continues to manage non-compliant VR sites and will support councils in the transition process until 30 June 2017.

Learn more about [vapour recovery at service stations](#) and [register for the workshops](#).

Dates and locations

Tuesday 7 March, Hurstville
Thursday 9 March, Parramatta
Friday 10 March, Sydney CBD

Register

[Vapour recovery workshop registration form](#)

Registration closes at 5 pm, 24 February 2017

Online information

[EPA website](#)

Ref: R92/0037-03 SC

Planning

Item 14: New Regulations to Introduce e-Lodgment for Councils

The Department of Planning and Environment is exhibiting draft regulations, that will introduce e-Lodgement for complying development applications and development applications, until 15 March 2017.

The draft regulations will set up a state-wide lodgement system which will require all applicants to lodge complying development applications and development applications on the NSW Portal, which currently provides information on planning and zoning controls.

The new system will standardise the lodgement process and make it easier and more transparent for users. The challenge for councils will be modifying their IT systems to integrate with the new system. LGNSW has been advised the system will be progressively rolled out as councils are able to connect to the system.

The changes will require application forms and accompanying information to be standardised. They will also require council's development controls plans and contributions plans to be exhibited and subsequently published on the portal.

As with all processes to standardise systems, the impact will vary across the sector.

LGNSW would like to hear from councils about the draft regulations. Please direct comments to [Jenny Dennis](#).

Date

Submissions due 15 March 2017

Online information

[Exhibition details](#)

Contact

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

Ref: R09/0015 JD

Roads and Transport

Item 15: Local Government Heavy Vehicle Forum

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is inviting councils to participate in the Local Government Heavy Vehicle Forum in Forbes on 7 March 2017.

Attendance is free and LGNSW encourages relevant council staff to attend. RSVP by Tuesday 28 February 2017.

The event will help councils understand how to meet their obligations under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) and identify opportunities to improve productivity and safety in the local freight task.

Key objectives:

- Inform councils about roles and opportunities under the HVNL, and how the NHVR can assist
- Showcase councils that have adapted to their roles under the HVNL to reduce red tape and boost local economies
- Encourage council representatives to share experiences and find solutions to unique freight challenges
- Identify ways to advance improvements in freight productivity and safety.

The forum will be of particular interest to councillors, senior council management and technical staff. Space is limited, so please [register online](#) by Tuesday 28 February 2017.

To help minimize travel, the annual Central West NSW Heavy Vehicle Breakfast Forum will be held the following morning, Wednesday 8 March (commencing at 6.15 am and concluding late morning). For further information on the breakfast forum, please contact [Logan Dolbel](#) (02 6861 2364) at Parkes Shire Council.

The forum is hosted by Forbes Shire Council in partnership with LGNSW, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

Date and location

Tuesday 7 March 2017
12.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Forbes Town Hall

RSVP by Tuesday 28 February 2017

Contact / Further Information

Tim Hansen
NHVR Stakeholder Specialist
07 3309 8601
tim.hansen@nhvr.gov.au

Ref: R90/0985 RC

Learning

Item 16: Great savings on LGNSW training

LGNSW is offering a 33 per cent discount on the cost of public courses when purchased as training bundles.

The discount applies to most LGNSW public courses when a bundle of places is purchased upfront, equivalent to 25 days of training. Credit can then be used to send elected representatives and staff on LGNSW's courses.

For example, a bundle could be used for:

- One-day courses like Speed Reading or Understanding Strategic Thinking
- Two-day courses such as the Mayors' Weekend and the Supervisor Series
- The four-day Springboard Women's Development Program or Navigator Men's Development Program

View LGNSW's upcoming courses to see how the training bundle can be spent.

This offer is **not available** for LGNSW conferences, forums, seminars, e-learning or the Executive Certificate for Elected Members. Credit must be used within 12 months from the date of purchase.

For a total cost of \$11,000 (incl. GST), members receive 25 days of training for \$440 per day (incl. GST) instead of the regular price of \$660 per day.

For more information about the bundled training package, contact LGNSW Learning Solutions.

Cost

Members: \$11,000 (incl. GST)

Non-members: \$22,000 (incl. GST)

For 25 days of public course training
for elected members and staff

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 17: 2017 Local Government Employment Law Seminar

LGNSW's Employment Law Seminar provides insight into current issues affecting employment law in local government.

Designed for managers and employment relations professionals, this annual event brings together legal and industrial experts to discuss legislative changes and their implications.

Seminar topics will include:

- Changes to the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW
- Employment contracts – getting the basics right
- Unfair dismissal – procedural and substantive fairness explained through recent case examples
- Workplace behaviour – drawing the line
- Workplace culture – when does conduct outside work amount to misconduct?
- The rise of the gig economy – what are the legal implications for employers?
- Navigating the intersection between public interest disclosure management and employee management.

Speakers include:

- Chief Commissioner, Industrial Relations Commission of NSW
- Cilla Robinson, Clayton Utz
- Tim McDonald, Partner, Moray & Agnew Lawyers
- Michal Roucek and Lois Izzo, Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors
- Roland Hassall, Partner, Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- Helen Carter, PCC Lawyers.

See LGNSW's website for [more information and to register](#).

Date and Location

Friday 28 April 2017
Swissotel
68 Market Street, Sydney

Further information and registrations

[LGNSW Law Seminar](#)

Cost

LGNSW Members: \$715 (incl. GST)
Non- members: \$1,430 (incl. GST)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 18: Navigator Men's Development Program

LGNSW is launching a new development program for men, following the success of the Springboard Women's Development Program.

The program, called Navigator, enables men to identify clear, practical and realistic steps to get results at work or in their personal lives. This may include attaining a new qualification, promotion, new skills, an improved attitude to change in the workplace, better health or work/life balance.

Navigator will help men:

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

The program comprises of four workshops over three months. Each workshop features a high-profile male guest speaker and participants have the opportunity to network with men from other councils.

LGNSW coordinates a mentoring strategy in conjunction with the program and delivers a half-day program for mentors.

All workshops are held in Sydney but councils outside the metropolitan area interested in implementing the program locally can contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au) for more information.

Dates

Workshop 1 – Thursday 4 May
Workshop 2 – Thursday 1 June
Workshop 3 – Thursday 29 June
Workshop 4 – Thursday 27 July

Online Registration

[Navigator Men's Development Program](http://learning@lgnsw.org.au)

Cost

Members: \$1,320 (incl. GST)
Non-members: \$2,640 (incl. GST)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 19: LGNSW Upcoming Courses

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.

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](#)

Managing Workplace Reform

Sydney – Friday 17 March 2017

This workshop provides practical guidance to councils undergoing workplace change as a result of amalgamations. [More information](#)

Local Training

Courses can also be delivered locally. Contact [LGNSW](#) 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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 20: Local Government Procurement Qualifications

Registrations are open for accredited procurement qualifications courses for NSW council staff involved in purchasing, stores, tendering and contract management.

The following courses are available:

Certificate IV in Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Starting in May

A practical, hands-on program giving participants practice gaining approvals, as well as developing procurement plans and related legislation and key documents such as specification requirements, the Request for Tender and the Tender Evaluation Plan.

Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD - Starting in May

A specialist qualification covering the competencies required for independent and self-directed work as a procurement and contract manager in the local government sector. The program is suitable for staff who have completed Certificate IV.

Learn to:

- Conduct more significant procurements, including managing contract performance
- Apply government processes, implement policy and promote and monitor compliance with legislation
- Coordinate risk management activities and manage contract risk.

Advanced Diploma of Procurement and Contracting

Sydney CBD – Starting in July

Participants will develop the strategic management skills necessary to operate at the middle-to-senior management level in the public sector, with emphasis on conducting and managing high-level and complex procurement processes. Students will participate in significant case studies and negotiation scenarios, make presentations and examine the legal, legislative and policy framework in which high-level procurements occur.

Learn to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of strategic procurement and contract management in the public sector, including legislative requirements
- Understand the importance of good corporate governance and internal controls
- Support strategic thinking in relation to government procurement issues
- Communicate effectively with staff and other stakeholders
- Support productive working relationships and achieve results.

All LGP training can be conducted in-house at a location of your choice. For further information view the [LGP website](#) 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

Ref: R05/0057

In the News

Item 21: Local Government NSW Media

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

Item 22: ALGA Newsletter

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