

Weekly

Issue 8, 3 March 2017

Message from the President

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

LGNSW Planning Breakfast

New state Planning Minister Anthony Roberts will address LGNSW's first planning breakfast of 2017 (Parliament House, 21 March). Places are limited.

Preventing Violence against Women Workshop

LGNSW and the City of Parramatta, working with Our Watch invite councils to attend a workshop - NSW Local Government Change the Story: Preventing Violence against Women – on 23 March.

SEPP Review Workshops

The Department of Planning and Environment is holding consultation workshops on three draft SEPPs currently on exhibition.

Heritage Near Me Incentives Program

Councils are encouraged to apply for nearly \$5 million in grants under the Office of Environment's Heritage Near Me Incentives program.

LGNSW Draft District Plans for Sydney Workshop

Councillors, general managers and senior planning staff from across Sydney attended LGNSW's workshop last week to discuss the six draft district plans for the Greater Sydney Region.

Community War Memorials Fund

Councils are invited to apply for grants under the Community War Memorials Fund.

LGNSW Upcoming Courses – March to June

LGNSW workshops for local government professionals and elected members.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 3 March 2017



New Planning Minister Anthony Roberts will provide an update on planning reform legislation currently on exhibition at LGNSW's first planning breakfast for 2017. It is being held at Parliament House on Tuesday 21 March. This event will provide a perfect opportunity for members and guests to hear directly from the Minister before public comment closes on the exposure draft of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment Bill 2017 (on 31 March). Secure your space at the event by 15 March. Places are strictly limited. [Read more.](#)

This week LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate, senior staff and I began the week at the Western Division Councils of NSW annual conference. At the event I updated delegates on a number of topics including forced amalgamations, the Far West Initiative, the Murray-Darling Basin plan, the Emergency Services Property Levy, joint organisations and roads funding. Donna also spoke at the event about our disability inclusion action planning work, biodiversity, and Aboriginal and cultural heritage. LGNSW staff provided an update on our Local Government (State) Award 2017 negotiations.

The conference heard from Deputy Premier Barilaro who has confirmed there would be no mergers of councils in Far Western NSW. The Deputy Premier also made some remarks about the Far West Initiative (FWI) which, in talking to other delegates at the conference and given media after the event, unfortunately added to the confusion about when and how the NSW Government would proceed in this regard. Rest assured LGNSW will continue to push that the focus returns to the original intent to align federal, state and local government service delivery.

Representatives of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority also presented at the conference, among others. As always, it was a very interesting event, and a great opportunity to catch up with members.

On return to Sydney LGNSW board working committees met (yesterday and today) on capacity building, local government reform, policy review, and the Local Government Act review. The capacity building committee discussed the groundbreaking capability framework currently being developed for the sector, as well as future professional development and induction for councillors. The local government reform committee talked about amalgamation decisions and how we might support members through further changes, as well as the FWI, joint organisations and more.

At the Local Government Act review working committee meeting we discussed financial controllers and other pending regulatory changes. The policy review committee held a workshop to determine topics for position statements.

This week LGNSW made a submission about the Department of Planning and Environment's proposed guidelines for Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for State significant mining development. LGNSW supports clearer guidelines for SIA and the proposed requirement to address social impacts as part of the preliminary development assessment process. We called on the Government to ensure social impacts were given equal consideration to environmental and economic impacts, and to require proponents to consult with councils and local Aboriginal land councils early. [Read our submission.](#)

On ESPL, please note that I have written to Professor Allan Fels, the insurance monitor for the ESPL. On behalf of our sector, I have urged him to be vigilant in ensuring insurance companies do in fact lower property insurance premiums once they are no longer required to collect the emergency services levy, and now that it is proposed councils will be required to do it instead (via the ESPL), alongside rates. We continue to work hard on this issue, along with many others.

Have a good weekend.

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Registration is now open for the joint Environmental Development and Allied Professionals & Riverina Group Annual Regional Conference hosted by Hilltops Council at Young.

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LGNSW and the City of Parramatta, working with Our Watch invite councils to attend a workshop - NSW Local Government Change the Story: Preventing Violence against Women – on 23 March.

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NSW Councils are invited to attend Generation Next's Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People seminar.

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The Australian Red Cross is inviting councils to a free Towards Sustainable Disaster Recovery conference and workshop on 28 March.

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Museums and Galleries NSW has small grants of up to \$2000 available for community museums and Aboriginal Keeping Places under its Volunteer Museum Grant Program.

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Councils that are members of The National Trust are encouraged to apply for Heritage Awards.

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LGNSW offers a suite of short courses designed to improve skills in report and correspondence writing, minute taking, grant application writing and grammar.

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LGNSW workshops for local government professionals and elected members.

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LGNSW's Business Excellence three-day workshop (24-26 May) provides participants with a clear understanding of how excellence models can be leveraged to drive continuous improvement and deliver business sustainability.

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Councillors, general managers and senior planning staff from across Sydney attended LGNSW's workshop last week to discuss the six draft district plans for the Greater Sydney Region.

Planning

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National Trust Heritage Awards

Councils that are members of The National Trust are encouraged to apply for Heritage Awards.

Conferences and Events

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View upcoming conference and events relevant to Local Government

LGNSW Planning Breakfast

New state Planning Minister Anthony Roberts will address LGNSW's first planning breakfast of 2017 (Parliament House, 21 March). Places are limited.

Environmental Development and Allied Professionals Annual Regional Conference 2017

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Towards Sustainable Disaster Recovery

The Australian Red Cross is inviting councils to a free Towards Sustainable Disaster Recovery conference and workshop on 28 March.

Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

[View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government](#)

Festivals Australia Funding

Councils in regional and remote areas are eligible to apply for Festivals Australia program funding for high-quality arts and cultural heritage projects.

Heritage Near Me Incentives Program

Councils are encouraged to apply for nearly \$5 million in grants under the Office of Environment's Heritage Near Me Incentives program.

Volunteer Museums Grants

Museums and Galleries NSW has small grants of up to \$2000 available for community museums and Aboriginal Keeping Places under its Volunteer Museum Grant Program.

Community War Memorials Fund

Councils are invited to apply for grants under the Community War Memorials Fund.

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Planning Breakfast

New state Planning Minister Anthony Roberts will address LGNSW's first planning breakfast of 2017 (Parliament House, 21 March). Places are limited.

The event will provide an excellent opportunity to hear from the Minister in his new portfolio and ask questions. Elected representatives, administrators, general managers, interim general managers and senior planning staff will all benefit from attending.

The Minister will discuss the NSW Government's proposed planning reforms, including updates to planning legislation currently being exhibited, the updates and reforms to SEPPs and what the changes will mean for the sector.

The breakfast is the latest in LGNSW's planning series, which informs members and guests about key planning initiatives and provides opportunities to meet with senior industry stakeholders and discuss the latest challenges, regulations, funding and plans for NSW.

RSVPs will be accepted until Wednesday 15 March 2017, unless previously sold out. [Book online now](#) to secure your place.

Date and location

Tuesday 21 March 2017
7.30 am – 9.00 am
Strangers' Function Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Online information

[LGNSW Planning Breakfast](#)

Registration

[Register online](#)

RSVP

By Wednesday 15 March 2017

Cost

\$99 for LGNSW members
\$132 for non-members

Contact

Karen Rolls
02 9242 4050
events@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R16/ 0025 TB

General Interest

Item 5: Specialist Recruitment Services

LGNSW provide specialist local government recruitment services for members.

With a strong track record of delivering results, LGNSW's Management Solutions team draws from extensive networks, market knowledge and sector expertise to secure suitable candidates for general manager, director, manager and specialist positions.

End-to-end recruitment

LGNSW's cost-effective, end-to-end recruitment service is designed for clients who want to outsource the recruitment process. Services include:

- Development of recruitment and advertising strategy
- Application management and shortlist creation
- Interview question development and interview coordination with councils
- Interview panel participation (as an independent)
- Referee checks
- Communicating with unsuccessful candidates
- Selection report provision to council
- Contract of engagement negotiation
- Establishment of performance agreement.

Unbundled recruitment

Ideal for the recruitment of senior and specialist staff, councils can utilise their internal resources more efficiently by contracting specific components of the recruitment cycle to LGNSW. These functions may include participating on interview panels as independent members, reference checks, contract negotiation and establishing performance agreements.

Locums

LGNSW has a network of highly-experienced, former general managers and senior staff who are available for temporary assignments. Our locums are able to minimise disruption to councils' operations, and can hit the ground running to give councils the time and flexibility to recruit the right permanent candidate.

Contact LGNSW's Management Solutions team for more information about our services or to enquire about other consulting needs.

Online information
[LGNSW Management Solutions](#)

Contact

Mark Anderson, Manager
Local Government
Management Solutions
02 9242 4161
mark.anderson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 MA

General Interest

Item 6: Environmental Development and Allied Professionals Annual Regional Conference 2017

Registration is now open for the joint Environmental Development and Allied Professionals & Riverina Group Annual Regional Conference hosted by Hilltops Council at Young.

The conference is aimed at building surveyors, town planners, accredited certifiers, health surveyors, environmental health surveyors and development engineers, and allied professionals from local government, state government and the private sector. There are incentives for trainees to attend the conference with a discounted registration fee.

A full range of trade exhibitors will be on hand during the conference and a comprehensive social program is included, including a conference dinner at Young Golf Club.

Full details of the program, as well as the event registration form, are now available on the [Environmental Development and Allied Professionals website](#).

Dates and location

Wednesday 29 March - Friday 31 March 2017

Young Town Hall, Young

Online information

[Environmental Development and Allied Professionals](#)

Contact

Alan Lindsay Secretary
0419 619 761
arlconsulting@bigpond.com

Ref: R90/1160

Community

Item 7: Festivals Australia Funding

Councils in regional and remote areas are eligible to apply for Festivals Australia program funding for high-quality arts and cultural heritage projects.

The federal Department of Communications and the Arts invites regional artists, arts workers and organisations to apply for arts and cultural funding for activities that encourage community participation and audience engagement in regional and remote communities.

The aim is to give people in regional or remote Australia the chance to participate in or attend an arts experience at a festival, or a significant one-off community celebration.

Activities can include but are not limited to:

- Circus
- Dance
- Film
- Literature
- Music
- Multimedia
- Theatre
- Puppetry

Projects must be a single, discrete activity rather than a range of unrelated activities across a festival program.

Applications close on 24 March 2017.

Date

Applications close 5 pm, 24 March 2017

Online information

[Festivals Australia](#)

Contact

1800 590 577

festivals@arts.gov.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 8: Heritage Near Me Incentives Program

Councils are encouraged to apply for nearly \$5 million in grants under the Office of Environment's Heritage Near Me Incentives program.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is offering grants in three streams:

- **Local Heritage Strategic Projects:** Over three years, \$2 million will be provided each year to provide new opportunities for local communities to collaborate on projects that conserve and rejuvenate local heritage places. These grants are being offered for the first time. Applications are open year round, subject to available funding.
- **Heritage Activation Grant Program:** A second round of funding, worth \$2.67 million, is now available. These grants aim to promote public enjoyment of local heritage by supporting projects such as physical works for better public access, new and innovative public programming, and the development of strategy and business plans. Items must be listed on council's local environmental plan and be open to the public. Applications close Monday 21 April 2017.
- **Heritage Green Energy Grants:** Funding of up to \$100,000 per application will be available for projects that increase the energy efficiency of local heritage items while conserving their heritage values. All applicants must have completed a business audit or training through the OEH Energy Efficient Business program. The application opening date is yet to be announced.

For more information, see the OEH webpage [Heritage Near Me Incentives program](#).

Dates

Local Heritage Strategic Projects - open year round subject to available funding.

Heritage Activation Program - closes Monday 21 April 2017.

Heritage Green Energy Grants – opening date to be announced.

Online information

[Heritage Near Me Incentives program](#)

Contact

02 9873 8544

heritage.nearme@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 9: Preventing Violence against Women Workshop

LGNSW and the City of Parramatta, working with Our Watch invite councils to attend a workshop - NSW Local Government Change the Story: Preventing Violence against Women – on 23 March.

Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Prevention of Violence against Women and their Children in Australia is a world-first national framework for a consistent and integrated national approach to preventing violence.

The workshop has been tailored specifically to the local government perspective. It is a great learning opportunity for council officers who are working to prevent violence against women and their children in the community.

The workshop will:

- Build understanding about the need for a sound framework to inform councils' work to prevent violence against women and their children.
- Increase knowledge of the Change the Story framework, including examples and case studies outlining how councils can implement the framework in their work
- Offer excellent networking opportunities with local government peers working in violence prevention.

Key learnings will include:

- How councils can determine that their work to prevent violence against women is effective
- Why councils implement specific violence prevention programs
- How to proceed once a council has raised awareness about the issue, distributed service referral information and taken action to oppose violence against women and their children
- What's next in violence prevention?

Workshop Facilitators: Scott Holmes and Jane Torney, Project Managers Practice Capability Development of Our Watch

Learn more about the [Change the Story framework](#) and [register for the workshop](#).

Date and location

Thursday 23 March 2017
9.30 am – 3.30 pm
Holiday Inn Parramatta
18-40 Anderson St Parramatta

Cost: \$87

Online information

Registration

[Change the Story – A shared framework for the prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia](#)

Contact

City of Parramatta
Maggie Kyle
Capacity Building Officer
mkyle@parracity.nsw.gov.au
02 9806 5082

LGNSW
Liz Gemes
Senior Policy Officer
liz.gemes@lgnsw.org.au
02 9242 4063

Ref: R90/0071-03 LG

Community

Item 10: Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People Seminar

NSW Councils are invited to attend Generation Next's Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People seminar.

Generation Next is a not-for-profit organisation that provides education and information about the prevention and management of mental illness in youth.

The organisation's objective is to raise community awareness of mental illness by increasing mental health literacy, reducing associated stigma and positively influencing individual and community behaviour to improve the mental health of young people.

The seminar will cover:

- Preventing depression
- Managing anxiety
- Mental health first aid
- Supporting a young person in their decision not to drink
- Understanding and managing anger and aggression
- Nurturing a healthy mind
- Cultivating digital intelligence.

The seminar will be of particular interest to council community development officers, youth development officers and other NSW council staff who work with young people.

Generation Next is also hosting a parallel event; Kids in Cyberspace. The event is dedicated to promoting a healthy digital diet, harnessing the benefits of technology for education and supporting professionals help young people stay safe, positive and responsible online.

[Visit the event page](#) to learn more about both events and to register.

Date and location

Friday 4 August 2017
9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Sydney Town Hall

Mental Health and Wellbeing of
Young People seminar – Main Hall

Kids in Cyberspace – Lower Town
Hall

Online information

[Information and registration](#)

Contact

Generation Next
1300 797 794
info@generationnext.com

Ref: R92/0107-04 LG

Community

Item 11: Towards Sustainable Disaster Recovery

The Australian Red Cross is inviting councils to a free Towards Sustainable Disaster Recovery conference and workshop on 28 March.

The event will bring together emergency services, local and state government, community services, service agencies, volunteers, business and community organisations to help improve community understanding of the importance of pre-planning to recover from natural disasters.

Recovery is a complex, multidimensional, nonlinear process and involves more than rebuilding structures and infrastructure; it is about people's lives and livelihoods. Pre and post-disaster recovery planning is essential.

Prevention, preparedness, reduced vulnerability, increased sustainability and improved resilience can reduce the amount of damage and recovery efforts required when disaster occurs.

Participants will:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of natural disaster recovery: Dr Rob Gordon, clinical psychologist, has over 30 years' experience in community disaster recovery including the aftermath of the Bali bombings, Christchurch earthquake, black Saturday, Canberra firestorm, Tasmanian and Blue Mountains bushfires and other large-scale disasters.
- Learn about recovery as part of a seamless approach to community disaster management: Andrew Coghlan, National Emergency Services Manager, Australian Red Cross, will share his international and domestic disaster management and community development experiences and inform on the value of a seamless approach.
- Gain a better understanding of the roles of emergency management agencies: Wendy Graham, Office of Emergency Management, Ministry of Justice, will take attendees through emergency management roles and highlight resources available to aid day-to-day operational activities.
- Contribute to regional development by identifying strategies to increase local community recovery initiatives: Workshop session that will help develop strategies for improved community integration into preparing for recovery from a disaster at the local level.

[Visit the event page](#) for more information and to register.

Date and location

Tuesday 28 March 2017, 8.30 am – 4.30 pm

Maitland Town Hall, 285-287 High Street, Maitland

Online information

[Information and registration](#)

Contact

Australian Red Cross
Carolyn Townson, Emergency Services Regional Co-ordinator
ctownson@redcross.org.au
02 4991 3209

Ref: R90/0830 LG

Community

Item 12: Volunteer Museums Grants

Museums and Galleries NSW has small grants of up to \$2000 available for community museums and Aboriginal Keeping Places under its Volunteer Museum Grant Program.

The program provides access to funding for collection-focused projects, in addition to providing experience in the grant application process.

Small grants aim to meet the short-term, collection-based requirements of community museums and Aboriginal Keeping Places.

There are no set categories for funding, and applications for a broad range of projects will be considered.

Two rounds of funding are available. Round 1 closes at midnight, 2 April 2017 and round 2 closes midnight, 1 October 2017.

A museum can apply in partnership with a council as an auspicing agency.

For more information including eligibility requirements and guidelines [visit the small grants program page](#).

Dates

Round 1: Applications close midnight, 2 April 2017

Round 2: midnight, 1 October 2017

Online information

[Volunteer museum grant program](#)

Contact

02 9339 9913

margots@mgnsw.org.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 13: National Trust Heritage Awards

Councils that are members of The National Trust are encouraged to apply for Heritage Awards.

The awards recognise projects that conserve and care for NSW heritage sites, and the state's cultural and natural heritage. They celebrate projects, buildings, objects and environments that are being regenerated and revitalised for future generations.

Applicants can apply in multiple categories. Entry fees apply.

[Visit the Heritage Awards 2017 page](#) for more information on eligibility and how to apply.

Date

Applications close 15 March 2017

Entry fees

Corporate, business, and government: \$110
Individuals, community groups, associations and registered charities: \$75

Only entries that have completed payment will be judged.

Online information

[Heritage Awards 2017 entry](#)

Contact

Kay Proos
02 9258 0112
kproos@nationaltrust.com.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 14: Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy

The NSW Department of Education is seeking feedback from councils and the community in regional and remote NSW on the Regional and Remote Early Childhood Education Strategy.

Early childhood education services play a vital role in the wellbeing and development of children and young people. In recognition of this, the strategy aims to ensure that children in regional and remote NSW have access to sustainable, high-quality early childhood education and start school with the skills they need to learn. It will guide the development of services and support for early childhood services, families, children and communities across NSW.

The department is also developing an Aboriginal early childhood education strategy to ensure that more Aboriginal children participate in early childhood education and arrive at school developmentally ready. We will provide more information on this as it becomes available.

Please contact [Elizabeth Robertson](mailto:elizabeth.robertson@lgnsw.org.au) at LGNSW if there are comments that you would like LGNSW to raise in a submission on behalf of the sector. Feedback closes 31 March.

Dates and location

Feedback closes 31 March through [online survey](#)

Input to LGNSW submission by 17 March

Online information

[Regional and Remote ECE Strategy](#)

Contact

Elizabeth Robertson
02 9242 4028

elizabeth.robertson@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R90/115 ER

Community

Item 15: Community War Memorials Fund

Councils are invited to apply for grants under the Community War Memorials Fund.

The NSW Government established the fund to help protect and conserve war memorials across NSW.

Grants are provided for a range of projects including honour roll repair, war memorial cleaning and conservation work, arborist advice for war memorial trees, memorial conservation assessments, security measures for memorials, repairs to war memorial halls and accessibility improvement.

For information and to download an application form, visit the Veterans Affairs Community War Memorials Fund webpage. Applications can be submitted by email or posted to: Veterans Affairs, Department of Premier and Cabinet, GPO Box 5341, Sydney NSW 2001.

Date

Applications close 25 April 2017

Online information

[Community War Memorials Fund](#)

Contact

Veterans' Affairs
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

02 9228 4710

VeteranGrants@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Emergency Management

Item 16: Emergency Management Health Check Tool

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group encourages councils to complete a new online emergency management health check tool.

The tool was developed by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) to help councils review and assess their preparedness, planning capability, resilience and resourcing in emergency management. It includes a resource toolkit with guidance material and templates. It covers four areas:

- Managing risks
- Planning for emergencies and disasters
- Building capability to respond effectively
- Providing assurance of capability and capacity.

The SCCG developed the project with funding from the State Emergency Management Projects Program. The tool generates a report that lets councils identify high performance areas and areas that need improvement. The reporting may also help councils build a case for state funding to address emergency management needs.

Council staff, regional emergency management officers and staff from state combat agencies participated in six workshops held across NSW to help develop the tool. Over 100 stakeholders took part highlighting the interest in and need for the tool.

Councils should complete the [online emergency management health check tool](#) by end of June 2017 before the SCCG undertakes an evaluation of the tool in July and August.

Online information

[Emergency management health check](#)

Contact

Belinda Atkins, Sydney Coastal Councils Group
02 9246 7326
info@emhealthcheck.com.au

Ref: R90/0753-05 DA

Learning

Item 17: 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](#) 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](#)

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 18: LGNSW Writing Courses

LGNSW offers a suite of short courses designed to improve skills in report and correspondence writing, minute taking, grant application writing and grammar.

Courses include:

Improving Your Minute-Taking Skills

Sydney – Wednesday 22 March 2017

Develop an understanding of the importance of minutes for successful governance in informal and formal settings, gain essential minute-taking skills and learn tips to save time and effort. This workshop follows internationally accepted minute-taking processes. [More information.](#)

Writing Winning Grant Funding Applications

Sydney – Thursday 30 March 2017

Learn to write persuasive proposals, submissions and grant applications to maximise success. This workshop uses an interactive approach including group discussion, individual writing exercises and a small group proposal writing project. [More information.](#)

Improving Your Correspondence and Writing Skills

Sydney – Wednesday 3 May 2017

Focus on the basic principles of effective letter and email writing at this practical and interactive workshop. Using a variety of real council documents including business letters, saying 'no' letters, letters of complaint and emails as examples, learn the skills needed to achieve your purpose and promote your organisation. [More information.](#)

Improving Your Report Writing

Sydney – Thursday 8 June 2017

Gain the skills needed to write effective, clear and concise reports for managers and council. Working individually and in groups, this interactive workshop will cover topics such as target audience, report purpose, report layout, structure, grammar and punctuation, proof-reading and evaluation. [More information.](#)

Improving Your Grammar and Punctuation

Sydney – Tuesday 27 June 2017

Increase the professionalism of your writing by properly applying the rules of grammar and punctuation. Learn to identify errors, use punctuation marks effectively, construct phrases, sentences and paragraphs correctly and give impact to your statements. [More information.](#)

[Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have these workshops delivered locally for your organisation or in partnership with other organisations in your region.

Online information
[LGNSW Training](#)

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

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 19: 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.

Speed Reading

Sydney – Monday 20 March 2017

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

Transitioning Merging Teams

Sydney – Thurs 23 March 2017

Acquire the tools to encourage progress through the transition phases of merging council teams. [More information](#)

Financial Issues in Local Government

Sydney – Wednesday 29 March 2017

Gain practical skills, knowledge and confidence performing the financial duties of an elected member. [More information](#)

Chairing and Effective Meeting Procedures

Sydney – Thursday 30 March 2017

Become better equipped to deal with business at council meetings. [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. This workshop is based on regulations required under the Local Government Act, the Local Government (State) Award and internationally-accepted meeting procedures. [More information](#)

Award History and Interpretation

Moree – Wednesday 5 April 2017

Get up-to-speed on the application and interpretation of the *Local Government (State) Award 2014 in this course* geared towards general managers, directors, human resource practitioners, payroll officers and line managers. [More information](#)

People and Performance

Sydney – Friday 4 May 2017

Learn to communicate and motivate effectively, give constructive feedback and lead with insight. [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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 20: Business Excellence in Local Government

LGNSW's Business Excellence three-day workshop (24-26 May) provides participants with a clear understanding of how excellence models can be leveraged to drive continuous improvement and deliver business sustainability.

The Australian Business Excellence Framework is an integrated leadership and management system that describes elements essential to sustainable organisational excellence.

Organisations use the guidance of excellence models to improve financial performance, develop leadership capability, encourage innovation, increase efficiency and focus on stakeholder outcomes.

By the end of this workshop participants will understand:

- The benefits of using the framework
- The underlying principles of the framework and its application to councils
- Business excellence concepts
- Process improvement and methodologies
- How to assess, score and identify opportunities.

Dates and location

Wednesday 24 – Friday 26 May
2017, Sydney

Online information and registration

[LGNSW website](#)

Cost

LGNSW Members: \$1,980 (incl. GST)

Non-members: \$3,960 (incl. GST)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Planning

Item 21: LGNSW Draft District Plans for Sydney Workshop

Councillors, general managers and senior planning staff from across Sydney attended LGNSW's workshop last week to discuss the six draft district plans for the Greater Sydney Region.

The plans are on exhibition until 31 March 2017.

Attendees discussed themes and issues and provided feedback to the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC).

The district plans have a 20-year planning horizon and sit in the middle of the hierarchy of metropolitan, district and local planning for the Sydney region.

In terms of local planning, the NSW Government expects the district plans to inform:

- Local environment plans
- Planning proposals (i.e. rezonings)
- Strategic land use and transport planning across local government areas
- Infrastructure planning.

Key issues for local government identified in the workshop include:

- Whole-of-government support and commitment
- Infrastructure provision
- Funding
- Housing targets
- Governance framework.

Councils are looking to the GSC and the district plans to reinforce the much-needed, whole-of-government support and commitment that was lacking in previous metropolitan strategies for Sydney.

The six draft district plans for the Greater Sydney region are on exhibition until 31 March 2017 and will be finalised later in the year. LGNSW is making a submission and would appreciate additional comment from councils. Please direct comments to [Jane Partridge](mailto:jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au).

LGNSW wishes to acknowledge GSC Chief Executive Sarah Hill, Dr Deborah Dearing, District Commissioner – North, and Heather Nesbitt, Social Commissioner, for their presentations.

Date

Submissions close 31 March 2017

Further information

[LGNSW's media release](#)

[Greater Sydney Commission](#)

[Strategic land use planning](#)

[LGNSW District Plan workshop](#)

Contact

Jane Partridge
jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R90/0028 JP

Planning

Item 22: SEPP Review Workshops

The Department of Planning and Environment is holding consultation workshops on three draft SEPPs currently on exhibition.

The workshops provide opportunities to discuss the proposed changes and how they will affect local planning. They focus on the following draft SEPPs:

- [Education and Child Care SEPP](#) – on exhibition 3 February - 24 March 2017
- [Infrastructure SEPP](#) – on exhibition 3 February - 24 March 2017

Proposed Vegetation SEPP to support the Land Management and Biodiversity Reforms (not yet released for comment)

The Department's policy team will talk through each draft SEPP and answer questions to help inform council's submissions. The workshops will also be used to gather feedback on key topic areas for each draft SEPP. This feedback, along with formal submissions, will help the Department finalise the SEPPs.

Sessions will be held in the following locations:

Location	Date	Venue	Address	Register
Queanbeyan	Tuesday 7 March	Q-One, Riverside Oval Meeting Room	14-21 Carinya Street Queanbeyan	Register for Queanbeyan
Wagga Wagga	Wednesday 8 March	Mercure Wagga Wagga	1-15 Morgan Street Wagga Wagga	Register for Wagga Wagga
Ballina	Friday 10 March	Ramada Hotel & Suites	2 Martin St Ballina	Register for Ballina
Parramatta	Monday 13 March	Novotel Parramatta	350 Church Street Parramatta	Register for Parramatta
Wollongong	Tuesday 14 March	Novotel Wollongong	2-14 Cliff Road Wollongong	Register for Wollongong
Sydney CBD	Wednesday 15 March	Sydney Masonic Centre	66 Goulburn Street Sydney	Register for Sydney CBD
Penrith	Thursday 16 March	Penrith City Library	601 High Street Penrith	Register for Penrith
Cessnock	Friday 17 March	Cessnock Performing Arts Centre	198 Vincent Street Cessnock	Register for Cessnock
Dubbo	Monday 20 March	Savannah Function Centre	Obley Road Dubbo	Register for Dubbo
Tamworth	Tuesday 21 March	Tamworth Community Centre	Cnr Peel and Darling Streets Tamworth	Register for Tamworth

Online information

[Draft Education and Childcare SEPP](#)

[Draft Infrastructure SEPP](#)

Contact

Katie Ellinson
Department of Planning and
Environment
02 9274 6238 or
katie.ellinson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R06/0054 KM

Workshops will be held from 10.00 am until 2.30 pm with lunch provided. The agenda for the session will be emailed to participants after registration.

In the News

Item 23: ALGA Newsletter

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

<http://alga.asn.au/news.aspx?Type=Summary&Year=current&Menu=35,402>