

Message from the President

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

Draft Crown Land Management Regulation 2017 – Exhibition Period Extended

The exhibition period for the draft regulation for the Crown Land Management Act 2016 has been extended until Sunday 1 October 2017.

Local Development Information Forums

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is running forums for council planning directors, planning managers and senior staff to discuss key developments in planning policy and assessment processes.

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.

Draft NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy – Call for Submissions

The NSW Environment Protection Authority is seeking comments on the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2021.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 22 September 2017



Local Government Reform – On Tuesday, I attended a Fit for the Future Ministerial Advisory Group meeting with LGNSW Board member Cr Phyllis Miller and Chief Executive Donna Rygate. We have sought clarification from the Minister on several outstanding issues including joint organisations, the Far West initiative and the IPART Rating Review. We also called for unspent funding from the amalgamation allocation to be secured for local government projects. With the decision not to proceed with the remaining forced amalgamations, at least \$200 million is sitting there. Given this significant amount was intended to promote local government improvements, LGNSW is recommending it be used for this purpose.

Australian Local Government Association – On Thursday, Donna and I attended a board meeting of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). The broad agenda covered things like policy in preparation for the next Federal election, financial assistance grants, housing and homelessness, RDAs and the National Local Roads and Transport Congress. On RDAs, councils are encouraged to let us know ASAP about any boundary issues.

NSW Government branding – An article in the Sydney Morning Herald caused some alarm yesterday by suggesting councils would have to adopt State Government branding. We quickly sought clarification from OLG, and in the end got the good oil from the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Members will be pleased to know that the guidelines apply to councils only when acknowledging State Government funding.

Stronger Communities Fund – The NSW Government is inviting applications for Tranche C of the Stronger Country Communities Fund – a \$200 million investment over the next two years to build and enhance community facilities in regional NSW. For a full list of Tranche C councils and further information, visit the [NSW Office of Regional Development website](#).

Call for nominations to the Board of LGSS – A reminder that 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](#).

Planning Breakfast and Awards – The next LGNSW Planning Breakfast and Awards will be held at Parliament House in Sydney on 24 October. David Borger, Western Sydney Director, Sydney Business Chamber will talk about how we can re-imagine our approach to planning and infrastructure to improve the quality of life for communities, and Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts will present the awards. [Register your interest now](#).

Right to Know Week 2017 – Next week is Right to Know Week – a celebration of people's right to access government information and open, transparent governance. The Information and Privacy Commission invites councils to help spread the message by signing up as a Right to Know Week champion. [Read more](#).

Until next week!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Rhoades".

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming Conferences and Events

Local Development Information Forums

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is running forums for council planning directors, planning managers and senior staff to discuss key developments in planning policy and assessment processes.

Drone Operations in Local Government

LGNSW is conducting regional seminars for councils considering using drones.

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LGNSW has a new course for managers to help them deal with the implications of an ageing workforce.

Programs for Elected Members

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

General Interest

Item 2: Draft Crown Land Management Regulation 2017 – Exhibition Period Extended.

The exhibition period for the draft regulation for the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* has been extended until Sunday 1 October 2017.

The draft regulation seeks to provide clarity and certainty for Crown land managers, tenure holders, and users of Crown land. It provides information about how certain parts of the *Crown Lands Management Act* (2016) are to be implemented and protects the Crown land estate for future generations.

The regulation consolidates various existing regulations and introduces some new regulatory provisions appropriate to support new concepts in the new legislation.

A regulatory impact statement (RIS) for the draft regulation has been prepared. The RIS identifies and assesses the direct and indirect costs and benefits of each regulation to ensure they are necessary, appropriate and proportionate to risk.

The draft regulation and the RIS, together with supporting documentation such as FAQs and factsheets, are available on the [Lands and Forestry website](#) and the NSW Government Have Your Say Website.

Key Date

Submissions close Sunday 1 October 2017

Online information

[Draft Crown Land Management Regulation](#)

Further Information

Email:

legislation@crowmland.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 1800 886 235

Submissions can be made:

Online

By using the submission form; or

Email

legislation@crowmland.nsw.gov.au

R95/0025 SMcB

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](#)

Ref: R15/0003

Environment

Item 4: Draft NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy – Call for Submissions

The NSW Environment Protection Authority is seeking comments on the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2021.

The draft strategy was developed to assist councils and waste industry participants to understand projected increases in each waste stream and plan sufficient infrastructure capacity to deal with them.

The draft infrastructure strategy outlines the grants available through the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative to help achieve set targets for the diversion of waste from landfill.

Grants are now open for the Community Recycling Centre Program.

Other infrastructure grants opening soon include:

- Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure
- Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement
- Weighbridge Fund
- Circulate (Industrial Ecology)
- Civil Construction Markets program.

The closing date for submissions is Monday 20 November 2017.

To contribute to LGNSW's sector-wide submission, please email any issues and/or your draft submissions to [Leisha Deguara](mailto:Leisha.Deguara@epa.nsw.gov.au) by 1 November 2017.

Closing date for submissions
5pm, Monday 20 November 2017

Online information
[Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Contact
EPA Waste and Recycling
Infrastructure team
infrastructure.grants@epa.nsw.gov.au

Leisha Deguara
LGNSW
Senior Policy Officer – Waste
02 9242 4095
Leisha.deguara@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R15/0002 LD

Planning

Item 5: LGNSW Submission on Land Release and Housing Supply

LGNSW has made a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into land release and housing supply in NSW.

LGNSW's submission contains eight recommendations and makes the following key points:

- Funding and other support must target the social and affordable rental housing market.
- District and regional plans must be supported by approved and funded infrastructure plans.
- Adequate funding for local infrastructure is essential – local government must have control of its revenue raising and investment decisions.
- State governments need to ensure local government has a seat at the table when projects are being planned.
- Greater coordination is needed between state agencies.
- In addition to initiatives for housing supply within Sydney, the government must address regional development and population distribution across the state, through initiatives to locate population growth outside of Greater Sydney.

The submission also outlines LGNSW's general position on some key issues for local government, in particular:

- The importance of local government in the provision of land and housing
- Local and state government partnership
- Funding – infrastructure contributions and rate pegging.

The Land release and housing supply in NSW inquiry is examining how land, housing and infrastructure are delivered across the state now and what changes could be made to processes (including funding and approvals) to better integrate delivery and improve performance.

Online Information

[NSW Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Planning](#)

LGNSW contact

Jane Partridge, Senior Policy Officer, Planning, LGNSW

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Ref: R05/0071 JP

Planning

Item 6: Local Development Information Forums

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is running forums for council planning directors, planning managers and senior staff to discuss key developments in planning policy and assessment processes.

The local development information forums will cover:

- The Development Assessment Best Practice Guide and how it can be improved
- Integrated development, concurrences and referrals and how the state is improving its inputs into local development
- Agency presentations on best practice in environmental assessments
- An update on the NSW Planning Portal.

The first forums are scheduled in the Greater Sydney area with others to follow around the state.

For further information and to register for one of the sessions, click on the links below:

[Penrith, Tuesday 10 October](#)

[Parramatta, Wednesday 11 October](#)

[Sydney CBD, Tuesday 17 October](#).

For further information email [Suzanne Clarke-Nash](mailto:Suzanne.Clarke-Nash@planning.nsw.gov.au), Senior Planning Officer, NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Contact

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Planning Officer, DP&E
02 9274 6202
Email: Suzanne.Clarke-Nash@planning.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R04/0029 SMcB

Roads and Transport

Item 7: National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – Road Manager Portal Rollout

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is providing information to all road managers, including councils, ahead of the launch of the Portal – Road Manager Module, to ensure they are ready to process and manage consents online.

In the first phase of the rollout, all road managers will be migrated to Portal Forms, via a simple email link.

Portal Forms is a key part of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's transition approach, moving road managers from the current email process to being able to complete online consents.

Initially, councils will be asked to use an online form, similar to the current email process, to link to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) portal interface for the individual consent.

Soon after that, the full version of the NHVR Portal - Road Manager Module will be available to road managers nationally in a staged release.

Visit the [NHVR Portal](#) to find out more, view a short video explaining the process and take the self-guided readiness survey.

For additional help, [email NHVR](#).

Online information

[NHVR Portal Website](#)

Contact

accessconnect@nhvr.gov.au

Online Information

[NHVR website](#)

Ref: R90/0985RC

Water

Item 8: Productivity Commission National Water Reform Inquiry – Draft Report

LGNSW encourages councils to make submissions on the Productivity Commission's National Water Reform Inquiry draft report (due Thursday 19 October 2017).

The draft report, released on 15 September 2017, makes a number of findings and recommendations relevant to the urban water sector, including council local water utilities in regional NSW.

Key points include:

- Requiring independent bodies to review financial performance reporting frameworks for providers in regional NSW and Queensland, to ensure pricing practices are transparent and consistent with National Water Initiative pricing principles.
- Improving the efficiency and quality of service provision in regional NSW and Queensland by targeting government funding to providers with the greatest need and/or service challenges.

While expressing a preference for larger utilities in regional areas, the Productivity Commission notes that the cost and benefits of amalgamating smaller council utilities into larger units should consider the impact across all local government operations.

Importantly, the Commission acknowledges that collaboration between multiple smaller utilities can achieve some of the same benefits (and avoid the difficulties) associated with amalgamating utilities. It makes particular reference to the successful local water utility alliances in regional NSW.

With respect to urban development and water services, the report suggests that policy barriers and distortions should not prevent the uptake of emerging decentralised supply options and encourage place-based integrated water cycle management solutions for major urban developments to ensure that decentralised options are considered alongside conventional centralised options.

LGNSW submission

LGNSW will make a submission on the draft report and councils are invited to make contributions to this. Please email your feedback to [Sascha Moege](mailto:Sascha.Moege@lgnsw.nsw.gov.au), Senior Policy Officer LGNSW.

The Productivity Commission is due to release its final report in December 2017.

Dates

Submissions close 19 October 2017.

Public hearings:

- Sydney, NSW – Tuesday 17 October 2017.
- Canberra, ACT – Monday 16 October 2017.
- Brisbane, QLD – Thursday 19 October 2017.

Online information

<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform>

LGNSW's submission to the inquiry issues paper is on the [LGNSW website](#).

LGNSW contact and feedback

Email [Sascha Moege](mailto:Sascha.Moege@lgnsw.nsw.gov.au) or call 02 9242 4045

Ref: R90/1056-12 SM

Learning

Item 9: Drone Operations in Local Government

LGNSW is conducting regional seminars for councils considering using drones.

From infrastructure management and vegetation mapping to land use planning and tourism, drones can perform many tasks, often saving time and money when used appropriately.

This half-day seminar will cover:

- Drone technologies available and how they're commonly used
- Practical deployment of drones in local government operations – applications and innovations
- Drones and the law – current laws surrounding the operation of drones in public spaces
- Risks and mitigation – insurance and risk considerations in operating drone
- Purchase or contract – the pros and cons of in-house drone operations versus contracting
- Aircraft familiarisation – understanding the aircraft and its components / flying demonstration.

Intended for staff with responsibility for infrastructure planning and management, tourism and economic development, land use planning and regulation and enforcement, the seminar is highly interactive and practical.

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

Dates and locations

18 October 2017 – Wagga Wagga

24 October 2017 – Parramatta

25 October 2017 – Tamworth

14 November 2017 – Dubbo

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Registrations

[Register here](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4081

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 10: Managing an Ageing Workforce

LGNSW has a new course for managers to help them deal with the implications of an ageing workforce.

With an older than average workforce, councils need to explore strategies to manage older workers, enabling them to continue making a productive contribution.

This one-day course will address the following topics:

- The facts of Australian workforce ageing
- What is old, older or mature?
- The benefits of age diversity and a mature workforce
- Work practices and attitudes to mature workers
- Organisational and cultural stereotypes
- Generational differences in values and behaviours
- Work policies, practices and job design relating to mature workers
- Recruitment and selection practices
- Flexible work practices as a way of retaining valuable mature workers
- Performance management of mature workers
- Reward and recognition
- Knowledge transfer and succession planning
- Health/wellbeing of mature workers
- Retirement work policies and practices.

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

Dates and locations

Tuesday 23 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 11: 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 programs

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

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

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

[AICD Foundations of Directorship Course](#) (26, 27, 28 Feb 2018, Sydney)

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

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 include 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.

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 12: 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 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.](#)

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](#)

Media Skills

Sydney – Tuesday 24 October 2017

Develop 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](#)

Financial Issues in Local Government (for elected members)

Sydney – Friday 27 October 2017

Understand, interpret, develop, plan and more effectively manage your financial responsibilities as a councillor. [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 13: ALGA Newsletter

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