

Message from the President

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

Parliamentary Inquiry Findings Released

The NSW Government has failed to make a case for forced council amalgamations and “unreliable” criteria necessitates the withdrawal of Government claims councils are ‘unfit’, according to the findings of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government in NSW.

Government Responds to Crown Lands White Paper Submissions

The NSW Government’s response to the submissions on the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper was released on Thursday 29 October 2015 by the Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water Niall Blair.

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Message from the President

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM



Friday 30 October 2015

LGNSW's tireless advocacy on your behalf helped deliver the goods this week, with yesterday's tabling of the report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government. The report – widely covered in the media – is scathing about the “unfit” labels applied to a number of councils based on “unreliable” criteria, and calls on the Government to withdraw this slur. In particular, the report recommends that the Government commit to no forced amalgamations for councils unless they are bankrupt or unable to service their communities. That's an important finding considering even IPART found more than 90% of metropolitan and 75% of non-metropolitan councils met its own financial benchmarks and were financially sustainable.

The Inquiry also supports LGNSW's longstanding position that stronger councils can only be achieved if we Fix the Funding First. I was delighted when the Hon Paul Green MLC, Committee Chair, used those very words in the beginning of his speech tabling the report. The Inquiry has handed down a raft of findings and recommendations, and highlights a clear reform path that can be walked collaboratively by the Government and the sector to deliver the strong councils and communities we all support. We commend the Inquiry for its thorough and balanced work.

See **Item 3** for more detail or you can read the full inquiry report [here](#) and LGNSW's response to it [here](#).

Earlier this week, prior to the tabling of the Inquiry findings, Chief Executive Donna Rygate and our senior staff met with the Acting Chief Executive and others from the Office of Local Government to discuss the provisions for the current Fit for the Future consultation period (ending 18 November). LGNSW argued strongly that consultation over this period must be genuine, and Donna made clear to OLG the importance of ongoing communication with mayors as well as general Managers.

Despite the heartening findings by the Parliamentary Inquiry, I would urge all members to ensure they have a comprehensive understanding of the so-called consultation process before making their submissions.

My last word on reform for this week is also to remind you of the absolutely critical importance of engaging your communities over these next few weeks. Now is their time for them to have their say, and there are campaign resources on our [website](#) to help you facilitate that.

Crown Lands

I was pleased to see the Government's long-awaited response to the more than 600 submissions on the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper released yesterday. The input of the many respondents, including councils, was treated with respect. Importantly, it publicly spells out that councils already manage a great deal of Crown land effectively and, while some questions remain, it is an encouraging step towards the much-needed reform of this complex legislation. See **Item 4** for more detail.

Meetings

In meetings this week, I was pleased to speak yesterday at the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) NSW annual conference in Sydney. I was part of a panel discussion on the governance of growth in our cities, together with former minister Frank Sartor AO and former head of the Independent Local Government Review Panel Graham Sansom.

And next week I'm looking forward to welcoming all our new board members for their induction and first board meeting of the new term at LGNSW's Margaret Street headquarters.

Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM

LGNSW President

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NSW Family and Community Services and LGNSW are hosting a free forum on the disability inclusion action planning guidelines and creating inclusive communities.

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The NSW Minister for Ageing, Disability Services and Multiculturalism, John Ajaka, has launched the Liveable Communities Grants Program and councils are eligible to apply.

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Local Land Services (LLS) is calling for feedback on its draft State Strategic Plan, which sets out the organisation’s direction for the next decade.

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The Natural Resources Commission is undertaking a review of pest animal management across all NSW land tenures to determine environmental, economic and social benefits.

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The Australian Government has introduced a bill relating to the reporting of transactions such as government grants and transfers of real property.

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This November, LGNSW is offering a Sydney seminar for NSW mayors, deputy mayors and aspiring mayors to help address complex leadership challenges.

Item 15: Making Consultative Committees More Effective

This LGNSW one-day workshop provides participants with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in local government.

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Conferences and Events

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Liveable Communities Grants

The NSW Minister for Ageing, Disability Services and Multiculturalism, John Ajaka, has launched the Liveable Communities Grants Program and councils are eligible to apply.

General Interest

Item 3: Parliamentary Inquiry Findings Released

The NSW Government has failed to make a case for forced council amalgamations and “unreliable” criteria necessitates the withdrawal of Government claims councils are ‘unfit’, according to the findings of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government in NSW.

The Inquiry, headed by the Hon Paul Green MLC, tabled its 272-page report in NSW Parliament on Thursday 29 October, highlighting significant shortcomings in the Baird Government’s Fit for the Future process and calling on the Government to cease its plans to force council mergers.

LGNSW has welcomed the report, which also calls for an end to cost-shifting and long-term State Government policies and practices which undermine good financial management in councils.

Key Inquiry recommendations welcomed by the sector included:

- That the NSW Government commit to a policy of no forced amalgamations, unless councils could be proven to be virtually bankrupt or unable to maintain an acceptable level of service provision
- That the State Government cease its cost-shifting practices and ensure adequate ongoing funding accompany services, assets or regulatory functions handed over to local councils
- Council-operated water utilities remain under council control
- That the option to form Joint Organisations – a collective arrangement designed to provide efficiencies without diminishing local democracy or identity - be open to all councils in NSW, not just those selected by the State Government. The Inquiry commended the “cooperative and consensus” Hunters Hill-Ryde-Lane Cove model as providing a good basis for local council reform in metropolitan Sydney.
- Implementation of the Independent Local Government Review Panels recommendation that the Boundaries Commission – the body which reviews proposed council amalgamations – be strengthened and made more independent before any NSW council amalgamations take place
- That all councils have access to Fit for the Future funding incentives, irrespective of IPART’s Fit/Unfit finding
- That Local Government Minister Paul Toole work cooperatively with the sector to seek a reversal of an indexation freeze on federal Financial Assistance Grants.

Online information

Link to report:

http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/B0C026787382E495CA257EEC007FFECA?open&refnavid=CO4_1

Link to LGNSW media response

<http://www.lgnsw.org.au/news/media-release/media-release-lgnsw-welcomes-parliamentary-report>

Ref: R12/0041 NB

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General Interest

Item 4: Government Responds to Crown Lands White Paper Submissions

The NSW Government's response to the submissions on the Crown Lands Legislation White Paper was released on Thursday 29 October 2015 by the Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water Niall Blair.

The Government received 626 submissions on the White Paper and LGNSW is pleased that this input by councils and other stakeholders has clearly been taken into account as part of what has been a strong intergovernmental consultative process.

Highlights from the Government's response include proposals that:

- The Act will explicitly recognise the need to integrate environmental, social, cultural heritage and economic considerations in decision making about Crown land
- The new legislation will remove red tape
- Councils will not be charged rent for reserves they manage
- Land of primarily local value can be made available to councils as community land and this will mean that councils will deal with it under the Local Government Act (LGA) requirements on community land
- Land that councils can demonstrate is used for operational or local utility purposes, such as reserves used for depots or waste sites can be transferred as operational land
- The misconception that councils were to take over management of all reserves currently managed by community trusts is dispelled.

The full response is now available online (see fact box).

The success of the Local Land Pilot involving Corowa Shire, Tamworth Regional, Tweed Shire and Warringah councils was also recognised in the response and, on the basis of this, the Department of Primary Industries proposes to continue working in collaboration with councils on identifying land of local and state significance.

The new Crown lands legislation is scheduled to be introduced in 2016 and will simplify the eight Acts now governing the management of Crown lands into a single Act.

Online information

<http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au/crown-lands/comprehensive-review-of-nsw-crown-land-management>

Ref: R95/0025 SMcB

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General Interest

Item 5: November is Asbestos Awareness Month

November is just days away and registration is now open for councils to participate in Asbestos Awareness Month.

Asbestos is a manageable risk, particularly with a proactive approach and safe procedures in place. Asbestos awareness is critical. Various asbestos awareness resources including media kits and digital resources are available for use by councils wanting to participate.

Benefits to participating

Councils have used Asbestos Awareness Month to:

- Launch their asbestos policy
- Promote their asbestos programs to the community
- Highlight the problem of illegal dumping of asbestos by unscrupulous individuals.

How to participate

Register by visiting the [Asbestos Awareness Month](#) page and clicking 'participate' (see fact box).

Resources

Resources are available to assist councils to:

- Hold information sessions for staff and communities
- Mention asbestos awareness in the mayoral column
- Include the Asbestos Awareness Month email signature in emails
- Print and display posters and brochures
- Promote Asbestos Awareness Month on council websites, blogs, Facebook and Twitter.

Policy advice for councils

LGNSW Project Manager – Asbestos Policy, Amy Lovesey, offers support to councils to safely manage asbestos, in particular to adopt and implement the *Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils* issued to councils under s23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW). The NSW Government has continued to fund this role to work with the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities Working Group and represent the views of councils.

Dates

1-30 November 2015

Cost

Registration is free

Online information

<http://asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-awareness-campaign/participate/?runonce=1>

Further online information

<http://www.lgnsw.org.au/policy/asbestos-awareness>

Contact

For Asbestos Awareness material:
Insight Communications
02 9319 3844
clare@insightcommunications.net.au

For policy advice:
Amy Lovesey
LGNSW Project Manager – Asbestos Policy
02 9242 4128
amy.lovesey@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R11/0034 AL

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General Interest

Item 6: NSW Gas Efficiency Funding

Up to \$40,000 matched funding is now available to implement gas monitoring and efficiency projects.

Councils can apply and/or promote this opportunity to local businesses that may be eligible.

Businesses in NSW that use more than 1,000GJ (about \$30,000) of gas per year are eligible. Examples of gas-intensive businesses include manufacturing, food processing, abattoirs, agricultural products and packaging and hospitals.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is offering limited funding to implement a two-stage project.

- Stage 1: Installation of gas measurement and monitoring systems including:
 - Gas and steam sub-meters
 - Data-logging systems.
- Stage 2: Implementation of gas efficiency improvement projects including:
 - The installation of boiler economisers and oxygen trim control
 - Improvements to boiler blowdown and condensate return systems
 - The recovery of heat from refrigeration or compressors to offset gas use.

For further information or assistance in promoting the program through council business networks, please contact OEH (see fact box).

Dates

Applications close Friday 22 January 2016

Online information

[NSW Office of Environment and Heritage Gas Efficiency Funding](#)

Contact

Leigh Burrell
02 9995 6100
Leigh.Burrell@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/1011-05 SC

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Community

Item 7: International Arts and Health Conference

The art of good health and wellbeing, and the development of mental health and resilience through the arts will be focus of the 2015 Arts and Health Conference.

Now in its seventh year, the Conference offers three days of presentations and workshops with access to leading Australian and international authorities on the arts, health, and wellbeing, including creative ageing.

The program is presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of NSW and the University of New South Wales, and will include best practice arts and health programs, effective health promotion and prevention campaigns, methods of project evaluation, and scientific research.

Dame Marie Bashir AD, CVO, Patron of the Australian Centre for Arts and Health, will open the event on Tuesday 17 November.

Conference sessions encompass:

- Arts and health in primary and acute care
- Creative ageing and aged care
- Community arts and health
- Health promotion and the arts
- Education and training for health and arts professionals
- Arts and health research and evaluation
- Breakout sessions and professional development workshops covering arts and health in hospitals, active ageing and aged care, community services, health promotion, medical and healthcare education, research, and evaluation.

Councillors and council cultural community development, aged care and community health services staff may wish to attend. See fact box for registration details.

Dates and location

Tuesday 17 November to
Thursday 19 November 2015

Art Gallery of NSW**Registration Cost**

Standard 3-day \$995
Standard day \$500

Online information

<http://www.artsandhealth.org/>

Contact

Margret Meagher
margret@artsandhealth.org

Ref: R13/0028 SW

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Community

Item 8: Registrations Closing for Disability Inclusion Forum

NSW Family and Community Services and LGNSW are hosting a free forum on the disability inclusion action planning guidelines and creating inclusive communities.

This one-day forum will discuss the ongoing role of local government in building communities that support better access and inclusion of people with disability, older people and carers.

The NSW Government demonstrated its commitment to the National Disability Strategy through the release of the *NSW Disability Inclusion Act (2014)* and the [NSW Disability Inclusion Plan](#).

The Act highlights the responsibilities of local government in the development of accessible communities. Multiple elements of the strategy rely on effective local government implementation and will benefit from a collaborative whole-of-government approach.

This event is only open to NSW local government representatives who have a role in the development of disability and ageing components of local community plans. This includes councillors and council staff working in asset management, land use and strategic planners, and recreation and community services managers.

Limited funds to assist representatives from rural and remote councils to attend are available.

Hearing loops and interpreters will be available. Please mark any access requirements in your registration form along with any dietary requirements (see fact box).

Dates and location

Monday 9 November
9:30am - 4pm

UTS Aerial Function Centre
Level 7, UTS Building 10
235 Jones Street, Ultimo

<http://www.aerialutsfunctioncentre.com.au/facilities>

Registrations close 5pm, Friday 30 October.

Prior registration is essential – no registrations will be available on the day.

Cost:
Free

As this is a free event, failure to provide 48 hours' notice of cancelling your registration will incur a penalty of \$50 which will be charged to your council.

Online information

<http://lgsw.org.au/events-training/disability-inclusion-and-liveable-communities-forum>

Contact

Margaret Kay
02 9242 4082
Margaret.kay@lgsw.org.au

For travel assistance contact:
David Astalosh
02 9765 5368
David.Astalosh@fac.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R9/0126 MK

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Community

Item 9: Liveable Communities Grants

The NSW Minister for Ageing, Disability Services and Multiculturalism, John Ajaka, has launched the Liveable Communities Grants Program and councils are eligible to apply.

The Liveable Communities Grants program is offering \$1 million in funding per year, over four years, for innovative projects that improve the lives of older people living in NSW.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available for creative initiatives that make it easier for older people to live active, independent, healthy lives and access their communities freely and safely.

Information is available on the NSW Government's Positive Ageing website (see fact box).

Dates and location

Grant applications close
Thursday 12 November 2015

Grants must be submitted via
[SmartyGrants website](#)

Online information

www.ageing.nsw.gov.au

Contact

liveablecommunitiesgrants@facs.nsw.gov.au

02 8753 9418

Ref: R10/0026 MK

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Environment

Item 10: Feedback Sought on Local Land Services Strategic Plan

Local Land Services (LLS) is calling for feedback on its draft State Strategic Plan, which sets out the organisation's direction for the coming 10 years.

Local government input is sought on the draft, which articulates the vision and goals of the LLS and outlines the strategies for achieving these goals.

The goals focus on better and more integrated outcomes for the land, the people who manage it, and for the associated communities and environments. The draft plan also provides guidance on what success will look like and how stakeholders will be able to measure performance by LLS.

Councils working with LLS in their region are encouraged to review the draft Strategic Plan and provide comments.

LGNSW will prepare a state-wide response on behalf of NSW councils. To be part of this, please provide comments to LGNSW Senior Policy Officer, Kirsty McIntyre, by Monday 9 November (see fact box for contact details).

Dates

Comments due to LLS by
Sunday 22 November 2015

Feedback for LGNSW state-wide
response required by Monday 9
November

Online information

<http://open.lls.nsw.gov.au/ssp>

Contact

Kirsty McIntyre
Senior Policy Officer - NRM
kirsty.mcintyre@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R13/0002 KM

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Environment

Item 11: Review of Pest Animal Management

The Natural Resources Commission is undertaking a review of pest animal management across all NSW land tenures to determine environmental, economic and social benefits.

As a part of its review, the Commission has released an [issues paper](#) that identifies the priority issues and opportunities for pest animal management in NSW.

Feedback on the issues paper will assist the Commission in developing a draft recommendations report for early 2016.

The Commission will also undertake public consultation on the draft report, with regional tours throughout the review to gather information. A final report, including the outcome of public consultation, will be completed by the end of June 2016.

LGNSW is interested to hear councils' views on this issue. Please forward any comments to Susy Cenedese, LGNSW Strategy Manager, by Friday 20 November (see fact box).

Dates

Submissions close Monday 30 November 2015

Comments to LGNSW by Friday 20 November

Online information

<http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-management>

Contact

Natural Resources Commission
02 9228 4844

LGNSW Strategy Manager
Susy Cenedese
susy.cenedese@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: R93/0052-04 SC

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Environment

Item 12: EPA Neighbourhood Noise Survey

Environmental health officers are invited to participate in an online survey on managing and regulating neighbourhood noise.

The Protection of the Environment (Noise Control) Regulation 2008 (the Regulation) plays an integral part in managing noise pollution in NSW, providing tools for regulating noise in neighbourhoods and setting specific limits on some neighbourhood noise sources.

However, the Regulation is due for review and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) would like to draw on the experience and views of council officers regarding the types of residential noise complaints that are commonly received and how they are addressed.

The Regulation contains provisions designed to address residential noise issues including setting community standards on acceptable noise intrusion in homes from appliances such as musical instruments, sound equipment, intruder alarms, air conditioners and power tools. The Regulation is enforced by a number of agencies including councils, police, the EPA and the Roads and Maritime Services.

The survey data will assist the EPA to improve the effectiveness of the Regulation in providing a balance between the community's right to peace and quiet, and the community's right to carry out legitimate, although potentially noisy activities. It will also assist in identifying areas that could be simplified and made easier to use as well as tools or programs that could assist enforcement officers.

The EPA has also written to councils to seek input on all relevant aspects of the review of the Regulation.

The survey will be emailed out by Environmental Health Australia.

Online information

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/noise/poeonoisereg08.htm>

Contact

For queries or to receive a link to the survey contact:

peter.lloydjones@epa.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R95/0105-02 SC

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Finance

Item 13: Amended Bill on Reporting of Taxable Government Grants

The Australian Government has introduced a bill relating to the reporting of transactions such as government grants and transfers of real property.

Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Small Business Kelly O'Dwyer introduced the *Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2015 Measures No. 5) Bill 2015* to Federal Parliament on Thursday 15 October.

The legislation will require government entities, including councils, to report the following payments to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO):

- Taxable grants
- Specified payments to contractors, consultants and other vendors
- Transfers of real property.

Changes to reporting requirements

During the consultation process, a number of submissions were made and, as a result, the Bill has changed since it was released as an exposure draft. In relation to government grants and payments reporting, the following changes were made:

- The start date for the reporting measure has been deferred until 1 July 2017 to give government entities more time to prepare. The first report is expected to be due by 28 August 2018.
- To provide certainty, reporting will remain on an annual basis until at least 1 July 2020.
- The term 'financial benefit' in table item 2 in section 396-55 of Schedule 4 has been replaced with the term 'consideration' as defined in the GST Act.
- Government entities must submit a corrected report within 28 days of becoming aware of a material error in a submitted report.

Background

In November 2013, the Australian Government announced the 2013/14 Budget measure 'Tax compliance – improving compliance through third party reporting and data matching'. In the 2014/15 Budget it deferred the start date by two years.

The measure requires the reporting by relevant third parties to the ATO of specified transaction types including payments of grants and other financial benefits for services to government entities that occur after 30 June 2016.

The purpose of the reporting requirements is to enable the ATO to improve tax compliance. See the fact box for further information.

Location

The Bill is now available at http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r5536

Further information

www.treasury.gov.au/ConsultationsandReviews/Consultations/2015/Improving-tax-compliance

Contacts

Australian Taxation Office
Robert Muscat
03 9275 4834

Scott Anderson
03 9285 1882
tggp@ato.gov.au

Ref: R96/0104 SM

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Learning

Item 14: Mayors' Weekend

This November, LGNSW is offering a Sydney seminar for NSW mayors, deputy mayors and aspiring mayors to help address complex leadership challenges.

Mayors are the face of local government and it is an important and demanding role. People expect mayors to provide the leadership required for councils to work effectively and address community priorities.

Topics include:

- Current issues and challenges facing mayors and their councils
- The Mayoral Toolkit – the changing role of mayors and important tools of the trade
- The mayor as community leader – locally and at the regional level
- The mayor as council leader – working with other councillors and chairing meetings
- The mayor and general manager
- State-local relations.

The LGNSW Learning Solutions seminar will include short background presentations, comments by expert panellists, and roundtable discussions.

Dates and location

Saturday 14 November –
Sunday 15 November 2015

Sydney

Online information and registration

<http://www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/mayors-weekend>

Cost

\$1,320.00 (incl. GST)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

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Learning

Item 15: Making Consultative Committees More Effective

This LGNSW one-day workshop provides participants with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in local government.

The course is based on the provisions of the Local Government (State) Award and internationally accepted meeting procedures. It is written in the context of normal workplace practices for NSW councils.

The workshop will:

- Refresh your understanding of the consultative process and agree on some protocols, if required, for your committee operations
- Ensure correct processes both inside and outside the meeting room are followed
- Help develop effective communication skills and conflict resolution methods
- Enable people involved in committees as a member and/or chairperson to identify ways of improving the effectiveness of their operations
- Give inexperienced participants increased confidence in their ability to participate, present a case and conduct meetings in the future.

Register online (see fact box) to attend this workshop in Dubbo, or contact LGNSW Learning Solutions for a quote to have this workshop delivered locally or in-house at your council.

Dates and locations

Monday 23 November 2015
Dubbo

Cost

\$660 incl. GST

Online information and registration

<http://www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/making-consultative-committees-more-effective>

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 SA

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Learning

Item 16: Upcoming Public Workshops

LGNSW is the offering a range of public workshops to develop skills and knowledge for local government professionals and elected members.

Finance for non-finance managers

Sydney – Tuesday 17 November

With greater community expectations and line manager accounting responsibilities, managers are increasingly being expected to understand, interpret and explain financial issues as they pertain to their departments or sections.

Social media

Sydney – Tuesday 17 November

In this one-day hands-on social media workshop you will get active in the first hour and fast-track your way across multiple platforms. Attendees will gain the skills and confidence to use Twitter and Facebook effectively in the workplace, while being exposed to advanced mindset strategies for local government.

Customer care professionalism

Sydney – Thursday 19 November

This interactive program is designed to give participants a good understanding and knowledge in order to provide the best customer service possible. Delivering service that is prompt, friendly, courteous and efficient is the desired outcome. It will look at how to excel in customer service through continuous improvement, external benchmarking, new technologies and actively seeking feedback from customers.

Selection skills

Sydney – Tuesday 24 November 2015

This one-day program covers both the recruitment and selection processes. It will provide local government professionals with the knowledge and skills to conduct an innovative and effective recruitment and selection process, capturing quality talent and placing the right people in the right jobs. It is designed for people involved in the recruitment and selection processes within their organisation.

Managing inappropriate conduct and performance

Dubbo – Tuesday 24 November 2015

This workshop will assist managers and supervisors at all levels to more effectively deal with unacceptable behaviour and/or performance in the initial stages.

Applying for jobs and performing in interviews

Sydney – Wednesday 25 November 2015

This course will hone job application and interview performance skills. Participants will discuss how to be confident from the start, do their research, plan and prepare resumes, as well as performing well in interviews. The course is designed for staff involved in restructures or those who are interested in new roles.

Contact LGNSW Learning Solutions for a quote to have these workshops delivered locally for your council or in partnership with other councils in your region.

Cost

\$660 incl. GST

Online information

<http://lgnsw.org.au/learning>

Registrations

<http://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/upcoming-courses/>

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

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Learning

Item 17: eLearning Programs

LGNSW offers a range of eLearning courses as powerful and cost-effective options to learn new skills and knowledge and brush up in areas that need a refresher.

These programs are already up and running and specifically oriented towards local government in NSW.

The programs are provided by LGNSW Learning Solutions and can be delivered using your council's Learning Management System (LMS), or offered to your staff via the LGNSW LMS.

Code of Conduct

This program covers councils' codes of conduct, gifts and benefits issues, and the use of council information and resources. The program would be a good refresher for face-to-face Code of Conduct training.

EEO Awareness

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Awareness eLearning module covers what EEO means, types of discrimination, local government case studies, what the law says, and supervisor and staff responsibilities.

Privacy

This eLearning program covers what privacy means, what types of personal information are relevant, how personal information is protected by law, consent and personal information collection issues, storing information, and local government case studies.

Alcohol and Other Drug Awareness

This eLearning program covers employees' responsibilities in terms of alcohol and drugs when working. What substances are relevant, what amounts (if any) are safe, what processes may be used by councils to test and measure, and what follow-up actions may be taken if use exceeds the thresholds set under council policy.

Bullying and Harassment

Councils are obliged to maintain safe workplaces free from harassment and bullying. Employees and leaders will benefit from this online program.

Write for Impact – Business Writing Essentials

Write for Impact is an online, step-by-step eLearning program you work through at your own pace and in your own time. It encourages participants to gain essential knowledge and skills in business writing and grammar. This program helps ensure written communication is accurate, clear and concise, and reflects your council's brand values. The program goal is to improve people's productivity by cutting the time wasted in preparing and reading poorly constructed written communication.

Online information and registrations

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/events-training/elearning>

Contact

LGNSW Learning Solutions
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learning@lgnsw.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 SA

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In the News

Item 18: Local Government NSW Media

View the latest media releases distributed by LGNSW

Media Release: LGNSW Welcomes Parliamentary Report

29 October 2015

The NSW Government has failed to make a case for forced council amalgamations, and “unreliable” criteria necessitates the withdrawal of Government claims councils are unfit, according to the findings of a Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government which have been welcomed by the sector.

Item 19: ALGA Newsletter

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

<http://alga.asn.au/news.aspx?Type=Summary&Year=current&Menu=35,402>

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