

Local Government NSW is the peak body representing general purpose councils in NSW and associate members, including special-purpose councils.

We support, promote and advocate for our members, empowering them to build strong, liveable communities.

To do this, we have identified 12 priority areas where change is needed in state government policy to deliver for NSW.



LGNSW ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 2019



Cr Linda Scott
President, LGNSW

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE



1. Save **recycling**

Reinvest 100% of the NSW Waste Levy, collected from community and industry, in a coordinated state-wide recycling and waste management approach and drive a circular economy.



2. Fund **public libraries** properly

Fund public libraries so they are sustainable. Double current funding commitments by providing an additional \$94 million over the next four years, with indexation. In line with NSW law, provide 50% of funding required for NSW public libraries, in perpetuity.



3. Fund **local infrastructure**

Establish an infrastructure funding program so councils can plan, build and maintain local roads, freight routes, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, green space and sporting facilities, to meet rapid population growth and movements in NSW.

SUPPORT LOCAL DECISION-MAKING



4. Restore **planning powers to communities**

Reform the NSW planning system to:

- Restore the right of metropolitan councils to choose whether to use local planning panels, allowing councils and neighbourhoods to make decisions about developments that affect them
- Fix the NSW private certification system
- Set housing targets with local governments, not for them.

PROMOTE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND INDEPENDENCE



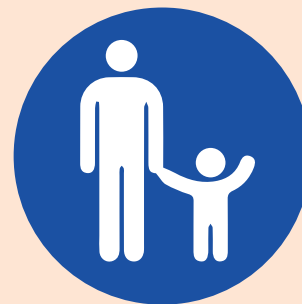
5. End **cost shifting**

Hold a public inquiry into cost shifting so that no new, increased or transferred responsibilities will be imposed on local government without a sufficient corresponding source of revenue or revenue-raising capacity.



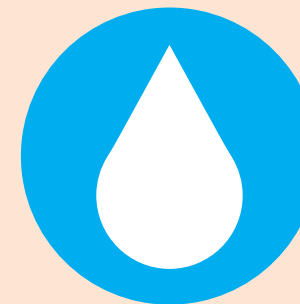
6. Allow greater **financial independence**

Allow councils to levy rates up to 2% over the rate peg limit, without having to seek special rate variation approval, so councils can meet community needs with less red tape.



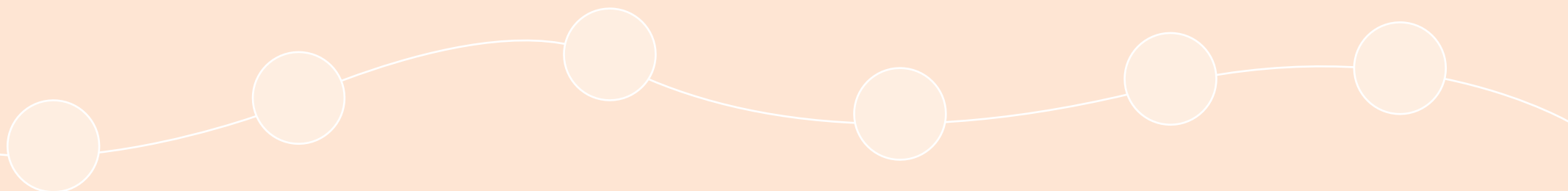
7. Support **disadvantaged communities**

Provide untied, recurrent grants for councils serving the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas in NSW so they can meet community needs.



8. Protect **ownership of local water utilities**

Commit to protecting local ownership and management of council-owned water utilities, to secure water supply and sewerage services for more than 1.8 million people in regional NSW.



PROMOTE STRONG GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY



9. Renew our agreement

Renew the intergovernmental agreement with LGNSW to reaffirm the NSW Government's intention to work as an equal partner with local government across all issues affecting councils and communities.



10. Fix local government electoral expenditure laws

Commit to fairness in council elections by amending local government electoral expenditure provisions of the *Electoral Funding Act 2018* well before the 2020 elections (in line with NSW parliamentary committee recommendations).



11. Allow fair superannuation for mayors and councillors

Ensure mayors and councillors are entitled to receive superannuation, in line with elected federal and state parliamentarians and everyone else in the Australian workforce.



12. Address skills shortages

Fund a new, annual \$10 million program to increase the number of cadets, apprentices, trainees and university graduates employed by councils.

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