

Message from the President

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

Crown Lands Management

The new *Crown Land Management Act 2016* will come into effect early next year. It will see a number of changes to the way councils manage Crown reserves.

Member Research

Research into LGNSW member perceptions towards their association has shown marked improvement since 2013.

Nominations Open for NSW Carers Awards 2017

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is calling for nominations for the 2017 NSW Carers Awards.

Input into National Sports Plan

The Australian Sports Commission is seeking council input into a national sports plan.

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

Friday 21 July 2017

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM



Short-term holiday letting: Today the Government released its long awaited [options paper on short-term holiday letting](#). LGNSW welcomes the opportunity to have a rational discussion about a balanced solution that will manage the many challenges presented by the rapid expansion of this form of accommodation. We will consult with members and other stakeholders before making a submission on behalf of the sector. Submissions are due by 31 October.

Building safety: We continued to lobby the State Government on this issue this week. Chief Executive Donna Rygate caught up with the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation and representatives of other agencies to stress the need for local government to be a partner in the overall response, and to reiterate our sector's concerns about private certification.

Rural Fire Service: This week I attended a Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Local Government Liaison Committee meeting with LGNSW Board member Cr Denise Osborne and LGNSW staff. We expressed concern that our request that the State Government relocate RFS headquarters to a regional area seems to have fallen on deaf ears. We also backed recent LGNSW submissions on Planning for Bushfire Protection, the Bushfire Environmental Assessment code and Bushfire Protection for Existing Developments.

Collaborate NSW: This week we launched a new website, Collaborate NSW, to encourage the inclusion of Aboriginal communities in local council decision-making, service development and delivery. It includes a section on promoting greater representation on councils and will be of use to every council seeking to promote engagement. See our media releases and take a look at the site.

Regional economies: Donna and senior staff met with the Productivity Commissioner on Wednesday because the Productivity Commission is undertaking a 12-month study into the impacts on regional areas of the end of the resources investment boom. The study will identify areas facing significant challenges and look at the performance of regions over time, how regional areas adapt to changes in economic conditions, local government policy and coordination between governments.

LGNSW Report Card: Councils were sent customised report cards recently outlining value delivered by LGNSW. Similar reports will soon be on their way to associate members. In the meantime, a whole-of-sector [summary](#) is available on our website. It contains revised figures for savings from Local Government Procurement (LGP) contracts, following a recut of LGP data. (The data is accurate at a point in time, due to timing of reporting on use of contracts.) [Contact us](#) if you want an updated report card. In the meantime, look out for a short survey next week seeking your feedback about this new initiative.

Member research: The results are in from our member research. I am pleased to report that over the past three years, despite the turmoil our sector has faced, member perceptions towards LGNSW and its services have improved. We are using the research to make things even better and it was good to find that much of the work we've already started is aligned with what members want. [Read more](#)

Other significant meetings: Metropolitan Vice President Cr Bill Pickering and Donna caught up with interstate colleagues in an ALGA teleconference following last month's National General Assembly. There was much to discuss including the ongoing issue of constitutional recognition and a review of the distribution of financial assistance grants to councils.

During the week, Donna also met with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, attended the second steering committee meeting of the Aboriginal Communities Waste Management Program, and caught up with NSW Farmers. Senior staff met with the Department of Industry, Liquor and Gaming to discuss the evaluation of community impact statements for liquor licensing.

Until next week.

Contents Page

Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

View the latest award opportunities for local government

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to local government

Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

Regional Infrastructure coordinator Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, will be the guest speaker at LGNSW's next planning event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

Item 5: Crown Lands Management

The new *Crown Land Management Act 2016* will come into effect early next year. It will see a number of changes to the way councils manage Crown reserves.

Item 6: Member Research

Research into LGNSW member perceptions towards their association has shown marked improvement since 2013.

Community

Item 7: Nominations Open for NSW Carers Awards 2017

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is calling for nominations for the 2017 NSW Carers Awards.

Item 8: Input into National Sports Plan

The Australian Sports Commission is seeking council input into a national sports plan.

Item 9: Regional Cultural Fund

Expressions of Interest are invited for the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund.

Item 10: Aged Care at Home Reforms

Local government feedback is sought on reforms being considered for aged care at home.

Learning

Item 11: Making Consultative Committees More Effective

The LGNSW workshop, Making Consultative Committees More Effective, provides participants with an understanding of these committees in local government.

Item 12: LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference

Register now for LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference on 11 August.

Item 13: Upcoming courses – July and August 2017

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

In the News**Item 14: Local Government NSW Media**

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW

Item 15: ALGA Newsletter

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

Awards

Item 1: Award Opportunities

Nominations Open for NSW Carers Awards 2017

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is calling for nominations for the 2017 NSW Carers Awards.

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming Conferences and Events

LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

Regional Infrastructure coordinator Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, will be the guest speaker at LGNSW's next planning event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

An LGNSW Learning Solutions workshop offers an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in local government.

LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference

Register now for LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference on 11 August.

Grants and Funding

Item 3: Grant and Funding Opportunities for Local Government

Regional Cultural Fund

Expressions of Interest are invited for the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund.

General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch

Regional Infrastructure coordinator Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, will be the guest speaker at LGNSW's next planning event in Wagga Wagga on 28 August.

Lieutenant General Gillespie is one of three speakers at the forum which is part of LGNSW's series on planning initiatives for local government. The event will be hosted by Wagga Wagga City Council.

Topics include:

- Delivering key infrastructure to support growth, economic and social development in regional NSW, Lieutenant General Gillespie
- Planning reforms and what the changes mean for councils, Alison Frame, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy, NSW Department of Planning and Environment
- Regional economic development – helping to reduce red tape, Robyn Hobbs, NSW Small Business Commissioner, NSW Department of Industry.

The LGNSW planning series informs members and guests about issues in planning and provides opportunities to meet senior industry stakeholders to discuss the latest challenges, regulations, funding and plans for NSW.

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.

LGNSW thanks UrbanGrowth NSW, the Elite Sponsor of the LGNSW Planning Series. RSVPs by Monday 21 August. To secure a place, [book online](#) now.

Dates and location

Monday 28 August 2017
11.00am – 2.00pm
Wagga Wagga City Council Chambers,
corner Bayliss and Morrow Streets,
Wagga Wagga, NSW

Online information

[LGNSW Regional Planning Lunch](#)

[Registration](#)

RSVP

By Monday 21 August 2017

Cost

\$66 LGNSW members
\$110 non-members
Includes lunch

Contact

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

Ref: R16/ 0025 TA

General Interest

Item 5: Crown Lands Management

The new *Crown Land Management Act 2016* will come into effect early next year. It will see a number of changes to the way councils manage Crown reserves.

All councils in NSW manage Crown land on behalf of the State Government and for the benefit of the community. This will continue under the new Act.

A number of council submissions to the Crown Lands Management Review in 2014 called for a streamlined approach to council Crown land management. As a result, the Act will now allow councils to manage Crown land under the provisions of *the Local Government Act 1993* for public land. This will reduce the duplication and drain on councils' resources caused by operating under dual legislative frameworks. Councils will generally no longer have to seek consent from the Minister for Lands and Forestry for dealings on Crown land and will also benefit from the removal of reporting requirements. They will now be able to manage Crown reserves in the same way council owned land is managed.

All councils will be required to have plans of management for most Crown reserves they manage. Some exceptions will apply for truly operational Crown land, such as waste depots.

In order to make the requirement for plans of management as straightforward as possible to implement:

- Plans of management will be phased in over three years
- Councils will be able to amend existing plans of management so that they apply to Crown reserves, where this is appropriate
- Where new plans are required, councils will generally be able to follow a simplified process (for example, councils will not be required to hold public hearings. Financial assistance will be available to help with the costs of preparing plans of management.

Further details will be provided to councils by the NSW Department of Industry – Lands and Forestry in coming months. In the meantime, please email the department with any enquiries: legislation@crowland.nsw.gov.au.

The Lands & Forestry website www.crowland.nsw.gov.au also has updated information on the legislation.

Online information

For further information email:
legislation@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Crownland Website

LGNSW contact:

(02)9242 4072

shaun.mcbride@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R95/0025 SMcB

General Interest

Item 6: Member Research

Research into LGNSW member perceptions towards their association has shown marked improvement since 2013.

The research, conducted online and via telephone, queried a representative sample of 239 mayors, administrators, councillors, general managers, council staff and stakeholders. The results were presented to the last meeting of the LGNSW Board.

The research was undertaken to:

- gather information about LGNSW's reputation with its membership and how it might be strengthened or improved,
- gain a better understanding of members' understanding of LGNSW's role and services and
- to indicate potential improvements.

It was conducted by independent market research company, Inside Story and follows similar research undertaken in 2004 and in 2013.

Corporate reputation

Corporate reputation has strengthened from an overall score of 5.7 in 2013 to 6.1. The score is now in the ballpark of what the researchers consider to be a strong position, representing a significant and very positive shift over a short period.

This score was underpinned by increased scores rating market profile, persona, corporate social responsibility and corporate capability. There were no significant differences across geographical regions, amalgamation status or time worked in the sector.

Engagement

Compared with 2004, mayors and general managers are much more engaged with their industry body. In 2004 only a third (32%) of mayors and general managers had more than 12 interactions a year. This figure has risen to 57%. Eight in 10 respondents have had active contact with LGNSW in the last 12 months. Two thirds of participants have been to a LGNSW conference, forum or seminar in the last 12 months, nearly half (46%) have contributed to sector-wide submissions or other surveys and one third (34%) have spoken to an LGNSW board member or the President.

Performance improvements

Between 2013 and 2016 satisfaction with LGNSW interactions has improved (rising from 46% to 63% overall) along with improved performance ratings for:

- Advocating on behalf of Local Government to State and Federal governments
- Providing services to member-councils on industrial relations and workplace issues
- Providing learning and development product and services
- Providing free and confidential mentoring to mayors and councillors
- Providing up to date information about local government regulations and obligations
- Providing advice to member-councils regarding policy issues
- Providing up to date information about new topics and emerging issues affecting local government.

Communication

According to the researchers, communication has also improved and is an organisational strength. Communication is the area where member satisfaction was highest with three quarters of participants (75%) saying they were satisfied. The remainder were largely neutral with only 5% being dissatisfied. The frequency

Contact
Susan Napier,
Communication Manger,
LGNSW
Ref: R91/1199 SN

of communication is generally considered to be about right (83%). (Having said that, other LGNSW research indicates it is time to modernise channels, including the website and this newsletter, and that work is in progress.)

Value for money / awareness of services

Unsurprisingly, respondents who rated LGNSW most highly in terms of value for money were those who'd had most contact with it and who also had high awareness of its services (i.e. mayors and general managers). Those who'd had less contact or who had only been councillors for a short period were more likely to give different ratings and were less aware of LGNSW's services.

(LGNSW has since produced and sent 'report cards' to all councillors with data on services provided to their councils over recent times).

Advocacy

External stakeholders endorsed LGNSW's role as an important link between state and local government. Members also continued to say providing an effective voice for the sector was a key role for LGNSW. Finance, revenue and local/regional economic development were considered to be the most important advocacy issues across the board. Unsurprisingly roads and transport was top of the list in rural and regional NSW and land use planning in metropolitan areas.

Interactions/Information/Communication

Satisfaction with interactions was high (63%) and has improved since 2013. When asked about preferred channels, email and the Weekly were top of the list, followed by conferences, seminars and forums, other email channels, website, phone and letter.

Social media (Facebook, text, LinkedIn and Twitter) were the least popular (but we know from other member research that acceptance, while low now, is growing).

Amalgamations

Amalgamations were the very issue framing responses about board effectiveness. Forty two per cent of respondents rated this positively and a large proportion (42%) were neutral. People from councils that amalgamated in 2016 were less likely to provide positive ratings than those from non-amalgamated councils. There were comments during the qualitative research, from both sides of the debate, about LGNSW's amalgamation stance being both 'too aggressive' and 'not aggressive enough'.

The researchers noted that the amalgamation issue could have prevented the reputation score from being higher than it was.

Overall, the researchers commented that considerable progress had been made over the past three years and that there were real improvements in how LGNSW was perceived by representatives of member councils. The research will be used to guide decision-making and communication on an ongoing basis and for benchmarking over time. Already LGNSW has undertaken a new project to raise awareness of its role and services; developed new governance and networking events; commenced work to improve member engagement and communication channels; and used the research findings to guide decisions about this year's annual conference program.

Community

Item 7: Nominations Open for NSW Carers Awards 2017

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is calling for nominations for the 2017 NSW Carers Awards.

The awards recognise carers and organisations which support carers, such as carer support groups and carer-friendly employers.

They will be presented by the Minister for Disability Services during Carers Week in October.

There are ten awards this year including NSW Carer of the Year.

Please help promote the awards to local employers and community organisations and ensure that best practice in carer support is acknowledged across the community. Promotional resources are available online.

Dates

Nominations close Fri 31 August 2017

Online information

[Carers Awards Website](#)

Contact

joanne.heaney@facs.nsw.gov.au

helen.mcfarlane@facs.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R92/0106 CM

Community

Item 8: Input into National Sports Plan

The Australian Sports Commission is seeking council input into a national sports plan.

In May the Federal Minister for Health, Minister for Sport launched the [National Sports Plan](#) for participation and elite sport in Australia. The plan is a long-term strategy for the whole of sport examining participation, performance, preventive health through physical activity, and integrity.

As councils are at the coalface of community sport and participation, the Australian Sports Commission is seeking councils' input via:

A questionnaire on its website

Submissions on existing local sport and recreation proposals

Email. Send feedback and project ideas to nationalsportsplan@ausport.gov.au

For more information about the plan and to provide input see the [National Sports Plan website](#)

Dates

Online survey closes 31 July

Online information

[National Sports Plan](#)

Contact

Paul Fairweather, Deputy General
Manager Sports Insights
paul.fairweather@ausport.gov.au

03 6214 1160

Ref: R90/1198 MK

Community

Item 9: Regional Cultural Fund

Expressions of Interest are invited for the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund.

The fund will provide \$100 million for cultural organisations across regional NSW over the next four years. Up to \$25 million is available in the first round of funding.

Round 1 funds will be allocated in four categories:

- **Small scale regional cultural infrastructure** - grants of up to \$60,000 for improving arts and cultural infrastructure and purchasing equipment for arts and cultural purposes
- **Medium scale regional cultural infrastructure** - grants of between \$60,000 and \$1 million to improve arts and cultural infrastructure and revitalise local communities through strategic investment
- **Large scale cultural infrastructure investment** - grants of over \$1 million for cultural infrastructure in regional NSW, with a strong focus on partnerships with local councils and communities
- **Operational** - grants to support the delivery of arts, cultural, screen and heritage projects.

Submit an application on the [Create NSW website](#) by midnight, Monday 4 September 2017.

Training will be provided for applicants who need assistance completing the expression of interest form (Step 1) in early August. For more information, please call 8289 6575 or email regional@arts.nsw.gov.au.

For Step 2 of the assessment process, information about additional training will be available soon.

Dates

Expressions of Interest close midnight, Monday 4 September 2017.

Online information

[Regional Cultural Fund](#)

Contact

8289 6575
regional@arts.nsw.gov.au.

Ref: R13/0028 SW

Community

Item 10: Aged Care at Home Reforms

Local government feedback is sought on reforms being considered for aged care at home.

The Department of Health has developed a discussion paper on future reforms for aged care at home. It is seeking views on how this reform can best support older Australians to stay living at home and in their communities.

All feedback will be used to inform government decisions on an integrated care-at-home program. Councils can contribute to this process by:

- Making a submission through the Department of Health's [Consultation Hub](#)
- Providing comments to Chris.Maclean@lgnsw.org.au at LGNSW for a submission by the association on behalf of NSW councils.

Dates

Submissions close 21 August 2017.

Comments for LGNSW Submission

by Monday 14 August.

Chris.Maclean@lgnsw.org.au

Online information

[Future Health Care Reform](#)

Contact

agedcarereformenquiries@health.gov.au

Chris Maclean, Senior Policy Advisor,
Ageing and Disability, LGNSW

chris.maclean@lgnsw.org.au

Ph: 9242 4043

Ref: R92/0106 CM

Learning

Item 11: Making Consultative Committees More Effective

The LGNSW workshop, **Making Consultative Committees More Effective**, provides participants with an understanding of these committees in local government.

The workshop is designed to:

- Refresh understanding of the consultative process and agree on some protocols if required, for committee operations
- Ensure correct processes both inside and outside the meeting room are followed
- Apply effective communication skills and resolve conflict
- Enable people involved in committees to identify ways of improving their effectiveness
- Give inexperienced participants increased confidence to participate, present a case and conduct meetings.

Group discussions, council case studies and local government-oriented examples will be used to teach this course.

Some pre-course reading is essential.

Contact [LGNSW Learning Solutions](#) for a quote to have this workshop delivered locally or in-house at your council.

Date and location

Friday 28 July 2017
Sydney

Cost

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

Online information and registrations

[Making Consultative Committees More Effective](#)

Contact

Learning Solutions
(02) 9242 4081 or
learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 12: LGNSW Annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference

Register now for LGNSW's annual Personal and Executive Assistants' Conference on 11 August.

This year's theme is Building the Best. The course will allow personal and executive assistants from across local government to learn from colleagues and guest speakers.

Speakers, panel discussions and workshops will cover:

- The power of the word
- The future of the personal and executive assistant
- Tips from the Top – mayors' and general managers' perspectives
- Developing technology skills and getting up to speed on the latest in apps
- Building a framework for health and performance
- The art of networking
- Creating your impression for success.

The welcome dinner features comedian and performer Julia Zemiro, host of Rockwiz, Eurovision Song Contest and Home Delivery.

Encourage your personal and executive assistants, other administrative and support staff to attend this important professional development and networking event.

Date and location

Friday 11 August 2017
Swissotel
68 Market Street, Sydney

Online Information and registration

[Conference information](#)
[Registration](#)

Cost

LGNSW Members: \$770 incl GST, conference and welcome dinner on Thursday 10 August
Non- members: \$1,540 incl GST, conference and welcome dinner on Thursday 10 August

Accommodation

Swissotel
02 9238 8855
(quote "Local Government NSW Conference")

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

Learning

Item 13: Upcoming courses – July and August 2017

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

Government Information (Public Access) Act (GIPA) Advanced Training

Sydney – Tuesday 1 August 2017

This advanced course is for those who have completed the introductory module or have some Freedom of Information or GIPA Act experience.

[More information](#)

Writing Winning Grant Funding Applications

Sydney – Tuesday 8 August 2017

Learn to write persuasive proposals, submissions and grant applications to maximise success. [More information](#).

Award History and Interpretation

Sydney – Tuesday 15 August 2017

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

People and Performance

Sydney – Thursday 17 August 2017

Learn the art of communicating with different personality types to improve staff performance and motivation.

[More information](#)

Handling Difficult People

Armidale – Thursday 24 August 2017; Sydney – Friday 25 August 2017

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

Springboard Women's Development Program (4 day program)

Sydney – Thursday 31 August 2017 (Day 1), Thursday 21 September 2017 (Day 2), Thursday 12 October 2017 (Day 3), Thursday 2 November 2017 (Day 4); Mentor's Development Program – Wednesday 30 August 2017 (half-day)

This program assists women in non-management positions to develop skills and knowledge in order to reach greater career goals. [More information](#)

Time Management

Sydney – Thursday 31 August 2017

Become more productive through strategies to improve goal setting and time management. [More information](#).

Local Training

Visit the [LGNSW website](#) for a full list of courses delivered in-house.

Online information

[LGNSW Training](#)

Cost for one day courses

LGNSW Members \$660 incl. GST

Non-members: \$1320 incl. GST

Springboard Program

LGNSW Members \$1320 inc GST;

Non-members \$2640 inc GST

Registrations

[Learning Solutions registrations](#)

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4081

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

In the News

Item 14: Local Government NSW Media

[View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW](#)

Item 15: ALGA Newsletter

[View the latest newsletter distributed by the Australia Local Government Association.](#)