Message from the President
LGNSW President, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM provides an update on local government issues

Local Government Act Amendments: Phase Two
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Don’t miss the key policy making event for local government in NSW (Wollongong, 16-18 October).

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Message from the President
Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

This afternoon the Minister for Local Government announced the creation of Bayside Council which has been formed, following the conclusion of legal action, from the former City of Botany Bay and Rockdale City Council. The Administrator is Greg Wright and the Interim General Manager is Meredith Wallace. Some amendments to the earlier proclamations have also been made as Schedule 1 to the Bayside proclamation – see the document here https://www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/Local-Government-Bayside-Proclamation-2016.pdf.

Many of you will, like me, be facing the voters tomorrow. I hope that those successful in gaining a mandate from their local communities will work with dedicated local government professionals to achieve a strong, ethical and effective local government sector in this state. For those of you in areas where elections have been delayed, my hope is for a return to local democracy as soon as possible.

While there is no doubt that administrators have every prerogative to make decisions about things like participation in our Association, and you may have heard this week about one member’s plans in this context, ‘savings’ of this kind that will be reported back to the Government come at the cost of sector unity and membership benefits of very significant value, for which ratepayers will foot an increased bill.

Quite simply, there is no substitute for democratically elected councillors giving their communities a seat at the table and a genuine voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Councillors elected this time around will face a revised statutory framework. Senior staff from LGNSW met this week with the Office of Local Government (OLG) to talk about the phase one amendments to the Local Government Act that passed through Parliament recently. Our wins include that the Minister will consider criteria before appointing a financial controller, a move away from the use of mandatory guidelines, and greater clarity about the Auditor-General’s role and responsibilities. LGNSW also took the opportunity to have a detailed discussion with OLG about the issues we would like to see included in the second phase of the review, as well as the process for implementing the phase one amendments. Read more.

Later in the week our Chief Executive Donna Rygate met with the Auditor-General and the Assistant Auditor-General to talk about the implementation of the statutory changes. It was a really positive meeting and we are optimistic about the Auditor General’s approach to working with our sector.

On Monday I attended a meeting of the NSW Environmental Trust and Donna participated in the first of the Emergency Service Property Levy (ESPL) webinars. Our Director Advocacy participated in the second, more technical webinar on Wednesday. LGNSW is continuing to advocate on your behalf on various aspects of the ESPL implementation, not least to ensure there is no unnecessary burden placed on the already stretched resources of local councils. Our work also continues on the broader question of emergency services funding.

On Tuesday Donna and our arts expert, Dr Sally Watterson, appeared at a hearing of the Inquiry into Museums and Galleries at Parliament House. The inquiry is examining NSW Government policy, funding and support for museums and galleries, and potential funding impacts on museums and galleries affected by council amalgamations. We urged the Government to involve local government in decision making, and to extend support for local government arts and culture infrastructure and programs, particularly to areas outside the centre of Sydney.

This week Donna also met with senior staff from the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Department of Planning and Environment and the Department of Primary Industries to discuss progress of the biodiversity reform package. She and our Social and Community Policy Manager Margaret Kay also briefed the Minister for Ageing and Disability Services on progress on the Government-funded work to ensure councils meet the requirement to have disability inclusion action plans in place by next financial year. Donna also caught up with the Federal Shadow Minister for Local Government on issues for our sector, and senior staff from NSW Industrial Relations about court arrangements.
Earlier in the week, a board subcommittee met at our Sydney office to discuss proposed motions for the LGNSW Annual Conference in Wollongong (16-18 October). This year’s conference is shaping up to be a not-to-be missed event. It is the sector’s key policy-making forum and time to share ideas, debate issues and determine future directions. Read more and register online. Special arrangements are proposed for this year’s conference to allow amalgamated councils the opportunity to participate in debate and vote on motions put to the conference. I hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM
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Awards

Item 1: Award opportunities
View the latest award opportunities.

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Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

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LGNSW Events Network Meeting
Register now to reserve your seat at LGNSW’s next members-only Events Network meeting (Sydney, 30 September).

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The LGNSW Springboard program helps women in non-management positions develop skills and knowledge to advance their careers.
General Interest

Item 3: Register Now – LGNSW Annual Conference

Don’t miss the key policy making event for local government in NSW (Wollongong, 16-18 October).

The LGNSW Annual Conference 2016 is a must-attend event for all mayors, councillors, administrators, general managers, senior council staff, associate members and industry partners.

If you are uncertain of who to register due to upcoming council elections, you can register now and add names after the elections.

Program

The final keynote speaker has now been confirmed. Kitty Chiller, 2016 Olympics Chef the Mission, Leadership and Culture Expert will speak about resilient leadership through cultural change within a challenging environment.

The full program and speaker details are available on the LGNSW website.

Motions and voting

The last day we will accept motions is 18 September.

Sponsors

The LGNSW Annual Conference is supported by sponsors, featured in the exhibition and catering areas of the conference.
General Interest

Item 4: LGNSW Events Network Meeting

Register now to reserve your seat at LGNSW’s next members-only Events Network meeting (Sydney, 30 September).

The meeting theme is Critical Marketing and Media Skills for Events.

Events are an important catalyst for councils but they need to be marketed effectively. LGNSW has arranged for marketing expert and journalist, Laticia Gibson, to facilitate the workshop that will cover these topics:

- Public relations: leveraging different media forms
- Pitch and promote: how to be proactive not just reactive
- How to engage audiences using social media
- The art of storytelling, and
- The power of online video

The network meetings provide an opportunity for Events Network members to network, exchange information and learn about new trends, systems and protocols affecting council staff involved in staging and facilitating events.

Book now as registration for the last meeting of the year is limited to two people per council. The agenda will be available next week but in the meantime, if you’re an Events Network member, add the meeting date to your calendar today.

LGNSW would like to thank the Events Network sponsors Jardine Lloyd Thompson and Blue Clay Productions for their support.
General Interest

Item 5: Local Government Act Amendments: Phase Two

LGNSW is seeking submissions for the phase two amendments to the Local Government Act 1993.

Consultation on phase 1 of the review began in January 2016, and mainly addressed council governance and strategic business planning issues. These amendments have now passed through the NSW Parliament, with some commencing on 30 August 2016.

Changes that apply immediately relate to (among other things) mayoral terms, an oath of affirmation for councillors, and responsibility for the determination of the organisational structure of councils.

OLG is preparing guidance to support implementation of the changes. The first of these circulars can be found on the OLG website.

Legislation to implement joint organisations will be next, followed by phase 2 of the Act review. We are seeking councils’ input about the issues that are of most concern to them and that would ideally be addressed in phase 2, so the Association can advocate on members’ behalf for these changes. Councils are encouraged to send in short descriptions of what the issues are, accompanied by specific examples (where possible) of how the issue impacts the sector.

We are already taking into account the range of issues identified in the Independent Local Government Review Panel Report and Acts Taskforce Report.

We will also run briefing sessions to brief and seek feedback from councillors and general managers at the 2016 Annual Conference about the Act review, and will form reference groups to assist in ongoing sector consultation on the proposals.
Community

Item 6: Carers Advisory Council

The NSW Carers Advisory Council is seeking members to help ensure carers have a voice in the development of policies and programs that affect their lives.

Council members are appointed by the Chair of the Council, the Minister for Disability Services, for a four-year term.

Potential members should have an understanding of government decision-making processes, leadership skills and the capacity to contribute to policy development.

The NSW Carers Advisory Council advances the interests of carers and provides advice to the NSW Government on legislation, policy and other matters relating to carers.

To apply or find out more, go to the Family and Community Services website.
Community

Item 7: Alcohol Advertising Review Report

The Alcohol Advertising Review Board (AARB) has released a report about the community impact of alcohol advertising on public transport sites.

The AARB reviews complaints about alcohol advertising and commissioned the report.

The report, ‘No way to ignore it: the case for removing alcohol ads from public transport’, was developed by the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and, the Youth and Cancer Council WA.

It raises a number of concerns about the exposure of young people to alcohol advertising on public transport sites.

Online information
Download the report from the AARB website

Contact
08 9266 7117
www.alcoholadreview.com.au

Ref: R09/0029 MK
Community

Item 8: Cricket Australia facilities audit

Cricket NSW and Cricket Australia will be auditing cricket facilities across NSW from now until December 2016 to ensure all levels of government are able to develop facilities that meet the needs of communities.

Cricket Australia will be in touch with individual councils to seek their help on auditing facilities and accessing facilities and amenities in their local government areas.

The audit is an initiative designed to establish the future facility needs of cricket across the country. Around 2,000 cricket venues will be audited in NSW and information gathered will be shared with all levels of government.

Cricket Australia’s aim is to ensure that cricket facilities are fun and welcoming places to play cricket, and provide every Australian with the opportunity to participate in cricket in their communities.

For more information, see Cricket Australia’s recently released Community Cricket Facility Guidelines online.

Dates and location
Audits from Sept to Dec 2016

Online information
Community Cricket Website

Guidelines: Community Cricket Facilities Guidelines

Contact
Anthony.Brooks@cricketnsw.com.au
Manager – State Infrastructure & Government Relations

Ref: R99/0025 MK
Community

Item 9: Crime Prevention Conference

There’s still time to take advantage of early bird registration the 2016 Crime Prevention and Communities Conference (Brisbane, 3-4 November).

Early bird registration for the conference, hosted by the Australian Institute of Criminology and Queensland Police Service, closes on Thursday 15 September.

The conference will explore topics such as domestic violence, drugs and alcohol, and vulnerable communities including indigenous, elderly, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people and youth.

Keynote speakers include:

- Rosie Batty, 2015 Australian of the Year
- Kate Bowers, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London
- Rob Davis, Lethbridge Regional Police Service, Canada, and
- Anna Stewart, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University.

Different conference pricing options are available including a group discount for three or more people.
Procurement

Item 10: Nominations For Local Government Procurement Awards

Local Government Procurement is seeking nominations for its annual awards (by 28 October).

These awards recognise procurement professionals or groups for best practice and excellence, and for making a difference in their communities or within the sector.

The awards will be presented at the annual Local Government Procurement Conference dinner (Sydney, 17 November).

You can nominate yourself, or another person or organisation.

Local Government Procurement Award Categories are:

**Procurement Professional**
Nominees must have a minimum of two years’ experience in NSW local government procurement. Nominate here

**New Procurement Professional**
Nominee must have less than two years’ experience in NSW local government procurement. Nominate here

**Sustainable Procurement Initiative**
This award is for an individual or organisation demonstrating exceptional sustainable procurement work. Nominate here

Each award recipient will receive a personalised plaque and professional development training of their choice to the value of $2,500.

Closing date for nominations
Friday 28 October 2016

Online information
Visit the Local Government Procurement website

Contact
Emma Murray
LGP
02 8270 8710
emurray@lgp.org.au

Ref: R05/0057
Learning

Item 11: Making Consultative Committees More Effective

LGNSW is organising one-day workshops to help council staff improve their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees.

The workshop is based on the regulations and working practices required under the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (State) Award, as well as internationally accepted meeting procedures. It is designed to:

- Refresh understanding of the consultative process and agree on protocols if required, for committee operations
- Ensure correct processes inside and outside the meeting room are followed
- Apply effective communication skills to resolve conflict
- Enable a committee member and/or chairperson to identify ways to improve the effectiveness of their operations
- Give inexperienced participants increased confidence in their ability to participate, present a case and conduct future meetings.

The facilitator will use group discussions, council case studies and local government oriented examples, to help transfer learning to the workplace. Please note that some pre-course reading is required for this workshop.

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

Date and location
Tuesday 4 October 2016
Wagga
Friday 14 October 2016
Sydney
Friday 2 December 2016
Sydney

Online information and registration
For more details, visit the LGNSW website

Cost
$660 incl. GST

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA
Learning

Item 12: LGNSW Human Resources Conference 2016

Register now to take advantage of an early bird rate for LGNSW’s HR Conference (Sydney, 16-18 November).

Delegates registering before 1 November can access a special rate of $990 for the three-day conference at Rydges World Square in Sydney.

This year’s theme is ‘Drive effectiveness and change through innovation, capability and leading practice’.

The conference is aimed at local government HR professionals interested in people issues.

Attendees will hear from expert local government, academic, corporate and government speakers. Forums and workshops will encourage stronger networks and provide an opportunity to network with peers.

The conference speakers will cover the best approach to HR challenges in:

- Innovation and capability
- Change management strategy
- Recruitment campaigns
- Leadership development programs
- Learning and development initiatives
- Reward and recognition programs
- HR technology
- Workforce diversity and inclusion
- Becoming an employer of choice
- Employment and industrial relations
- Graduate development
- Workplace flexibility.

Dates and location
Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 November 2016
Rydges World Square
389 Pitt Street, Sydney

Online registration and information
Register now
LGNSW HR Conference web page

Cost
Early bird special $990 incl. GST
Local Government $1,190 incl. GST
Student $605 incl. GST (proof of student ID required)

Contact
Christine Gordon
LGNSW Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081
christine.gordon@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA
Learning

Item 13: Public Workshops in September – October 2016

LGNSW is offering the following public workshops to local government professionals and elected members.

**Transitioning Merging Teams**
Sydney – Thursday 13 September 2016

Workshop participants will expand their team-building knowledge to give teams in their merged organisation the greatest chance of success. There will be a maximum of 12 participants for each workshop. The workshop will include a range of individual, small group and whole group activities, as well as facilitator input and guidance.

**Essentials of Volunteer Management**
Sydney – Tuesday 20 September 2016

This one-day workshop will help participants understand how to manage volunteers, give feedback, and manage the personality differences in volunteer communities, committees and other stakeholders. This dynamic and informative program will provide strategies to get everyone working together in a happy and productive way.

**Lobbying for Success**
Sydney – Wednesday 21 September 2016

This workshop has been developed to assist councillors, staff, members of council advisory committees, and representatives of community groups to lobby for extra resources for your area. It is a chance to talk about the issues of concern, and to develop appropriate lobbying strategies.

**Code of Conduct for Councillors**
Sydney – Monday 26 September 2016
Wagga Wagga – Wednesday 5 October 2016

Elected representatives and council officials play a vital role in serving local communities. To do this effectively, they need to uphold the highest standards of behaviour described in detail in the Model Code of Conduct. The code is a legal document that all councillors and council officials are obliged to understand and follow.

Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions for a quote to have these workshops delivered locally or in-house at your council.

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**Cost**
$660 incl. GST

**Online information**
LGNSW training web page

**Registrations**
Register now

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

**Ref:** I98/0012 SA
Learning

Item 14: 2016 Springboard Women’s Development Program

The LGNSW Springboard program helps women in non-management positions develop skills and knowledge to advance their careers.

Springboard empowers women in non-management positions to:

- Set and achieve personal goals
- Focus on priorities
- Acquire ideas, skills and confidence
- Position themselves to make positive decisions and to take action.

Program sessions include time management, assertiveness, dealing with change, conflict resolution, problem solving, goal setting, stress management, networking, communication and action planning.

The program consists of four workshops over three months. Each workshop has a high profile woman as a guest speaker. Learning Solutions coordinates a mentoring strategy in conjunction with the program and delivers a half-day program for mentors.

Participants also have the opportunity to network with women from other councils. Councils outside the metropolitan area considering running this program locally should contact LGNSW Learning Solutions (see fact box).
In the News

Item 15: ALGA Newsletter

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