

## **Message from the President**

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

## **Exhibition of New Model Code of Conduct for Local Government**

The NSW Office of Local Government has invited LGNSW to comment on the new draft model code of conduct for councils and the procedures for its administration.

## **Draft Planning and Transport Strategies for Sydney**

The Greater Sydney Commission and Transport for NSW have released two important draft long-term plans for Sydney.

## **Public Exhibition of EIE on Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP**

The NSW Government has released a planning document on Primary Production and Rural Development which outlines provisions for a consolidated State Environmental Planning Policy on rural issues.

## **Financial Statements due by 31 October 2017**

Councils are reminded that their audited financial statements and financial data return are to be lodged with the Office of Local Government by 31 October 2017.

## **Information, Linkages and Capacity Jurisdictional Grants – New Funding and Council Workshop**

The National Disability Insurance Agency is currently accepting applications for the latest round of Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Jurisdictional Based Grants.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW**

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**LGNSW.ORG.AU** LGNSW@LGNSW.ORG.AU  
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### **EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION**

LGNSW.ORG.AU/SUBSCRIBE

## Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

Friday 27 October 2017



**Planning and transport strategies on exhibition** – The Greater Sydney Commission released the new draft Greater Sydney Region Plan and revised draft district plans this week. At the same time a draft future transport strategy came out. Under the draft region plan, Greater Sydney will become three connected cities – Eastern, Central and Western – over the next 40 years, linked by new public transport. More information is available from the Greater Sydney Commission website, Transport for NSW and a joint media release issued by Roads, Maritime and Freight Minister Melinda Pavey and Transport Minister Andrew Constance. We look forward to consulting with members and making detailed submissions to the NSW Government. Read more.

**Primary Production and Rural Development Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE)** – Hot on the heels of the planning and transport strategies, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment released the Primary Production and Rural Development Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE), which outlines provisions to be included in a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). The Department proposes to consolidate five existing rural-based SEPPs under a single Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP. While we support cutting the number and complexity of the SEPPs, we strongly recommend that the draft SEPP be exhibited next year so we can see it in full. We will consult members and make a detailed submission. Read more

**Local government draft code of conduct** – The NSW Government released its new draft model code of conduct for local government on Monday. We support measures that improve our sector and its accountability to the community, but some of the new provisions are highly impractical and we note that standards for councillors and staff are generally far more rigorous than those for State Government. We are currently examining the detail of the draft code and will prepare a response on behalf of the sector. Read more.

**Housing approvals** – Housing approvals in Greater Sydney remain high with 51,119 new homes approved over the past 12 months to August 2017, according to data released on Wednesday by the Department of Planning and Environment's Metropolitan Housing Monitor. Read more in this media release from Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts.

**Other significant meetings** – On Monday, Donna and senior staff attended an Office of Local Government liaison meeting. Donna gave a speech at the Australian Regional Tourism Conference in Canberra on Thursday, highlighting local government's significant role in supporting inclusive tourism and the work LGNSW has been leading in this area.

**Capable Councils** – Final Capable Councils workshops took place in Queanbeyan (Wednesday) and Deniliquin (Friday), bringing to a close a very successful series of 11 workshops state wide.

**Local Government Procurement Awards** – There's still time to nominate an individual or organisation deserving of recognition in the 2017 Local Government Procurement Awards. Nominations close soon (10 November). Visit the Local Government Procurement website for more information and to download the nomination form.

Yours sincerely



Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

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Councils are invited to take part in LGNSW's annual remuneration survey.

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NRMA is seeking expressions of interest from councils and community groups wishing to establish electric vehicle chargers in their local areas.

### Legal

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The NSW Office of Local Government has invited LGNSW to comment on the new draft model code of conduct for councils and the procedures for its administration.

### Planning

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The Greater Sydney Commission and Transport for NSW have released two important draft long-term plans for Sydney.

#### Item 11: Public Exhibition of EIE on Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP

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## Procurement

### Item 12: Contract Management Essentials Training

Local Government Procurement is running a Contract Management Essentials training course for staff involved in purchasing or contract management in a local government context (Sydney, Wednesday 29 November).

## Roads and Transport

### Item 13: NSW Draft Future Transport Strategy and Plans

The NSW Government has released the draft future transport strategy and supporting plans.

## Learning

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This LGNSW workshop will give staff who undertake community consultations improved skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement (Sydney, 24 November).

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

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LGNSW is offering a new program to strengthen collaboration between elected members and senior staff.

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## Conferences and Events

### Item 1: Upcoming Conferences and Events

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This LGNSW workshop will give staff who undertake community consultations improved skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement (Sydney, 24 November).

#### **Short Courses for Elected Members and Staff**

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

#### **Working Together to Deliver – A Program for Council Leaders**

LGNSW is offering a new program to strengthen collaboration between elected members and senior staff.

## Grants and Funding

### Item 2: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities.

#### Information, Linkages and Capacity Jurisdictional Grants – New Funding and Council Workshop

The National Disability Insurance Agency is currently accepting applications for the latest round of Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Jurisdictional Based Grants.

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Councils can apply for grants of up to \$100,000 from the NSW Environment Protection Authority for litter prevention projects.

## General Interest

### Item 3: Financial Statements due by 31 October 2017

**Councils are reminded that their audited financial statements and financial data return are to be lodged with the Office of Local Government by 31 October 2017.**

Pursuant to section 417 of the *Local Government Act (NSW) 1993* and the Office of Local Government's (OLG) 2017-2018 Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements (as per OLG Circular No 17-28 of 09 October 2017), councils are required to submit to OLG their audited financial statements and financial data return by 31 October 2017.

#### **Further information**

[OLG's 2017-2018 Calendar of Compliance and Reporting Requirements](#)

**Ref. R90/0842-09 SM**

## General Interest

### Item 4: LGNSW's Remuneration Survey

**Councils are invited to take part in LGNSW's annual remuneration survey.**

The remuneration survey collects data on total remuneration packages (TRPs) for general managers, directors, managers and supervisors/ specialists in councils across NSW.

All councils are encouraged to complete the survey which currently enjoys the highest participation of any comparative survey in NSW. The data provides valuable comparative information for budget preparation, remuneration reviews and HR matters.

Survey participants will receive a complimentary summary of median TRP for positions surveyed. Councils that have completed the survey for the past two years will receive a discount when ordering remuneration reports.

Contact [Debra Law](#) to order your 2017-18 survey pack. Submit completed surveys and order remuneration report orders by **24 November 2017**.

**Date**

Surveys submitted by Friday  
24 November 2017

**Online information**  
[LGNSW Remuneration  
Survey and Reports](#)

**Contact**

Debra Law  
Divisional Coordinator  
LGNSW  
02 9242 4142  
[debra.law@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:debra.law@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I09/0016 MA

## Community

### Item 5: Healthy Towns Challenge

**Applications are open for the NSW Healthy Town Challenge 2018 – a joint initiative of the NSW Office of Preventive Health and the Heart Foundation to help regional and rural communities become healthier.**

This is the fourth year the challenge has been held in NSW. In previous years it has provided participating towns with fantastic opportunities to improve the health of people in their communities.

The challenge will take place from 22 January to 3 August 2018.

To be eligible, towns must be located outside of the Sydney metropolitan area and have a total population of between 1,000 and 15,000 people.

A maximum of five towns will participate in 2018. The town that achieves the most improvements towards healthier living will be declared the winner and receive a first prize of \$5,000.

Towns selected to participate in the challenge will receive a \$15,000 grant and support from the NSW Office of Preventive Health and the Heart Foundation for their activities.

Applications close on 20 November. For more information and to apply, visit the [NSW Office of Preventative Health website](#).

**Dates and location**

Applications close 20 November

**Online information**

[Healthy Towns Challenge](#)

**Contact**

Vincy Li

(02) 8738 6269

[Vincy.Li@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Vincy.Li@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

**Ref:** R90/1182 MK

## Community

### Item 6: Information, Linkages and Capacity Jurisdictional Grants – New Funding and Council Workshop

**The National Disability Insurance Agency is currently accepting applications for the latest round of Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Jurisdictional Based Grants.**

LGNSW is also coordinating a workshop (Wednesday 8 November, Sydney) to support councils with their applications.

Councils in NSW can apply for grants of up to two years.

Applicants are encouraged to use the [ILC Toolkit](#) which includes videos about the ILC and information on preparing for a grant application.

Applications will be accepted in any of the four activity areas:

- Information, linkages and referrals
- Capacity building for mainstream services
- Community awareness and capacity building
- Individual capacity building.

Previous applicants are welcome to apply. The closing date for applications is 30 November 2017.

#### **Council Workshop – Wednesday 8 November**

The workshop will be delivered in partnership with Disability Services Consulting (DSC) – leading experts in the National Disability Insurance Scheme with a reputation for delivering practical tools, resources and advice.

The workshop aims to provide relevant council staff with sufficient information and resources to identify practical approaches and projects, and submit a competitive grant application.

Applications to the current round of the ILC Jurisdictional Grants are open until 30 November 2017.

#### **Applications**

Applicants can apply through:  
[DSS Community Grants Hub](#)

Applications close on 30 November 2017

#### **More information**

[Information, Linkages and capacity Building Jurisdictional Based Grants](#)

#### **Website**

[National Disability Insurance Scheme](#)

**Ref:** R90/0058 CM

#### **Workshop**

Wed 8 November 2017

#### **Registrations**

[Click here to register](#) for the workshop

#### **Cost**

\$50 per person (includes lunch)

#### **Contact**

[chris.maclean@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:chris.maclean@lgnsw.org.au)

02 9242 4043

**Ref:** R90/0058 CM

## Environment

### Item 7: Litter Prevention Grants

#### **Councils can apply for grants of up to \$100,000 from the NSW Environment Protection Authority for litter prevention projects.**

A total of \$1.25 million is available in round four of the Council Litter Prevention Grants Program, with grants ranging from \$30,000 to \$100,000.

The program aims to support litter prevention projects that answer community needs. Projects should apply an integrated approach to litter prevention through the use of education, enforcement, improvements to infrastructure and evaluation tools.

Council projects should also use the EPA's [local litter check](#) to measure results and 'Hey Tosser!' litter campaign materials to educate the community.

Applications for the [Council Litter Prevention Grants Program](#) close 1 December 2017.

#### **Dates and location**

Applications close 1 December 2017

#### **Online information**

Further information:  
[Council litter grants](#)

#### **Contact**

[NSW EPA Litter Prevention Team](#)

**Ref:** R90/0994 LD

## Environment

### Item 8: Electric Vehicle Fast Charger Network – Get Involved

**NRMA is seeking expressions of interest from councils and community groups wishing to establish electric vehicle chargers in their local areas.**

The NRMA is supporting motorists to transition to electric vehicles by enabling access to conveniently located, safe, fast charger networks across NSW and the ACT.

As part of their Social Dividend Investment Strategy, the NRMA will invest \$10 million to deliver at least 40 chargers. This is double the size of the current network of chargers in NSW and the ACT.

A phased approach to the roll out of the network will be taken with the first charging stations operational next year.

Priority will be given to locations where larger numbers of NRMA members live and electric vehicles are embraced and supported, and areas of high tourism demand.

For more information and to get involved, visit [the NRMA website](#).

**Discussion paper**  
[The future is electric](#)

**To register interest**  
[NRMA website](#)

**Ref:** R90/1212-02 DA

## Legal

### Item 9: Exhibition of New Model Code of Conduct for Local Government

**The NSW Office of Local Government has invited LGNSW to comment on the new draft model code of conduct for councils and the procedures for its administration.**

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is seeking the views of councils and other stakeholders on the drafts prior to finalising the new code and procedures.

Submissions close on Monday 4 December 2017.

Proposed amendments are highlighted in bold type in the consultation drafts on the OLG website. These amendments are designed to update, clarify and enhance ethical standards, address issues identified in the four years the current versions of the code of conduct and procedures have been in force and to improve their operation.

LGNSW is currently examining the detail of the draft code and will, over the coming weeks, prepare a response on behalf of the sector. Contributions from members are appreciated. Please email submissions and comments to [Bruce McCann, Legal Officer LGNSW](mailto:BruceMcCann@lgnsw.org.au).

The draft code is available on the Office of Local Government website.

**Submission due date**

4 December 2017

**Online information**

[Minister for Local Government media release](#)

[Draft code on the Office of Local Government website](#)

[LGNSW media release](#)

**Contact**

Bruce McCann  
Legal Officer  
Local Government NSW  
[bruce.mccann@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:bruce.mccann@lgnsw.org.au)

## Planning

### Item 10: Draft Planning and Transport Strategies for Sydney

**The Greater Sydney Commission and Transport for NSW have released two important draft long-term plans for Sydney.**

The draft Greater Sydney Region Plan, proposes reshaping Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three cities – the Western Parkland City, Central River City and Eastern Harbour City - over the next 40 years. The draft regional plan, prepared by the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), was released along with Transport for NSW's Future Transport 2056 Strategy.

LGNSW has always supported metropolitan-wide planning as a means of coordinating long-term strategic growth. However, the failure to integrate land-use planning and infrastructure delivery has been a shortcoming of past metropolitan plans.

LGNSW therefore welcomes the concurrent release of these two important land use and transport strategies. Ensuring a whole-of-government commitment will be a key factor in their success.

Initial concerns include:

- Some of the key transport links mapped in the region plan are not yet committed (e.g. Sydney Metro West, Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2).
- Local government is cautious about the seemingly unquestioned objective of creating a much larger and denser city of eight million people.
- The region plan seems to be disconnected from a whole-of-state context, as if Sydney exists in isolation from the rest of the state.
- Some of the performance metrics require strengthening and expanding.

LGNSW is preparing submissions to the draft regional plan and the future transport strategy and will continue to advocate that the GSC collaborates with councils in developing long term realistic housing targets for their local areas, based on the NSW Government's transport plan.

**Closing date for submissions:**

Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan closes 15 December 2017

Future Transport 2056 Draft Strategy closes 3 December 2017

**Further information**

[Draft Greater Sydney Region Plan](#)

[Future Transport 2056 Draft Strategy](#)

**LGNSW Contact:**

Jane Partridge  
Senior Policy Officer, Planning  
LGNSW  
[jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R90/0028 JP

## Planning

### Item 11: Public Exhibition of EIE on Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP

The NSW Government has released a planning document on Primary Production and Rural Development which outlines provisions for a consolidated State Environmental Planning Policy on rural issues.

Submissions are due by 18 December.

The proposed new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for Primary Production and Rural Development will consolidate and simplify a number of existing SEPPs that apply to rural land including:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Rural Lands) 2008 (Rural Lands SEPP)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 30 - Intensive Agriculture (SEPP 30)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 52 - Farm Dams and Other Works in Land and Water Management Plan Areas (SEPP 52)
- State Environmental Planning Policy 62 - Sustainable Aquaculture (SEPP 62)
- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 8 - Central Coast Plateau Areas (SREP 8).

Key changes include:

- Revised principles to manage the approval of planning proposals (applications for re-zonings) affecting rural land
- Changes to minimum lot size of rural properties to allow a primary producer to retire on the farm while selling, leasing or making other arrangements for the primary production lot
- A new model clause to clarify the development consent threshold for intensive livestock agriculture
- Revised definitions of 'intensive livestock agriculture', 'extensive agriculture', 'feedlot', 'water reticulation system, and 'water storage facility'
- The inclusion of the Central Coast LGA within the new rural lands SEPP.

Please note that the material on exhibition is an Explanation of Intended Effect on the proposed changes. LGNSW has repeatedly called on the Department of Planning and Environment to exhibit the final form of a draft SEPP for 28 days. It is unclear whether the draft SEPP will be exhibited, so it is important to make a submission on the material currently on exhibition.

**Submissions close on 18 December.**

LGNSW will prepare a submission and would appreciate member's feedback on the proposed changes. Please email comments to [Jennifer Dennis](mailto:Jennifer.Dennis@lgnsw.org.au), Senior Policy Officer LGNSW, by 5 December.

**Due Date**

18 December 2017

**Online information**

[Draft Primary Production and Rural Development SEPP](#)

**Contact**

Jennifer Dennis  
Senior Policy Officer  
LGNSW  
[Jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:Jennifer.dennis@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** R04/0029 JD

## Procurement

### Item 12: Contract Management Essentials Training

Local Government Procurement is running a Contract Management Essentials training course for staff involved in purchasing or contract management in a local government context (Sydney, Wednesday 29 November).

The one-day course will provide participants with an understanding of key principles that need to be observed when managing local government contracts.

#### The course covers:

- Contract management principles
- What is contract management and what are the benefits?
- Legislative context
- Procurement planning
- Identifying and managing risks
- Specification development
- Supplier selection and evaluation
- Contract management planning and mobilisation
- Supplier relationship management
- Contract close-out and transition
- Case studies, scenarios, group activities and discussions.

Local Government Procurement (LGP) offer a range of training from eLearning, one day procurement courses, procurement qualifications to customised on-site training in procurement and contract management.

For further information visit the LGP website or email LGP Training or call 02 8270 8709.

#### Online information

LGP Training website

#### Date and location

Wednesday 29 November, 9am-4.30pm  
LGP Office, Sydney CBD

#### Register online

Fee: \$500.00 (Excl. GST)

#### Contact

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

Ref: R05/0057

## Roads and Transport

### Item 13: NSW Draft Future Transport Strategy and Plans

The NSW Government has released the draft future transport strategy and supporting plans.

The draft strategy updates the 2012 long term transport master plan for NSW. It is a 40-year strategy, supported by separate plans for Greater Sydney, regional NSW, road safety, and transport and tourism. A freight and ports plan will be released shortly.

The [Future Transport 2056 Strategy](#) and supporting plans are open for feedback until 3 December 2017. The final strategy will be released in 2018.

For more information on the strategy and to access the draft plans paper, see the [Future Transport website](#).

LGNSW will make a submission on this strategy and represent members' views on these important plans. Please email your comments and/or copies of your submissions to [Richard Connors](#), Senior Policy Officer, Roads and Transport, LGNSW.

**Online**  
[NSW Future Transport Website](#)

**Closing date for submissions**  
3 December 2017

**LGNSW Contact**  
[Richard Connors](#)  
Tel: 02 9242 4073

**Ref: R90/0421 RC**

## Learning

### Item 14: Community and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

**This LGNSW workshop will give staff who undertake community consultations improved skills and insights into effective community and stakeholder engagement (Sydney, 24 November).**

The workshop has been designed for local government and addresses key aspects of the engagement process. It draws on participant and presenter experience to provide context in operational areas such as corporate strategy, community development, service delivery and land use planning.

Designer for staff with responsibility for the planning and oversight of stakeholder engagement activities, the workshop covers:

- Insights into the principles of effective stakeholder engagement
- Consideration and analysis of the different levels of engagement
- Practical approaches to enable effective stakeholder identification
- Tools for effective evaluation of agency practices and processes in stakeholder engagement
- A detailed account of stakeholder engagement methods and when to apply them
- Practical experience in planning stakeholder engagement activities and processes
- An account of processes for effective facilitation of groups and meetings.

All participants are provided with a comprehensive work book for future reference and guidance.

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

**Date and location**

Friday 24 November 2017, Sydney

**Online information and registration**

[Community and Stakeholder Engagement](#)

**Cost**

LGNSW members: \$660 incl. GST  
Non-members: \$1,320 incl. GST

**Contact**

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 15: Short Courses for Elected Members and Staff

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

#### **Drone Operations in Local Government**

Dubbo – Tuesday 14 November 2017

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

#### **Speed Reading**

Sydney – Tuesday 7 November 2017

Learn how to improve memory, double 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.](#)

#### **Handling Difficult People**

Bathurst – Monday 13 November 2017

Help staff to manage difficult situations in a safe way with minimal stress. [More information](#)

#### **Award History and Interpretation**

Sydney – Wednesday 22 November 2017

Understand the application and interpretation of *the Local Government (State) Award 2017* and the factors that have influenced the development of the series of State Awards. [More information.](#)

#### **Internal Audit Familiarisation Seminar**

Sydney – Tuesday 28 November 2017

Develop better understanding of internal audit functions and its role in performance improvement and risk mitigation across the council's governance and operations. [More information.](#)

#### **Social Media for Councillors**

Sydney – Wednesday 29 November 2017

Gain an overview of the value of social networking and how it can be used to positively impact on community engagement and business objectives. [More information.](#)

#### **Cyber Safety and Awareness**

Sydney – Thursday 30 November 2017

Learn how to reduce your risk of cyber security breaches in the workplace. [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](mailto:learning@lgnsw.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA

## Learning

### Item 16: Working Together to Deliver – A Program for Council Leaders

**LGNSW is offering a new program to strengthen collaboration between elected members and senior staff.**

‘Working Together to Deliver’ is a two-day workshop designed to strengthen understanding between elected members and executive staff to ensure the goals of the community are achieved over the term of the council.

While the purpose, content and structure of the workshop will vary according to the specific issues and needs of the council, the program can be used to:

- Build better understanding between councillors and staff, by focusing on their ‘why’
- More fully explore the vision for the council over the next four years
- Explore perceptions of the council – what they are now and what the leadership group would like them to be (and therefore what needs to be worked on)
- Develop expectations and responsibilities of councillors and staff
- Develop an understanding of leadership and communication styles and preferences (for the purpose of becoming more aware and effective as a leadership group)
- Develop joint agreements on how to work together more effectively.

‘Working Together to Deliver’ is an ideal program to bring together elected representatives and senior executives in the early stages of the council term, or it can be used to improve working relationships mid-way through the council’s cycle.

#### **Online information**

[Working Together to Deliver](#)

#### **Cost**

Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions for a quote on running this program in your local government area

#### **Contact**

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