

Message from the President

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

Notice of Election for Office Bearers and Board of Directors

Nominations for Office Bearers and the Board of the Local Government and Shires Association of New South Wales (LGNSW) open on 16 October 2017.

LGNSW Environment Award Winners Announced

Campbelltown City Council won the major award for local sustainability at the 2017 LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards ceremony in Sydney this week.

Annual Local Government Procurement Conference

Councils are invited to register for the upcoming Local Government Procurement Conference (Sydney, 30 November to 1 December).

NSW Safer Communities Fund Open

Councils can apply for grants through the Australian Government's Safer Communities Fund for local crime prevention and security infrastructure activities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

GPO BOX 7003 SYDNEY NSW 2001
L8, 28 MARGARET ST SYDNEY NSW 2000
T 02 9242 4000 F 02 9242 4111
LGNSW.ORG.AU LGNSW@LGNSW.ORG.AU
ABN 49 853 913 882

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

LGNSW.ORG.AU/SUBSCRIBE

Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 13 October 2017



LGNSW Environment Awards – I was in Sydney on Wednesday with LGNSW Chief Executive Donna Rygate to celebrate the exceptional environmental achievements of councils throughout NSW at LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards. Congratulations to the staff of Campbelltown City Council, whose dedication to improving sustainability in their region earned them the Local Sustainability Award for a program which provides a strategic and collaborative approach to sustainability in one of the nation's fastest growing population and employment centres, and to Carmel Hamilton who received the leading individual award – the Louise Petchell Memorial Award for Individual Sustainability – in recognition of the sustainability initiatives implemented under her leadership at Penrith City Council. [Read more.](#)

LGNSW Annual conference: The LGNSW Annual Conference (4-6 December) is now less than two months away. Voting entitlements were calculated earlier this week and members have been advised of their relevant entitlements. In accordance with the LGNSW rules, only members that were financial on 9 October 2017 have been allocated voting entitlements. Ordinary and Associate members need to advise LGNSW of the names of their delegates for voting on Conference motions, while Ordinary members also need to advise LGNSW of the names of their delegates for voting in the LGNSW Board election, by 12 midnight (AEDT) on 1 November 2017 (nominations received after this date cannot be accepted). Information about how to advise LGNSW of the names of nominated voting delegates can be found on the [Annual Conference page of the LGNSW website](#). Today (Friday) the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) issued an [Election Notice](#) in relation to the LGNSW Board election. The Election Notice provides important information in relation to the Board election, including details about when nominations open and close, and how to nominate for positions on the LGNSW Board. [Read more.](#)

Preference counting in NSW local government elections – On Monday, Donna and Shaun McBride, our Senior Strategy Manager, gave evidence at the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee inquiry into preference counting in local government elections in NSW. We are concerned about the impact on the integrity of election outcomes through the current use of 'random selection' which counts first preferences in full, followed by the redistribution of preferences randomly using a computer algorithm. Many analysts have found this could result in the election of a candidate who received fewer votes than another who is not elected. We believe the only solution is to introduce a requirement that all preference votes are actually counted. We also believe that funding should be provided for any extra costs a change might impose.

Other significant events – On Thursday, Donna attended the Local Government Property Professionals Conference in Nowra and the first-ever NSW Councils' Night Time Economy Forum in Parramatta. Our free, post-election Capable Councils workshops also continued this week, with Donna and the team in Wollongong (Monday), North Sydney (Tuesday) and Hornsby (Friday). To find out more or register for remaining workshops, visit the [LGNSW website](#).

Planning working group – There's still time to register for our planning working group. LGNSW is establishing a group of communication staff from metropolitan councils to work collaboratively to help advocate the best interests of communities. The first meeting, to be held at LGNSW's offices at 28 Margaret Street, Sydney next Wednesday (18 October) will focus on the independent hearing and assessment panel legislation, and include a background briefing on the issue and a working lunch. Please email communications@lgnsw.org.au to register.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Rhoades'.

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming Conferences and Events

Annual Local Government Procurement Conference

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Grants and Funding

Item 2: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

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NSW Safer Communities Fund Open

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General Interest

Item 3: Notice of Election for Office Bearers and Board of Directors

Nominations for Office Bearers and the Board of the Local Government and Shires Association of New South Wales (LGNSW) open on 16 October 2017.

A copy of the Election Notice has been forwarded to all Ordinary members by post. The Election Notice is also on the [LGNSW website](#).

The election is being conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), and the Returning Officer is Renee Damasena.

Nominations must be in writing, comply with LGNSW's registered rules and be received by the Returning Officer at her office, postal address or email inbox by 12:00 noon (AEDT) on 7 November 2017.

Nomination forms are available upon request from the Returning Officer or from the [LGNSW website](#) or the [AEC website](#).

Date

Nominations open on Monday 16 October 2017, and close at 12:00 noon (AEDT) on 7 November 2017

Online information

<http://lgnsw.org.au/events-training/local-government-nsw-annual-conference>

Contact

Australian Electoral Commission
Renee Damasena
Returning Officer
02 9375 6361

Ref: R16/0028 AD

General Interest

Item 4: NSW Disaster Ready Councils Forums

The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils is holding five regional forums across NSW to help councils build organisational and community resilience to natural disasters.

Over the last 10 years, NSW councils have experienced more than 1000 natural disaster declarations, affecting nearly every local government area.

The forums will feature:

- Presentations from NSW Office of Emergency Management and Statewide Mutual (on the insurance and risk implications for councils from natural disasters)
- Council case studies and lessons learnt from recent disasters
- A self-assessment session for councils to determine their disaster readiness
- Information on the Disaster Ready Councils initiative which encourages a whole-of-organisation approach to disaster preparedness.

The forums are supported by the joint state and commonwealth Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

Dates and locations

- Maitland - 23 October
- Coffs Harbour - 27 October
- Queanbeyan - 30 October
- Wagga Wagga - 1 November
- Dubbo - 3 November 2017

Online information

[Disaster Ready Council Factsheet](#)

[Disaster Resilience Initiatives](#)

Registration

[Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils](#)

Contact

Ian Turnbull

Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils

02 49784042 | 0437 177 958

iant@huntercouncils.com.au

Ref: R90/0753 KM

Category – General Interest

Item 5: Annual Local Government Procurement Conference

Councils are invited to register for the upcoming Local Government Procurement Conference (Sydney, 30 November to 1 December).

The conference will provide delegates with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to improve their organisation's procurement process.

Themed 'Building procurement capability and embracing innovation', the conference program will focus on technology, supplier relationship management, sustainability, innovation and future trends.

Topics will include:

- Diversity and integrity as essential ingredients for performing teams
- ISO 20400 – a guide to integrating sustainability within procurement
- Make your procurement documents capable to manage innovation
- Delivering value to your organisation into the future
- The emerging role of technology in driving social procurement outcomes
- Quantifying value
- Smarter cities and communities – making sense and making it real
- Panel session – procurement supporting counter terrorism measures
- Panel session – autonomous and driverless vehicles.

The conference is an ideal event for those involved in procurement, in particular:

- Procurement managers
- Governance managers
- Purchasing officers
- Contracts managers
- General managers, directors and senior managers.

The conference package includes full attendance, a conference pack and dinner on Thursday evening.

LGP is offering free attendance to general managers and directors who attend with staff.

Visit the [Local Government Procurement website](#) for more information.

Contact

Local Government Procurement
02 8270 8743
events@lgp.org.au

Date

30 November to 1 December 2017

Location

Sydney Masonic Centre,
66 Goulburn Street Sydney

Investment

\$990 inc GST – early bird available until 3 November
\$1,320 inc GST – from 4 November

FREE attendance to general managers/directors when attending with a registered staff member

More information

Visit the [Local Government Procurement website](#)

Ref: R05/0057

General Interest

Item 6: Planning Breakfast and Awards

Registrations for the next LGNSW planning breakfast and awards at Parliament House on 24 October close next Wednesday (18 October).

The event will include the presentation of the inaugural LGNSW Planning Awards. The awards recognise excellence in planning and development services, leadership and culture change, innovation and excellence. They will be awarded to both individuals and councils.

Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts will address guests and present the awards.

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.

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

[Register online](#) now to secure your place.

LGNSW thanks Landcom NSW, the Elite Sponsor of the LGNSW Planning Series.

Dates and location

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

Registration closes Wednesday 18 October 2017

Online information

[Planning Breakfast and Awards Registration](#)

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 7: Local Government Skills Shortage Survey

Councils across Australia are invited to participate in a national survey of current and emerging skills needs.

The survey will provide an analysis of national and state/territory skills profiles and evidence to support advocacy in current and future workforce capacity matters.

A report will be produced for participating NSW councils, identifying areas of current and future skills shortages and gaps.

LGNSW is coordinating the survey on behalf of the Australian Local Government Association and will email the online survey to HR managers next week.

The closing date for completion is Friday 24 November 2017.

Further information

Jennifer James
Service Development Consultant
02 9242 4185
jennifer.james@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 JJ

Community

Item 8: COTA 2017 Consumer Survey

Council on the Ageing NSW is asking for support from local government to promote its 2017 Consumer Survey.

The Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA) annual survey seeks the views of older people about policy issues that affect them.

COTA is the peak organisation representing the interests of people aged 50 and over in NSW.

COTA is asking councils to circulate the survey within their networks.

This year's survey will focus on housing and asks:

- How do older people feel about the crisis in housing affordability?
- Do older people worry about housing security as they get older?
- Do older people have enough information about the different housing choices available?
- What factors influence decisions about where older people live?

The information gathered will help inform COTA's policy priorities and help it to continue to advocate effectively for older people.

Date

COTA's 2017 Consumer Survey is open until 31 October 2017

Contact

COTA 9286 3860
www.cotansw.com.au

COTA Survey

Ref: R90/1195 CM

Community

Item 9: International Day of People with Disability – Register Events Now

Councils are encouraged to support International Day of People with Disability by holding community events to raise awareness and promote inclusiveness.

International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations sanctioned day celebrated on 3 December which aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with a disability, and celebrate their achievements and contributions.

In Australia, it presents an opportunity for the community to make positive changes to the lives of 4.3 million Australians with disability.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the day and councils can help celebrate this milestone by holding an event or by promoting events in their local community.

For ideas, download an [event planning kit](#) and [register your event online](#) to be included in the community event calendar.

Date

International Day of People with Disability is on 3 December 2017

Online information

www.idpwd.com.au

Contact

<http://www.idpwd.com.au/contact/>

Ref: R05/0055 CM

Community

Item 10: Community Infrastructure Grants

Councils can apply for Infrastructure Grants (previously known as Club Grants) from Liquor and Gaming NSW to support the building, renovation and fit out of infrastructure.

Funding can be used for construction costs, purchase of capital equipment and professional fees.

Local government applicants are required to match the funding amount requested.

The NSW Government has introduced changes to the grants process including a faster application process, more funding rounds (previously there was one per year, there will now be four) and new funding ranges for projects.

Infrastructure grants can be used toward the costs of construction, alteration, renovation, completion and fit out of buildings in the following areas:

- Arts and culture, \$50,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Emergency preparedness, \$10,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Sport and recreation, \$100,000 to \$300,000 available per project.

Councils have three more opportunities to apply: November 2017, February 2018 and March 2018.

[Applications can be submitted online via the Liquor and Gaming NSW grants application portal.](#)

Dates

The next round is open from Wednesday 1 November to 5pm Monday 20 November 2017

Online information

[Infrastructure Grants Program Guide 2017-18](#)

Contact

9995 0992

www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R09/0029 CM

Community

Item 11: NSW Safer Communities Fund Open

Councils can apply for grants through the Australian Government's Safer Communities Fund for local crime prevention and security infrastructure activities.

Grants can also be used to protect community organisations that may be facing security risks associated with racial and/or religious intolerance.

Projects can include:

- Installation of fixed or mobile CCTV cameras
- Installation of security lighting
- Installation of bollards
- Crime prevention through environmental design, such as levels of lighting or natural surveillance.

Grants of up to \$1 million will be available to cover up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs.

Projects must be completed by 30 June 2020.

All grant applications must be submitted online via the [Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science website](#).

Dates

Applications close 5pm, 14 November 2017

Online information

[Safer Communities Fund Information](#)

Contact

13 28 46

business.gov.au/contactus

Ref: R90/0125 CM

Environment

Item 12: LGNSW Environment Award Winners Announced

Campbelltown City Council won the major award for local sustainability at the 2017 LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards ceremony in Sydney this week.

LGNSW President Keith Rhoades AFSM congratulated Campbelltown City staff during the awards lunch on Wednesday (11 October).

Campbelltown, one of the nation's fastest growing population and employment centres, is playing a major role in the sustainability of the region.

Campbelltown City Council's two-pronged approach includes an overarching sustainability strategy to influence policies and projects and a culture change program led by a sustainability committee, to educate, inspire, support and involve staff.

Council's innovation has led to the creation of a corporate sustainability fund to support projects. To date, this has provided more than \$600,000 to kick-start projects, with loans to be paid back from the savings achieved through increased efficiencies.

The LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise exceptional achievements by NSW councils in safeguarding the environment.

Winners are selected from a range of categories including: waste management, climate change action, water management, sustainable procurement and communication, education and empowerment.

The Louise Petchell Memorial Award for individual achievement went to Carmel Hamilton, for her leadership in embedding sustainability practices at Penrith City Council.

Cr Rhoades paid tribute to the many other highly commended and award-winning councils, on their exceptional achievements in safeguarding and managing the environment.

LGNSW appreciates the continued support from the Award sponsors including the 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.

For more information on the awards, including a list of winners, project summaries, case studies and photos, visit the [LGNSW website](#).

Online information

lgnsw.org.au/events-training/environment-awards

Photos

<http://eventpix.zenfolio.com/f725957753>

Contact

Susy Cenedese
Strategy Manager, Environment
LGNSW
02 9242 4080

Ref: R98/0021-03 DA

Planning

Item 13: Two Greater Sydney Districts Merged into New Western City District

A new Western City District has been created from the merger of two Greater Sydney districts, reducing the number of districts in Greater Sydney from six to five.

The Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) recently announced the new Western City District through the merger of the West and South West districts.

The change is intended to facilitate planning around the proposed Western Sydney Airport. The new Western City district encompasses eight local government areas, all of whom were consulted about the change and have given it their support.

In addition, two districts have been renamed to provide greater clarity around their location within the 'three cities' vision.

The Greater Sydney districts now become:

- Western City District (formerly called the South West District and West District) – local government areas of Camden, Blue Mountains, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith, and Wollondilly
- Central City District (formerly called the West Central District) – local government areas of Blacktown, Cumberland, Parramatta and The Hills
- Eastern City District (formerly called the Central District) – local government areas of Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Inner West, Randwick, Strathfield, Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra
- North District (unchanged) - local government areas of Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Ryde and Willoughby
- South District (unchanged) – local government areas of Canterbury-Bankstown, Georges River and Sutherland.

The GSC's Deputy Chief Commissioner and Economic Commissioner, Geoff Roberts, has been appointed Interim Commissioner for Western City District until a permanent appointment is made.

The change does not affect the current district commissioner appointments or district boundaries.

Online Information
[Greater Sydney Commission media release](#)

Ref: R90/0028 JP

Learning

Item 14: Programs for Elected Members

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

Capable Councils

Dates remain for Sydney CBD, Canterbury, Orange, Cowra, Queanbeyan and Deniliquin. This free, one-day workshop offers the opportunity for new teams of councilors to come together with their executive and neighbouring councils to plan for success over the new council term. [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 and 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, 4, 5 November 2017; Block 2: 2 and 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. For more information call 02 9242 4181/4081.

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 15: Upcoming Public Courses

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

They are specifically designed for the local government sector.

Drone Operations in Local Government

Wagga Wagga – Wednesday 18 October 2017
Parramatta – Tuesday 24 October 2017
Tamworth – Wednesday 25 October 2017
Dubbo – Tuesday 14 November 2017

Learn more about the many applications and benefits of using drones. [More information.](#)

Managing an Ageing Workforce

Sydney – Monday 23 October 2017

Explore strategies to manage older workers. [More information](#)

Building Effective Teams

Sydney – Tuesday 24 October 2017

Learn how to build effective teams, particularly at a time of organisational change and uncertainty. [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](#)

Political Awareness

Sydney – Tuesday 31 October

Learn how to develop effective working relationships with elected representatives when formulating strategy and developing sustainable services for the community. [More information.](#)

Improving Your Report Writing

Sydney – Thursday 2 November 2017

Develop the skills to write effective, clear and concise reports for your managers and your council. [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](#)

Registrations

[LGNSW Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 16: Short Courses for Elected Members

LGNSW offers a range of short courses to build the skills and capabilities of elected members.

Media Skills

Sydney - Tuesday 24 October 2017

This practical workshop delivers the techniques to enable councillors to be more comfortable, confident and effective in dealing with the media.

[More information](#)

Finance Issues in Local Government

Sydney – Friday 27 October 2017

Provides elected members with tools to understand, interpret, develop, plan and more effectively manage the financial resources of their council as well as inform them of their financial duties and responsibilities. [More information](#)

Speed Reading

Sydney - Tuesday 7 November 2017

Participants will learn how to improve their memory, double their reading speed and improve comprehension in this one-day course. [More information](#)

Chairing Effective Meeting Procedures

Sydney – Thursday 9 November 2017

Gain the skills to effectively chair, participate in and contribute to council meetings. [More information](#)

Models for Community Governance: A Practitioner Roundtable

Sydney - Friday 10 November 2017

This local government roundtable will provide an overview of the models of community governance being applied in Australia, New Zealand and Britain. It will feature case studies of ideas and views on key issues, and opportunities to strengthen governance practices. [More information](#)

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Sydney – Friday 24 November 2017

Gain improved insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement, including practical approaches and engagement methods and tools for effective evaluation. [More information](#)

Social Media for Councillors

Sydney – Wednesday 29 November 2017

Gain an overview of the value of social networking and how it can have a positive impact on community engagement and business objectives. [More information](#)

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

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Registrations

[LGNSW Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

In the News

Item 17: ALGA Newsletter

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