

Message from the President

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

Local Government Super - Call for Nominations

Expressions of interest are now being sought from eligible, suitably-qualified councillors who wish to be considered for appointment to the Board of LGSS.

Programs for Elected Members

LGNSW coordinates a range of programs to assist councillors and executive teams of newly-elected councils.

Excellence in the Environment Awards – Register Now

The best, most creative local government environment projects in the state will be recognised during LGNSW's Excellence in the Environment Awards finalists' forum and awards ceremony (Sydney, 11 October).

Planning Breakfast and Awards

The next LGNSW Planning Breakfast and presentation of the inaugural LGNSW Planning Awards will be held at Parliament House on Tuesday 24 October.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 15 September 2017



Council elections – Counting will continue for a number of days before the final results are known for all of the council elections held last weekend but it's clear that more than ever, people appreciate the importance of local democracy and their right to choose who they want to represent them in local matters. Indeed, our own research on community perceptions backs this up, with 75% of respondents stating that they believe local decisions are best made by local government. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those former councillors – who re-nominated to contest elections last Saturday, but were unsuccessful – for their service to local government and their communities. As I've mentioned before, we are holding free post-election workshops for relevant councillors and executive staff. The idea is for councillors to reflect on the strategic goals they want to achieve over the new term and how they can work together – and with senior staff – to achieve those goals. [Read more here.](#)

Mayors elected by councillors – The NSW Office of Local Government has advised us that mayors elected by councillors following the September 2017 elections are elected for a two-year term until September 2019. Those elected in September 2019 will have their two-year term cut short by one year by the ordinary elections to be held in September 2020. Their term as mayor ends when their office as councillor expires prior to those elections.

Finance Summit – Our third annual LGNSW Finance Summit in Sydney this week was a great success with an excellent mix of presenters and delegates from financial, policy and operations backgrounds. LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate welcomed attendees and set out the challenges facing local councils in the funding, financing and delivery of infrastructure and the highly-regarded speakers included Australian economist Saul Eslake, Regional Infrastructure Coordinator Lt Gen (Retd) Ken Gillespie, Kiersten Fishburn from Liverpool City Council and Jim Betts from Infrastructure NSW.

Growing Local Economies – On the subject of infrastructure, the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet has written to all local councils to highlight the availability of funding for regional projects of economic significance through the [Growing Local Economies](#) fund – part of the Government's overall \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund. Support is available for projects in regional NSW outside Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong such as road works, natural gas mains and pipelines, water supply, sewerage connections and telecommunications.

Call for nominations to the Board of LGSS – Expressions of interest are being invited from member councillors seeking appointment to the Board of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGSS). Ideal candidates will have experience in superannuation and/or the broader investment and finance sectors, and be able to commit to board and committee meetings monthly. [Read more.](#)

Excellence in Environment Awards – Don't miss this year's LGNSW Excellence in Environment Awards, to be held at the University of Technology Sydney on 11 October. Some great council projects have been shortlisted so make sure you register your interest now. [Read more.](#)

Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference – Donna was in Albury on Wednesday joining board member Cr Alice Glachan to represent LGNSW as a gold sponsor of the Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference 2017. Passionate advocates for the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples gave presentations on a variety of themes from education, employment, art and culture, to health, wellness, culture and language.

Other significant meetings – Donna did some more venue inspection for next year's annual conference while she was in Albury. This week she and senior LGNSW staff also attended regular meetings with the Office of Local Government and with Auditor General Margaret Crawford. The Audit Office is in the thick of council audits, and themes emerging include valuation of land under roads and treatment of RFS facilities.

Performance audit work is also well underway. We are looking at putting together a forum in the second quarter of next year where members and The Audit Office can come together to discuss key issues.

Australian Citizenship Day – Finally, it's Australian Citizenship Day this Sunday (17 September). Held annually since 2001, it's a special day to reflect on being an Australian citizen and the important role local councils play in the conferral of citizenship at their ceremonies throughout the year.

Until next week!



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Register soon to take advantage of the 2017 National Local Government Human Resources Conference early-bird discount.

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Local government staff are reminded that incursions of high-risk exotic (non-indigenous) animals in NSW must be managed swiftly to mitigate their biosecurity threats.

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The Pesticides Regulation 2017 commenced on 1 September 2017.

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Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming Conferences and Events

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Programs for Elected Members

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Grants and Funding

Item 2: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

Australia Council for the Arts Projects Funding Available

Councils are encouraged to apply for grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 through the Australia Council for the Arts to support creative initiatives in their local areas.

General Interest

Item 3: Local Government Super - Call for Nominations

Expressions of interest are now being sought from eligible, suitably-qualified councillors who wish to be considered for appointment to the Board of LGSS.

LGNSW nominates four directors to the Board of LGSS Pty Ltd (LGSS). To be eligible for appointment as a LGNSW representative, applicants must be a councillor of a council that is a member of LGNSW. Appointments may be for terms of up to four years.

Local Government Super (LGS) is the default superannuation fund for employees of local government in NSW. It has approximately 90,000 members and manages over \$9.5 billion in assets. LGSS is the Trustee for LGS and is responsible for making strategically sound decisions within a competitive commercial environment on behalf of its members.

Successful candidates should demonstrate knowledge of, and experience in, superannuation or the broader investment/finance sectors, as well as skills and experience in business strategy, risk management, IT, governance and working in an APRA regulated environment. They should also demonstrate an understanding of trustee duties and relevant legislation including the SIS Act and regulations, and the Corporations Act.

Applicants should understand and agree to accept the time commitment involved (committee meetings monthly) and the ongoing professional development requirements.

Councillors wishing to be considered for appointment as a LGNSW representative on the Board of LGSS must satisfy the requirements of its fit and proper policy.

An information pack containing further details about the positions and the selection criteria must be obtained by prospective applicants, and is available from [Bilyana Milenkovski](#) at LGNSW.

Applications close Friday 29 September 2017.

Closing date for nominations

Friday 29 September 2017

Further information

Email:

bilyana.milenkovski@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R15/0003

General Interest

Item 4: Right to Know Week 2017 – Become a Champion

The Information and Privacy Commission NSW invites councils to celebrate Right to Know Week 2017.

Right to Know Day (28 September 2017) is an international, annual event that aims to increase awareness of people's right to access government information and open, transparent governance.

Once again, NSW will mark the occasion as Right to Know Week from 25 September to 1 October 2017 – to raise awareness about access to government information in NSW.

As a champion you will have access to free resources to help you spread the message.

This year's theme is 'Right to Information: Open and accountable government and the media's role' where:

- Open government builds community trust
- Government transparency strengthens community participation and our democracy
- Community access to government-held information keeps us accountable and transparent.

This means that:

- I have a right to access government information
- I have a responsibility to release government information
- Communities have the right to know and governments have a responsibility to share.

[Learn more](#) about the program and [sign up to be a champion](#).

Event

Right to Know Week 2017

Dates

25 September to 1 October 2017

Online information

[Information and Privacy Commission NSW Website](#)

Contact

Kate Jobling
Manager, Communications and
Corporate Affairs
kate.jobling@ipc.nsw.gov.au
02 8071 7018

R90/0817

General Interest

Item 5: Planning Breakfast and Awards

The next LGNSW Planning Breakfast and presentation of the inaugural LGNSW Planning Awards will be held at Parliament House on Tuesday 24 October.

David Borger, Western Sydney Director, Sydney Business Chamber will address the importance of planning, how we can re-think or re-imagine our approach to planning, infrastructure and the quality of life for our communities, as well as what councils and local governments can do to activate their cities towards better outcomes.

Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts will present the Local Government Planning Awards sponsored by the Department of Planning and Environment. The awards recognise excellence in planning and development services, leadership and culture change, innovation and excellence. They are awarded to both individuals and councils.

This event will be of particular interest to councillors and mayors, general managers and planning directors. Participants will be eligible for continuing professional development points from the Planning Institute of Australia.

LGNSW thanks UrbanGrowth NSW, elite sponsor of the LGNSW Planning Series.

To secure a place, [book online](#) now. Please RSVP by Wednesday 18 October 2017.

Dates and location

Tuesday 24 October 2017
7.30am – 9.00am
Strangers' Function Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Online information

[Planning Breakfast and Awards](#)

[Registration](#)**RSVP**

By Wednesday 18 October 2017

Cost

\$99 LGNSW members
\$132 non-members
Includes breakfast

Contact

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

Ref: R16/ 0025 TA

General Interest

Item 6: National Local Government Human Resources Conference 2017 – Early Bird Registrations Close 6 October

Register soon to take advantage of the 2017 National Local Government Human Resources Conference early-bird discount.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Brave New World'. The conference is being hosted by LGNSW in partnership with other local government state associations.

The conference will feature local government and corporate speakers, interactive workshops and case studies, and provide opportunities for human resource professionals to exchange best practice knowledge across the sector.

Topics include:

- Organisational strategy and change in local government
- The future of work
- Organisational culture building
- Attraction and retention in remote/regional areas
- The Local Government Capability Framework
- HR from a risk management perspective
- Bullying in the workplace
- Learning pathways – the Wollongong model.

The conference will feature leading corporate speaker Matt Church, recently named one of the top ten motivational speakers globally and 2015 Speaker of the Year.

Visit the [LGNSW website](#) for more information and to register.

Dates and location

15 – 17 November 2017, Luna Park, Sydney

Further information

[National LG HR Conference 2017](#)

Registrations

[Register now](#)

Cost

Member early bird registration (by 6 Oct):
\$1,070 incl. GST

Member full registration (after 6 Oct):
\$1,290 incl. GST

Non-member and corporate early bird registration (by 6 Oct): \$2,180 incl. GST

Non-member and corporate full registration (after 6 Oct): \$2,580 incl. GST

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

General Interest

Item 7: Local Councils Among Winners in the NSW Training Awards

LGNSW congratulates Shoalhaven City Council and Warrumbungle Shire Council for their achievements in the 2017 NSW Training Awards.

Further information
[Training Services NSW](#)

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Shoalhaven Water was announced the 2017 Large Employer of the Year at the gala awards on 7 September 2017.

Part of Shoalhaven Council, Shoalhaven Water has responsibility for water and sewerage facilities across 50,000 properties in the region. Its traineeship program, delivered in partnership with TAFE NSW Illawarra, is designed to meet the challenges of changing technologies and an ageing workforce. With 70 per cent of graduates gaining full-time employment at Shoalhaven Water, vacant positions are seamlessly filled and young talent stays in the region.

Donald Dundas, an apprentice hosted by Warrumbungle Shire Council, was the 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Student of the Year. Donald had been undertaking a Certificate III in Plumbing at TAFE NSW.

LGNSW also congratulates Reece Arday, a Certificate IV in Business Administration trainee from Port Stephens Council, who was shortlisted in the Trainee of the Year category.

Community

Item 8: Australia Council for the Arts Projects Funding Available

Councils are encouraged to apply for grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 through the Australia Council for the Arts to support creative initiatives in their local areas.

Grants are available through the Arts Projects program and successful activities must last no longer than two years from the proposed start date.

The program funds a range of activities that deliver benefits to the arts sector and wider public including:

- the creation of new work
- creative development
- professional skills development
- experimentation, collaborations
- touring, festival, productions
- exhibitions, performances
- publishing, recording
- services to develop the arts sector
- promotion and marketing, market development activity.

Applications can be submitted online via the [Australia Council for the Arts website](#).

Closing date for applications
3 October 2017

Online information
[Australia Council for the Arts website](#)

Contact
Call 02 9215 9000 or [submit an online enquiry](#).

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 9: Get Ready for Youth Week 2018

Youth Week 2018 will take place from 13 to 22 April.

In New South Wales, Youth Week is coordinated by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

It provides an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events.

Young people aged between 12 and 25 are encouraged to get involved in planning and organising events such as forums, debates, photography exhibitions, fitness activities, writing competitions, hip hop dance classes and concerts.

Local Government Youth Week Funding Agreement applications open in early October 2017 and close mid-November 2017.

For more information, please email [Helen Ahern](mailto:Helen.Ahern@facservices.nsw.gov.au), Department of Family and Community Services.

Dates

Youth Week 2018, 13-22 April 2018

Online information

[Youth Week in NSW](#)

Contact

Helen Ahern, Project Officer / Youth and Community Building Projects
(works Tue – Wed)
Department of Family and Community Services

02 87538206

Helen.Ahern@facservices.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0129 ER

Environment

Item 10: Management of Exotic Animal Incursions Under the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)

Local government staff are reminded that incursions of high-risk exotic (non-indigenous) animals in NSW must be managed swiftly to mitigate their biosecurity threats.

If you become aware of unusual animals in the wrong place or illegal activities (including unlicensed movement, keeping, breeding and sale of non-indigenous animals), please notify the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) as soon as possible.

While DPI is the lead agency responsible for the management of terrestrial and freshwater non-indigenous animal incursions, we all need to work together to protect the NSW economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of introduced pest animals.

Worldwide, incursions of non-indigenous animals are on the increase due to growth in people’s movement, increased trade and the transport of goods, combined with a decrease in transit times which enable more species to survive. These pest animal incursions must be managed to mitigate their biosecurity threats.

Examples of non-indigenous animals that can and cannot be kept privately in NSW

Prohibited dealing non-indigenous animals throughout NSW (view list)	Non-indigenous animals able to be kept privately in NSW (subject to local government guidelines)
Hedgehog	Dog, cat
Monkey	Horse, goat
Squirrel	Rabbit, guinea pig
All non-indigenous reptiles	Mouse, rate, ferret and some non-native birds

Report restricted non-indigenous animals to the NSW DPI Invasive Plants and Animals Enquiry Line on 1800 680 244.

Online information
[NSW DPI non-indigenous animals](#)

Report an incursion

Phone: 1800 680 244

[Report a biosecurity risk form](#)

or email

nia.management@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Further information

Nathan Cutter

Department of Primary Industries

(02) 6391 3174

Ref: R93/0052 SC

Environment

Item 11: Pesticides Regulation 2017 Commences

The Pesticides Regulation 2017 commenced on 1 September 2017.

Some changes to licensing requirements foreshadowed in the draft regulation did not proceed following strong representations from LGNSW and councils.

Improvements to the regulation include:

- a simpler record keeping process for most pesticide users
- simpler refresher training requirements for agricultural users
- the introduction of a new nationally-harmonised licence category for commercial ground spraying contractors (only)
- updated penalties for infringements.

Record keeping for non-licenced council staff using pesticides has been simplified and the requirements for council notices of new pesticide notification plans to be published in newspapers is now optional.

The proposed requirements for ground-spraying licences to be held by council staff and contractors doing weed control work, and for councils to hold a licence as a ground applicator business, were both discarded. However, council staff will still need to undertake refresher training.

Visit the Environment Protection Authority website for further details on [public submissions and refinements made to the finalised Pesticides Regulation](#).

Online information

[Pesticides Regulation 2017](#)

Contact

Martin Bowles

NSW EPA

Ph: 9995 5794

chemicals.reform@epa.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/1248 SC

Environment

Item 12: Excellence in the Environment Awards – Register Now

The best, most creative local government environment projects in the state will be recognised during LGNSW's Excellence in the Environment Awards finalists' forum and awards ceremony (Sydney, 11 October).

Come along to the finalists' forum to hear about innovation across NSW councils in managing and protecting the environment.

The forum's keynote presentation will take you on a journey through local government's environmental management over the last two decades as we celebrate 20 years of the Excellence in the Environment Awards.

The forum will be held from 9.30am – 12:15pm, followed by the presentation lunch from 12:30pm-3pm. After the awards ceremony, stay onto network and celebrate the winners, past and present

Adam Spencer – radio presenter, comedian, author and passionate advocate for sustainability – will be master of ceremonies for the awards.

Tickets are available to any interested council or individual to attend. Full day tickets are available for LGNSW members at \$120 per person or \$66 for the finalists' forum only. Non-members full day tickets are \$240 per person and \$122 for the finalists' forum. All tickets are inclusive of GST. Finalists receive two complimentary tickets to both the finalists' forum and the awards presentation lunch.

LGNSW appreciates the continued support from a number of sponsors including: NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW Environment Protection Authority, SafeWork NSW, NSW Ministry of Health, Water Directorate, Department of Primary Industries, Local Government Super, OzArk and DA Lighting.

[Register online](#) before 4 October.

Dates and location

Wednesday 11 October 2017
UTS Aerial Function Centre, Ultimo

Registration closes 4 October

Forum and awards program

[Register Now](#)

Contact

Karen Rolls
9242 4050
karen.rolls@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R98/0021 DA

Roads and Transport

Item 13: Call for Nominations to Join the Road Maintenance Council Contract Steering Committee

Roads and Maritime Services and LGNSW are seeking nominations for council representatives to join the Road Maintenance Council Contract Steering Committee.

Over and above their own local road responsibilities, 68 rural and regional councils are involved in road maintenance council contracts (RMCCs) on the state road network on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services.

Nominations are sought from suitably-qualified staff from participating RMCC councils to provide additional council-level representation on the steering committee.

Nominees should be general managers or senior engineering staff with experience in the management of RMCCs, and who are able to provide input to the committee from operational and strategic level perspectives.

There are no sitting fees for steering committee representatives. Successful nominees, or their councils, will be responsible for related expenses. Meetings are held in Sydney, although participation via teleconference may be arranged if preferred.

Please forward your nominee details (name, position and contact information) to Richard Connors, Senior Policy Officer for Roads and Transport LGNSW, by 3 October 2017.

Closing date for nominations
3 October 2017

Email nominations to
Richard Connors, Senior Policy Officer for Roads and Transport LGNSW.

Contact
Richard Connors
Senior Policy Officer, Roads & Transport, LGNSW

Richard.Connors@lgnsw.org.au
or 02 9242 4073

Ref: R99/0042 RC

Learning

Item 14: Political Awareness Workshop

Develop skills and insights into managing yourself and others in a political context by attending LGNSW's one-day political awareness workshop (Sydney, 31 October).

This workshop will give participants greater confidence in professional relationships with elected representatives and senior staff, and help them to develop skills in negotiating ideas and issues through what can seem to be a political maze.

Designed for managers, coordinators and team leaders, the workshop covers:

- Mapping the political terrain and identifying decision-making influences
- Identifying the black, white and grey of working at the political/managerial interface
- Boundary spanning – a framework for operating effectively in the grey area
- Developing a politically-aware approach
- Innovative ways to develop political awareness in your council, yourself and your team.

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

Date and location

Tuesday 31 October 2017
Sydney

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Registrations

[Register here](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 15: Programs for Elected Members

LGNSW coordinates a range of programs to assist councillors and executive teams of newly-elected councils.

Capable Councils

This free, one-day workshop scheduled in 11 locations across NSW, will offer an opportunity for the new teams of councillors to come together with their executive and neighbouring councils to plan for success over the new council term.

Participants will discuss the skills, knowledge and capabilities needed to do the job well and achieve results. You'll also get an overview of statutory milestones, good practice ideas and relevant LGNSW advocacy and support. [More Information.](#)

Australian Institute of Company Directors courses

LGNSW has partnered with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) to offer two programs:

[AICD Foundations of Directorship Course](#) (30 October-1 November 2017, Sydney)

The three-day course consists of six sessions – Governance for Directors, Finance for Directors, and Strategy and Risk for Directors.

[AICD Governance Essentials for Local Government](#) (7 and 8 December 2017, Sydney)

Designed for councillors, mayors and executive management, it provides a basic overview of their duties and responsibilities through interactive working sessions and the use of relevant case studies.

Mayors' Weekend (4-5 November 2017, Sydney)

This practical two-day seminar for mayors addresses the skills and knowledge mayors require and the current issues and challenges they may face. [More information.](#)

Executive Certificate for Elected Members (Block 1: 3-5 November 2017; Block 2: 2-3 December 2017, Sydney)

This five-day program, delivered in partnership with the UTS Institute of Public Policy and Governance, is designed to help elected members understand their legislative responsibilities and build their skills and capacity to have a positive and well-informed impact on council decision making. On successful completion, participants will receive recognition against the national skills set for elected members, and one subject of credit towards the UTS postgraduate qualifications in public policy and local government. [More information.](#)

Working Together to Deliver

This two-day program covers all aspects of councillors and executives working together. Sessions address the context and circumstances specific to each council with topics including: getting to know and understand each other better; building an effective team; leadership and self-awareness; stakeholders' expectations of you; vision and strategy setting; working relationships and agreements; community engagement and performance management. This workshop can be delivered onsite at your council or in your region.

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

Further information

[Capable Councils](#)

[AICD Foundations of Directorship Course](#)

[AICD Governance Essentials for Local Government](#)

[Mayors Weekend](#)

[Executive Certificate for Elected Members](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 16: Upcoming Public Courses

LGNSW courses are scheduled in Sydney and regional NSW over coming weeks.

They are specifically designed for the local government sector.

Social Media for Councils

Sydney – Wednesday 27 September 2017

Develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to better communicate on social media. [More information.](#)

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

Queanbeyan – Monday 9 October 2017

Gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in the local government context. [More information.](#)

Improving Your Grammar and Punctuation

Sydney – Tuesday 10 October 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.](#)

Workplace Behaviour – Drawing the Line

Sydney – Wednesday 11 October 2017

Examine the different standards, expectations and assumptions about 'appropriate' workplace behavior in this three-hour workshop targeted to HR staff. [More information](#)

Leadership for Aspiring Women

Sydney – Wednesday 18 October 2017

Develop the skills and confidence to move into a supervisory role or take the next step in your career. [More information](#)

Workforce Planning

Sydney – Thursday 19 October 2017

Learn about the purpose and benefits of workforce planning, the steps involved and the resources that can be used by councils to prepare their workforce plans. [More information](#)

Media Skills

Sydney – Tuesday 24 October 2017

Develop the practical techniques to be more comfortable, confident and effective in dealing with the media. This course is suitable for elected members and staff. [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](#)

Cost

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

Registrations

[LGNSW Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

In the News

Item 17: Local Government NSW Media

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW.

Item 18: ALGA Newsletter

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