

## Message from the President

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

## Department of Planning and Environment - Legislative Update Sessions

Councils are reminded that the Department of Planning and Environment is hosting information sessions for councils about legislative proposals.

## Agricultural Land Use Survey Report

NSW Department of Primary Industries has released the Right to Farm – Agricultural Land Use Survey Stage 1 report, which includes findings that will benchmark the level and types of complaints about agricultural land use reported to NSW rural and peri-urban councils.

## 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference – Call for Presentations

LGNSW invites proposals for presentations for the 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference.

## Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program

Local government agencies and Aboriginal organisations (small grants element only) are invited to apply for funding under the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program, which supports Aboriginal education, employment and training.

## National Indigenous Youth Parliament

National Indigenous Youth Parliament applications are now open to Indigenous youth aged 16 to 25.

## Service Station Vapour Recovery Workshops – Last Chance to Register

Registration closes next Monday (27 February) for NSW Environmental Protection Authority vapour recovery workshops.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

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## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 24 February 2017



On Tuesday this week, Board member Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, Chief Executive Donna Rygate and I attended a Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) meeting, and Donna and I met subsequently with Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton. Topics at both included joint organisations (we want the Government to listen to councils about boundaries, joint arrangements to be available in the metropolitan area, and draft legislation to be released), the Far West Initiative (where we are asking that the pause button be pushed, pending a proper audit of services delivered and funded by all spheres of government), IPART reviews (we are pushing for their release) and the rate path freeze (we recommend abandonment). At the MAG meeting we also discussed the Auditor-General's mandate for local government in NSW, while in our meeting with Minister Upton we sought her support for the capability framework currently being developed for the sector and provided an update on the Emergency Services Property Levy.

Also on Tuesday, senior LGNSW staff attended the regular meeting with the Office of Local Government where there was further discussion about JOs and the Far West Initiative, as well as the Local Government Act review.

A real highlight of the week was the Workshop Donna chaired yesterday to discuss the six draft district plans for Greater Sydney. Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) CEO Sarah Hill and the two commissioners who attended were very open and frank, which was greatly appreciated by all in the room. The local government representatives were very constructive in providing feedback to the GSC on issues such as housing targets, implementation plans, co-ordination with other state government agencies and more. Thanks to all who attended – we will use your feedback to develop LGNSW's submission on the district plans. We're pleased you found it useful too.

Also this week, Donna and senior staff met with senior executives from the Department of Planning and Environment to discuss proposed changes to the EP&A Act and Regulations that are on exhibition, the Medium Density Complying Development Code and Guide, the eLodgement program and the Housing/Affordable Housing and Education SEPPs. Donna also met with the Department of Family and Community Services and separately with Ideas NSW where topics included an inclusive tourism project that LGNSW is driving with the UTS Institute for Public Policy.

We have engaged John Comrie, an expert in local government finance, to conduct a review of emergency services funding in NSW. This follows our ongoing concern with the lack of transparency around Rural Fire Service (RFS) budgets and councils' compulsory contributions. Watch this space.

Applications are now open for the National Indigenous Youth Parliament in Canberra. This week-long leadership program for Indigenous youth aged 16 – 25 gives Indigenous leaders of tomorrow the opportunity to learn about the inner-workings of government directly from the nation's leaders. [Read more.](#)

After recent bushfires, SafeWork NSW has released a fact sheet on the safe clean-up of buildings and property hazards following a bushfire, particularly on how to properly manage asbestos. [Read more.](#)

The Western Division Conference is being held in Wentworth Shire next week. I am speaking at the event, and Donna and staff will also give presentations on disability inclusion action plans, biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage reforms and the local government state award. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Local government agencies and Aboriginal organisations (small grants element only) are invited to apply for funding under the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program, which supports Aboriginal education, employment and training.

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National Indigenous Youth Parliament applications are now open to Indigenous youth aged 16 to 25.

### Item 6: NSW the State of Inclusion Conference

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is inviting councils and community organisations to a two-day State of Inclusion Conference.

### Item 7: Second National Welcoming Cities Symposium

Register now for the National Welcoming Cities Symposium in Melbourne next week (Wednesday 1 March).

### Item 8: International United Cities and Local Governments Summit Tour

The Cultural Development Network is leading a tour for Australian local government arts and cultural development managers to attend the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit on Jeju Island, South Korea.

## Emergency Services

### Item 9: Property Hazards following Bushfire

SafeWork NSW has released a fact sheet about potential health and safety hazards in burnt structures after a bushfire.

## Environment

### Item 10: Service Station Vapour Recovery Workshops – Last Chance to Register

Registration closes next Monday (27 February) for NSW Environmental Protection Authority vapour recovery workshops.

## Planning

### Item 11: Department of Planning and Environment - Legislative Update Sessions

Councils are reminded that the Department of Planning and Environment is hosting information sessions for councils about legislative proposals.

### **Item 12: Agricultural Land Use Survey Report**

NSW Department of Primary Industries has released the Right to Farm – Agricultural Land Use Survey Stage 1 report, which includes findings that will benchmark the level and types of complaints about agricultural land use reported to NSW rural and peri-urban councils.

## **Roads and Transport**

### **Item 13: Local Government Heavy Vehicle Forum**

Registrations for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's local government forum on March 7 close soon (RSVP, this Tuesday 28 February).

## **Water**

### **Item 14: Water Resource Planning**

LGNSW encourages councils to participate in DPI Water stakeholder consultation on water resource plans required to implement the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. LGNSW is currently advocating that councils be fully involved in the process and be invited on to stakeholder advisory panels for each region.

### **Item 15: 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference – Call for Presentations**

LGNSW invites proposals for presentations for the 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference.

### **Item 16: NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition**

The Water Industry Operators Association's NSW 11th annual conference and exhibition will be held at the Exhibition Park in Canberra on 29 and 30 March 2017.

## **Procurement**

### **Item 17: Procurement eLearning**

LGP's eLearning program, ProcureLearn, delivers cost-effective training, specifically designed for council employees engaged in all aspects of purchasing.

### **Item 18: Procurement Training**

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

### **Item 19: Procurement Qualifications**

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

## **Learning**

### **Item 20: 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 21: Local Government NSW Employment Law Seminar 2017**

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

### **Item 22: LGNSW Financial Training**

LGNSW offers training programs and forums to develop the financial management skills of elected members and staff.

### **Item 23: LGNSW Upcoming Courses – March to June**

LGNSW offers a number of workshops to local government professionals and elected members.

## In the News

### Item 24: ALGA Newsletter

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

## Conferences and Events

### Item 1: Upcoming conferences and events

#### **NSW the State of Inclusion Conference**

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is inviting councils and community organisations to a two-day State of Inclusion Conference.

#### **Second National Welcoming Cities Symposium**

Register now for the National Welcoming Cities Symposium in Melbourne next week (Wednesday 1 March).

#### **International United Cities and Local Governments Summit Tour**

The Cultural Development Network is leading a tour for Australian local government arts and cultural development managers to attend the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit on Jeju Island, South Korea.

#### **Service Station Vapour Recovery Workshops – Last Chance to Register**

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## Grants and Funding

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

#### **Public Reserves Management Fund 2017/18**

Applications for 2017/18 public reserves management funding close Friday, 24 March 2017.

## General Interest

### Item 3: Public Reserves Management Fund 2017/18

#### Applications for 2017/18 public reserves management funding close Friday, 24 March 2017.

The Public Reserves Management Fund Program provides \$15 million in financial support for the development, maintenance and improvement of public reserves. Grant and loan funding can be applied for through the program.

The program funds a diverse range of activities each year in the following categories:

- General development, maintenance and protection activities on any eligible Crown reserve
- Pest and weed projects on Crown land.

Managers of any NSW Crown reserve, including councils, freehold showgrounds and schools of arts, may be eligible. A third party organisation can also apply for funding, but must obtain a letter of authority from the reserve manager supporting the application.

Guidance documentation including fact sheets, application instructions and frequently asked questions are provided on the [Public Reserves Management Fund Program website](#). Applications close 24 March 2017.

**Date**

Applications close 24 March 2017

**Online information**

[Public Reserves Management Fund Program](#)

**Contact**

PRMFP team

1300 886 235 (option 7)

[cl.prmfp@crowmland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cl.prmfp@crowmland.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R90/0974-04 RC



## Community

### Item 4: Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program

**Local government agencies and Aboriginal organisations (small grants element only) are invited to apply for funding under the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program, which supports Aboriginal education, employment and training.**

The aim of the program is to promote diversity, innovation and service responsiveness in the NSW workforce by reducing barriers to employment and improving promotional opportunities for Aboriginal people.

The program:

- Encourages permanent employment and professional mobility for Aboriginal people in NSW public service agencies and local government authorities
- Provides special incentives for employing Aboriginal people with a disability
- Promotes innovation in achieving vocational outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Grant funding assistance is available to public and local government agencies under the permanent employment, temporary secondment and school-based traineeship elements of the program. Aboriginal community organisations can apply for funding under the Aboriginal community small grants element.

Applicants can learn more, and complete and lodge an application form through the [NSW eTendering Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program website](#).

**Date**

Applications close Sunday 19 March 2017

**Online information**

[NSW eTendering Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program](#)

**Contact**

Belinda Pritchell,  
Aboriginal Training Advisor  
02 6882 8858  
[sts.aboriginal.services@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sts.aboriginal.services@industry.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R01/0045 TL

## Community

### Item 5: National Indigenous Youth Parliament

#### **National Indigenous Youth Parliament applications are now open to Indigenous youth aged 16 to 25.**

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), in collaboration with the YMCA and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Indigenous Youth Parliament (23 – 29 May). The event coincides with Reconciliation Week and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.

The NIYP is a week-long leadership program for 50 Indigenous youth (six from each state and territory and two from Torres Strait). The program's purpose is to help develop Indigenous leaders of the future. National leaders will teach participants about democracy, government and how laws are made.

Successful candidates will:

- Attend a training day in their state or territory in April 2017
- Attend the residential program in Canberra (23–29 May 2017)
- Enhance their leadership skills
- Meet young leaders from around the country
- Meet Members of Parliament, Indigenous leaders and academics
- Learn about Australia's democracy
- Debate issues in the House of Representatives in Old Parliament House
- Learn about the media.

#### **Cost**

There is a \$200 participation fee however the AEC will help successful applicants seek sponsorship from organisations or community leaders. All costs for meals, accommodation, workshops, travel and planned recreational activities are included.

#### **Date**

Applications close Friday 3 March 2017

#### **Cost**

\$200 (with sponsorship sought from organisation and community leaders)

#### **Online information**

[National Indigenous Youth Parliament](#)

#### **Contact**

NIYP Taskforce

1300 103 183

[Indigenous@aec.gov.au](mailto:Indigenous@aec.gov.au)

**Ref:** R01/0045 TL

## Community

### Item 6: NSW the State of Inclusion Conference

**The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is inviting councils and community organisations to a two-day State of Inclusion Conference.**

The workshop-style event will showcase the progress made in NSW towards building an inclusive society for people with disabilities.

The department is inviting those who:

- Have a program, technology product or service that should be recognised and showcased
- Are a current or potential employer of people with disability
- Want their community to benefit from the growth of inclusive tourism
- Have an inclusion message to get in front of decision makers across government, the community and business.

The event will bring together people with disabilities, thought leaders, innovators and practitioners. It will be a launch pad to network, collaborate and celebrate projects and initiatives that support people with disability to live, work and play in NSW.

The \$250 early-bird registration opens on Monday 27 February.

**Dates and location**

17-18 May 2017

International Convention Centre  
Sydney

**Contact**

02 8060 8398

[stateofinclusion@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stateofinclusion@facs.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R16/0018 AC

## Community

### Item 7: Second National Welcoming Cities Symposium

#### Register now for the National Welcoming Cities Symposium in Melbourne next week (Wednesday 1 March).

The one-day, free event will feature the launch of the public draft of The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities discussion, as well as panel discussions and international guest speakers including:

- Jill Helke, Director, International Organization for Migration
- Naheed Nenshi, Mayor, The City of Calgary
- Peter Mares, Independent writer and researcher
- Huss Mustafa OAM, General Manager, Multicultural Community Banking Australia, CBA
- Catherine Proffitt, Principal Advisor, Immigration NZ
- Sarah Janali, Team Leader Cultural Diversity & Community, City of Stirling.

Registration is essential and places are limited. To register, email [symposium@welcomingcities.org.au](mailto:symposium@welcomingcities.org.au) with your name and organisation.

Welcoming Cities seeks to address the challenges and opportunities of migration. The organisation provides a framework for councils to continually improve their capacity to welcome new migrants with a particular emphasis on economic productivity, collaboration with local business and the importance of working with receiving communities.

**Date and location**

Wednesday, 1st March 2017  
9 am – 3.30 pm

The Pavilion, Arts Centre Melbourne  
100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC

**Registration**

[symposium@welcomingcities.org.au](mailto:symposium@welcomingcities.org.au)

**Online information**

[Welcoming Cities](#)

**Ref:** R90/1182 Public Health -  
Healthy Cities

## Community

### Item 8: International United Cities and Local Governments Summit Tour

**The Cultural Development Network is leading a tour for Australian local government arts and cultural development managers to attend the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit on Jeju Island, South Korea.**

The Culture Summit is the most significant gathering of local and regional government cultural development professionals globally.

The package includes all flights, transfers, accommodation, Culture Summit registration, and most meals. The tour departs 8 May and returns 17 May, 2017.

In addition to the summit, the group will participate in an all-day meeting and exchange with the cultural development team of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju. This workshop will include practical examples of planning and evaluation using measurable cultural outcomes, providing valuable understanding of the use of measures and outcomes in diverse settings.

Places are strictly limited. Full program, accommodation, travel and other details can be provided upon request.

Registrations close on 17 March 2017. Full payment is required by Friday 30 March, 2017.

**Date**

Registrations accepted until 17 March 2017.  
Places strictly limited

**Online information**

[Culture Development Network tour](#)

[UCLG Culture Summit 2017](#)

**Cost**

Culture Summit Tour Package A\$3,700

**Contact**

Amy Stevenson

[amy.stevenson@culturaldevelopment.net.au](mailto:amy.stevenson@culturaldevelopment.net.au)

**Ref:** R13/0028 SW

## Emergency Services

### Item 9: Property Hazards following Bushfire

**SafeWork NSW has released a fact sheet about potential health and safety hazards in burnt structures after a bushfire.**

Bushfires have devastating impacts and clean-up requires care and diligence. Safework's fact sheet outlines action required when returning to a property after a bushfire and, in particular, focuses on dealing with asbestos hazards.

Buildings constructed before 1987 may contain asbestos in the roofs, ceilings, walls or in products such as pipe lagging or eaves. If not properly managed, asbestos dust and fibres have the potential to present a health risk during and after a fire. The [SafeWork fact sheet](#) outlines the basic approach to managing those risks for both individuals and professionals.

#### Online information

[Property hazards & bushfire fact sheet](#)

#### Contact

Asbestos Hotline  
1800 Asbestos (1800 272 378)

Susy Cenedese  
LGNSW  
[susy.cenedese@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:susy.cenedese@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R11/0034 SC

## Environment

### Item 10: Service Station Vapour Recovery Workshops – Last Chance to Register

#### Registration closes next Monday (27 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

The workshops are open to council officers in the VR zones (Port Stephens in the north to Shoalhaven in the south and west to the Blue Mountains). Numbers are limited to two attendees per council. The EPA may hold additional workshops based on demand.

Councils are the regulatory authority 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 in the VR region to check compliance with VR requirements. 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](#)

Register by 27 February 2017

#### Online information

[EPA website](#)

Ref: R92/0037-03 SC

## Planning

### Item 11: Department of Planning and Environment - Legislative Update Sessions

**Councils are reminded that the Department of Planning and Environment is hosting information sessions for councils about legislative proposals.**

The sessions are designed to provide councils with the information needed to make informed submissions in response to the proposed updates.

All councils were directly invited to sessions by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) via email.

#### Regional sessions

Regional sessions will commence on Monday 27 February. Each session will run for one day and will cover:

- **Introduction and community participation** – objects of the Act, community participation plans and principles
- **Strategic Planning** – local strategic planning statements, local environmental plan checks, standard format for development control plans
- **Local decision making** – local planning panels, modifications, concurrences and referrals, complying development, and planning agreements
- **Building and design** – design object of the Act, design-led planning strategy and building provisions
- **Major projects** – improvements to the PAC process, clearer regulation of state significant development, improvements to environmental impact assessment, and Part 3A transition

#### Dates and locations

Monday 27 February, Wollongong  
Wednesday 1 March, Dubbo  
Thursday 2 March, Ballina  
Friday 3 March, Albury  
Friday 10 March, Orange  
Monday 13 March, Queanbeyan  
Tuesday 14 March, Newcastle  
Thursday 16 March, Tamworth

#### Contact

Gavin Horobin, Department of  
Planning and Environment  
[gavin.horobin@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gavin.horobin@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Ref: R04/0029 SMcB

#### Dates and locations

Location	Date	Venue	Address	Register
<b>Wollongong</b>	Monday 27 February	Sage Hotel	60-62 Harbour St, Wollongong	<a href="#">Register for Wollongong</a>
<b>Dubbo</b>	Wednesday 1 March	Westside Hotel Bar & Bistro	22 – 30 Whylandra St, West Dubbo	<a href="#">Register for Dubbo</a>
<b>Ballina</b>	Thursday 2 March	Ramada Hotel & Suites	2 Martin St, Ballina	<a href="#">Register for Ballina</a>
<b>Albury</b>	Friday 3 March	Albury Club	519 Kiewa St, Albury	<a href="#">Register for Albury</a>
<b>Orange</b>	Friday 10 March	Orange Ex-Services' Club	231-243 Anson St, Orange	<a href="#">Register for Orange</a>
<b>Queanbeyan</b>	Monday 13 March	Best Western	11 Antill St, Queanbeyan	<a href="#">Register for Queanbeyan</a>
<b>Newcastle</b>	Tuesday 14 March	Fort Scratchley	Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East	<a href="#">Register for Newcastle</a>
<b>Tamworth</b>	Thursday 16 March	West's Diggers Club	Kable Ave, Tamworth	<a href="#">Register for Tamworth</a>

As part of the registration process, DPE will ask attendees to list their top two questions in order to help tailor the sessions to the interests of participants.

#### Metro sessions

Metropolitan sessions were held in Parramatta and Sydney during the week commencing 20 February.



## Planning

### Item 12: Agricultural Land Use Survey Report

**NSW Department of Primary Industries has released the Right to Farm – Agricultural Land Use Survey Stage 1 report, which includes findings that will benchmark the level and types of complaints about agricultural land use reported to NSW rural and peri-urban councils.**

As part of the NSW Government's Right to Farm policy, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) commissioned the University of Technology Sydney Institute for Public Policy and Governance (UTS:IPPG) to investigate the type and extent of agricultural land use conflict across NSW, how councils are managing this conflict and how councils can be supported in conflict management. The survey will assist DPI when helping councils manage and respond to agricultural land use conflict.

From the 50 councils that responded, poultry farming and broad-acre cropping cause the highest number of complaints, with odour, dust and noise the primary concerns.

This survey is being rolled out in stages until 2018, with the first stage benchmarking councils' experiences in 2016. Stage two of the agricultural land use survey, to be rolled out in 2017, will include targeted surveys and case studies. It will be a more in-depth analysis of the issues raised by councils.

DPI appreciates councils' participation in the survey, and will continue to work with UTS:IPPG and consult with rural councils and agricultural industries as well as NSW Farmers, the Office of Local Government and Local Government NSW to develop case studies.

[Visit the Right to Farm policy webpage](#) for more information on the policy or for a copy of the Right to Farm - Agricultural Land Use Survey Stage 1 report.

**Online information**

[Right to Farm policy](#)

**Contact**

Liz Rogers  
Manager Agricultural Land Use  
Planning, DPI  
[liz.rogers@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liz.rogers@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R96/0066 SC

## Roads and Transport

### Item 13: Local Government Heavy Vehicle Forum

**Registrations for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's local government forum on March 7 close soon (RSVP, this Tuesday 28 February).**

Attendance is free and LGNSW encourages relevant council staff to attend.

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](mailto:tim.hansen@nhvr.gov.au)

**Ref:** R90/0985 RC

## Water

### Item 14: Water Resource Planning

**LGNSW encourages councils to participate in DPI Water stakeholder consultation on water resource plans required to implement the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. LGNSW is currently advocating that councils be fully involved in the process and be invited on to stakeholder advisory panels for each region.**

The following status and issues papers are currently on exhibition (submissions due 31 March 2017):

- New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling surface water (SW8) Water Resource Plan
- Murrumbidgee surface water (SW9) Water Resource Plan
- Barwon-Darling Watercourse surface water (SW12) Water Resource Plan
- Namoi & Peel surface water (SW14) Water Resource Plan
- Lachlan Alluvium (GW10) Water Resource Plan
- Macquarie-Castlereagh Alluvium (GW12) Water Resource Plan
- Gwydir Alluvium (GW15) Water Resource Plan
- New South Wales Border Rivers Alluvium (GW18) Water Resource Plan

Between 2016 and 2019, the NSW Government will develop 22 water resource plans for surface and groundwater regions in the state's section of the Murray-Darling basin. These plans will ensure compliance with the basin plan's sustainable diversion limits and other basin plan targets, and define economic, social and environmental objectives that are relevant to each region.

As a key component, water resource plans will include the water sharing plans made under the *Water Management Act (NSW) 2000* that already exist across the NSW basin area. These plans will remain the mechanism for articulating water sharing in NSW.

DPI Water will conduct targeted consultation on individual water resource plans, including:

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

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

DPI Water has advised that councils in regions where the process has commenced have been invited to comment on the status and issues papers. However, councils have expressed concern that they are not currently represented on regional stakeholder advisory panels and about the lack of information on how they can be involved.

Councils are critical stakeholders in the water resource planning process because they provide drinking water services and more broadly represent the social, economic and environmental values and priorities of their communities. LGNSW is advocating for local government to be appropriately consulted.

LGNSW is advocating for councils to be appropriately consulted and encourages councils to participate and to provide feedback to LGNSW to inform our advocacy on this issue.

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

**Date**

Submissions due 31 March 2017

**Online information**

[DPI Water: Water resource plans](#)

**LGNSW Contact**

Sascha Moege

LGNSW

02 9242 4045

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

**Ref:** R90/1056-12 SM

## Water

### Item 15: 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference – Call for Presentations

#### LGNSW invites proposals for presentations for the 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference.

The annual Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Water Management Conference presents local government with a broad range of information on water policy, water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council-owned and operated local water utilities.

The 2017 conference will be co-hosted by LGNSW and Dubbo Regional Council and held at Dubbo RSL Memorial Club from Monday, 4 September to Wednesday, 6 September 2017.

Councils and other stakeholders are invited to submit presentations, case studies and/or suggestions for the conference program. Presentations are invited on (but are not limited to):

- Water security, climate change and alternative supply and demand solutions in regional areas (e.g. managed aquifer recharge, recycling, potable reuse, desalination)
- Smart data usage and solution for small-to medium-sized water utilities
- Drinking water quality management including emerging challenges such as the introduction of microbial health-based targets and the management of (chemical) micro-pollutants
- Ongoing and emerging policy challenges for local water utilities in regional NSW including:
  - Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Reform of Australia's Water Resources Sector
  - Regulatory reform (NSW best practice, Harper Competition Policy Review's recommendation on the regulation of urban water)
  - Institutional reforms (e.g. local water utilities and joint organisations)
  - Future funding for local water utilities.

Proposals should include:

- A brief outline of the issue/main focus of your paper/suggestion
- The preferred format (e.g. presentation, panel or workshop topic)
- Possible presenter(s) and a brief bio (50 words maximum)
- Outcomes for conference delegates.

LGNSW does not accept presentations which are solely commercial in nature. Please forward proposals to [Sascha Moege](mailto:Sascha.Moege@lgnsw.org.au).

**Date**

Papers due by Friday, 21 April 2017

**Conference details**

Monday, 4 September to  
Wednesday, 6 September 2017

Dubbo RSL Memorial Club, 178  
Brisbane St, Dubbo NSW 2830

**Further information**

[LGNSW Water Management  
Conference](#)

**Contact**

Sascha Moege  
Senior Policy Office  
02 9242 4045  
[sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R15/0008 SM

## Water

### Item 16: NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition

**The Water Industry Operators Association's NSW 11th annual conference and exhibition will be held at the Exhibition Park in Canberra on 29 and 30 March 2017.**

The conference will provide a forum for water industry personnel involved in the operation, maintenance and management of urban, rural and industrial water and sewerage-related infrastructure.

Conference delegates will:

- Learn from presentations offering the latest on operational, technical and research-based information
- Update knowledge and skills through networking with water industry colleagues
- Meet with suppliers and trade consultants to understand the latest advances in technical equipment and systems

#### NSW/ACT Water Taste Test

To raise awareness of the important role local water service suppliers play in providing water to communities, the IXOM 2017 NSW & ACT Water Taste Test will be held during the conference. The winner will be awarded the title of Best Tasting Water in the State and move on to the Water of Origin against Queensland in June, before heading to the national championships in Tasmania on 19 October 2017 in Tasmania.

**Date**

29 and 30 March 2017

**Conference venue**

Exhibition Park, Canberra

**Conference information**

[NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition](#)

[IXOM 2017 NSW & ACT water taste test](#)

**Contact**

Craig Mathisen

03 5821 6744

[craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au)

**Ref:** R90/1056-12 SM

## Procurement

### Item 17: Procurement eLearning

**LGP's eLearning program, ProcureLearn, delivers cost-effective training, specifically designed for council employees engaged in all aspects of purchasing.**

ProcureLearn eLearning modules include:

- Procurement essentials
- Contract management essentials
- Probity in purchasing and procurement.

The program aims to:

- Develop and enhance the standard of procurement across the region
- Provide a technically proficient progress path for procurement professionals
- Teach best practice procurement through the latest training
- Provide technical understanding of probity and policy legislation
- Offer a cost-effective training solution for the region.

Benefits include:

- Training that provides insights into skill gaps with the opportunity to target development
- Pre-and post-learning assessments to ensure knowledge transfer
- Completion tracking that can be measured and reported
- Access to refresher modules upon module completion
- Access to FAQ and an ask-the-expert forum.

With purchase of a three-package course, receive access to specialised procurement topics:

- Risk management
- Supplier evaluation
- Sustainable procurement.

For further information view the [LGP website](#) or contact, [LGP Training](#) or 02 8270 8709.

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

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

**Ref:** R05/0057 MB

## Procurement

### Item 18: 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 MB

## Procurement

### Item 19: Procurement Qualifications

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

The following courses are available:

#### **Certificate IV in Procurement and Contracting**

Sydney CBD - Starting in May

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

[More information and to register.](#)

#### **Diploma of Procurement and Contracting**

Sydney CBD - Starting in May

This specialist qualification covers 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.

[More information and to register.](#)

#### **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 higher level and more 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 higher 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.

[More information and to register.](#)

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](mailto:training@lgp.org.au)

**Ref:** R05/0057 MB



## Learning

### Item 20: 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**  
Mayors' Weekend**Cost**

LGNSW Members - \$1,320 (incl.  
GST)

Non- members - \$2,640 (incl. GST)

**Contact**

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 21: Local Government NSW Employment Law Seminar 2017

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 22: LGNSW Financial Training

**LGNSW offers training programs and forums to develop the financial management skills of elected members and staff.**

#### **Financial Issues in Local Government**

Sydney – Wednesday 29 March 2017

Gain practical skills, knowledge and confidence performing the financial duties of an elected member.

Targeted to councillors, participants will learn:

- Council finance responsibilities
- Basic accounting procedures
- Reading quarterly reviews
- Interpreting council balance sheets
- Depreciation and how it affects council's finances
- How financial information fits into council planning
- Risk and how it fits into financial management issues
- Expectations for councillors during council audits
- Utilising probing questions to make more informed decisions.

#### More information

#### **Finance for Non-Finance Managers**

Sydney – Tuesday 20 June 2017

Designed for line managers expected to understand, interpret and explain financial issues related to their departments or sections.

The content covers:

- The basics of accounting theory
- Strategic allocation of financial resources
- Reading council financial statements
- Preparing, interpreting and using unit budgets
- Accounting jargon and buzz words
- Applying financial techniques to your decisions
- How council's financial systems feed into the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting framework
- Communicating with finance and accounting departments.

#### More information

#### **Finance Summit (save the date)**

Sydney – Wednesday 13 September and Thursday 14 September 2017

General managers, corporate and finance managers and other senior staff will learn from subject experts, debate ideas and share practice at LGNSW's annual Finance Summit.

**Online information**  
[LGNSW Training](#)

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

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 23: LGNSW Upcoming Courses – March to June

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.

#### **GIPA Act Advanced Training** Sydney – Tuesday 7 March 2017

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

#### **Managing Workplace Reform** Sydney – Friday 17 March 2017

Receive practical guidance for undergoing workplace change as a result of boundary changes or amalgamations. [More information](#)

#### **Speed Reading** Sydney – Monday 20 March 2017

Double your reading speed and improve your comprehension and memory. [More information](#)

#### **Improving your Minute Taking Skills** Sydney – Wed 22 March 2017

Learn essential minute taking skills, including formats for formal and informal meetings and tips and tricks for more effective minutes. [More information](#)

#### **Transitioning Merging Teams** Sydney – Thurs 23 March 2017

Learn the tools that help progress the transition phases of merging teams. [More information](#)

#### **Making Consultative Committees More Effective** 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. [More information](#).

#### **Award History and Interpretation** Moree – Wednesday 5 April 2017

General managers, directors, human resource practitioners, payroll officers and line managers will learn the application and interpretation of the *Local Government (State) Award 2014*. [More information](#)

#### **Local Training**

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

#### **Online information**

[LGNSW Training](#)

[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 24: ALGA Newsletter

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