

Office of Local Government



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Friday 16 October 2020

Message from Minister Hancock

Welcome to OLG's fortnightly e-newsletter.

Earlier this year, the Office of Local Government recruited Jaleen Caples to assist councils take advantage of a range of skills development options for their staff.



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I encourage all councils to get into contact with the OLG to learn how they can access more than 700 courses available under the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled Program, as well as a range of Federal Government wage subsidies for younger and more diverse groups in the community.

This week I had the pleasure of visiting the RSPCA NSW Sydney Shelter at Yagoona to mark the completion of the first stage of the centre's \$12 million expansion.

I was joined by RSPCA NSW CEO Steve Coleman in a tour of the shelter and the construction works of the new Companion Animal Village, an adoption facility funded by the NSW Government.

This expansion will ensure the facility can meet the space, welfare, health and safety needs of the animals, staff, and community now and into the future.

I was also pleased to see the beginning of online workshops to equip aspiring female candidates to run for their local council at the September 2021 local government elections. The NSW Government has formed a partnership with Women for Election Australia to deliver a series of online and face to face workshops as part of our commitment to increase female representation on our 128 local councils.

Finally, I ask that all local councils to please continue to promote COVID Safe messaging in their local communities.

It's as important as ever to highlight the importance of practising social distancing and good hygiene, getting tested if you have any symptoms, complying with restrictions, and wearing face masks where you cannot stay 1.5 metres apart from other people.

Please continue to utilise OLG's regular [COVID-19 Council Updates](#) which

- Far West communities to benefit from TCorp funding expansion
- Further funding boost for bushfire-affected communities
- Bushfire Community and Resilience Fund Stream 2 now open
- Integrated Planning and Reporting reminder
- Expansion works milestone at RSPCA shelter
- Council Corner

contain the latest information relevant to councils and their communities as well as a range of useful links.

Stay healthy and stay safe.

Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

Dedicated resource to help councils upskill employees

The Office of Local Government is actively helping councils across the State to take advantage of a range of skills development options for staff.



OLG Principal Project Officer Jaleen Caples is assisting councils to understand and access more than 700 courses available under the NSW Government's Smart and Skilled Program, as well as a range of Federal Government wage subsidies for younger and more diverse groups in the community.

[Read more](#)

Equipping women to stand for their local community

Women across the State have logged on to a series of online workshops to equip them to run at next year's local government elections.

The series of online workshops, which will run through to November and are booked out, provide prospective candidates with the knowledge and tools required to stand for election.

[Read more](#)

Women for Election EQUIP Women for Public Office



When: Tuesday evenings
Dates: 17 + 24 November 2020
Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

Presenters:
Licia Heath, CEO Women for Election Australia
Ruth McGowan
Author, Trainer & Coach





Outdoor dining red tape slashed in time for summer

Outdoor spaces are being opened up for alfresco drinking and dining just in time for the warmer weather with the NSW Government slashing red tape to allow quicker approval times for venues.

The new measures will condense what was previously a three-month process involving multiple agencies, into a single application that takes a week. They will be rolled out first in The Rocks from today (October 16) and across the City in November as part of a pilot.

[Read more](#)



Far West communities to benefit from TCorp funding expansion

Broken Hill City Council and Wentworth Shire Council will receive a combined \$12 million funding boost to build vital community infrastructure thanks to the NSW Government's \$395

million COVID-19 Local Government Economic Stimulus Package.

The Government provided a \$250 million boost to the TCorp local government lending facility and expanded eligibility for six months to enable more councils to access low interest loans to fund new and upgraded infrastructure.

[Read more](#)

Further funding boost for bushfire-affected communities

Businesses and communities in bushfire-impacted regions have access to a new fund for local infrastructure and initiatives that will drive economic and social recovery, strengthen morale and help communities get back on their feet.



Councils, business chambers, joint groups, businesses, charities and local Aboriginal Land Councils are encouraged to bring forward their recovery ideas when applications open for the \$250 million Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund.

[Read more](#)

Bushfire Community and Resilience Fund Stream 2 now open

Councils are reminded that applications are open for Stream 2 of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF).

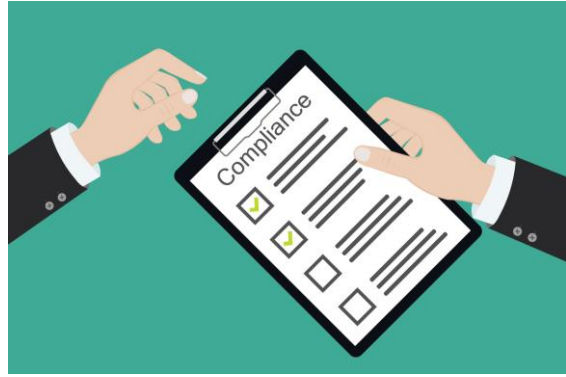


The initiative will allow for more immediate funding to flow to local councils, community groups and not-for-profit organisations in support of medium and longer-term projects.

[Read more](#)

Integrated Planning and Reporting reminder

Councils are reminded to ensure key documents are accessible on their websites to provide transparency and accountability to the local community.



These documents include operational plans, budgets, fees and charges, delivery programs and community strategic plans.

OLG considers it to be best practice that councils also publish resourcing strategies, including long term financial plans and asset management plans, on their websites.

The documents should be able to be easily sourced on the website by members of the community and named according to the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements.

Expansion works milestone at RSPCA shelter

The exciting next chapter of NSW's largest animal shelter began this week as the first stage of expansion work reached completion at the RSPCA NSW Sydney Shelter at Yagoona.



The new \$12 million Companion Animal Village will improve kennel and cattery facilities, allowing even more furry animals to find a home as well as increase capacity for various educational, training and community programs.

The investment builds on a previous \$7.5 million contribution by the NSW Government to rebuild and refurbish veterinary facilities at the RSPCA centre.



Council Corner

This e-newsletter will regularly feature case studies of councils working hard and innovatively for their communities. We'd love to hear about the great things your council is doing, so drop us a line and photo: media@olq.nsw.gov.au

This month we highlight the work of Tweed Shire and Richmond Valley councils, with their local communities set to benefit from a rail trail that will attract thousands of visitors a year and create much-needed jobs and investment.

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail project will preserve the unique heritage value of the rail corridor itself, as well as providing an alternative transport route that connects smaller rural communities to major city centres in the Northern Rivers.

[Read more](#)

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newsletter with a colleague

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