

RURAL & REGIONAL SUMMIT

**The Auditorium, Lower Ground 1,
State Library of NSW**

9 May 2024

#LGNSWSUMMIT24

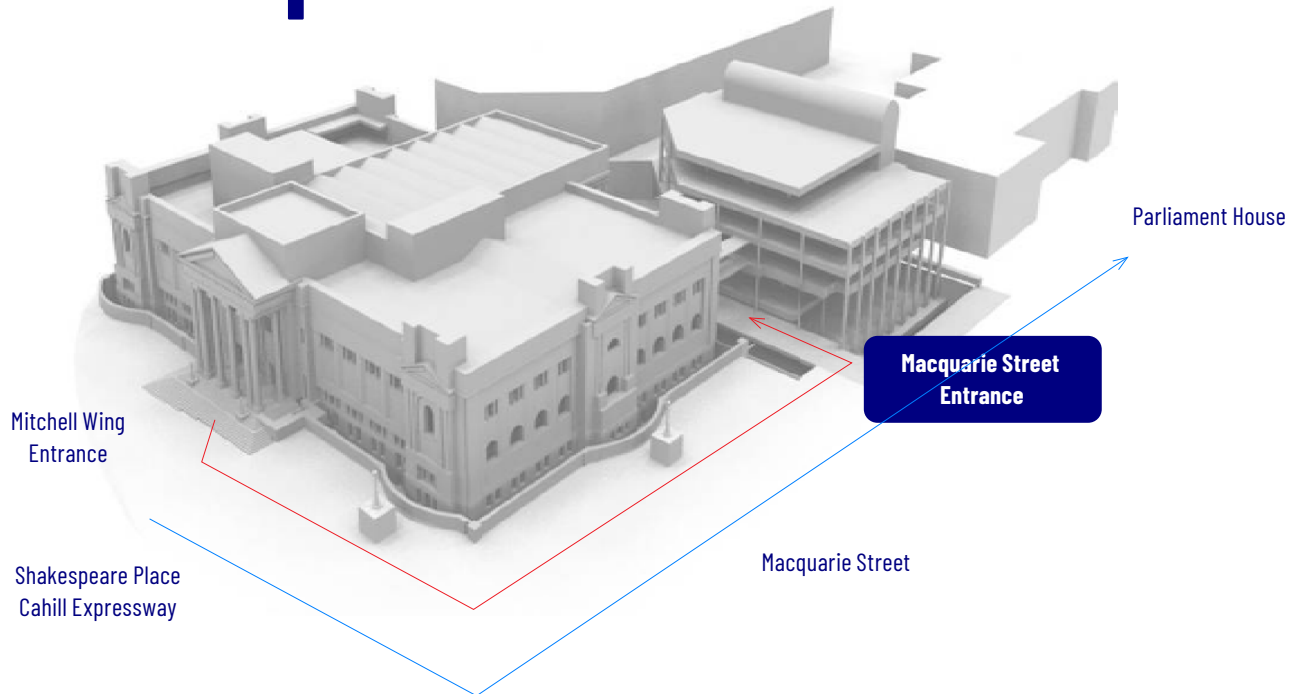
Elite Partner



**ONE VOICE
FOR COUNCILS**



Venue Map



Landcom is growing into **regional NSW**.
Councils know their **communities best**.
As partners, we are on this journey together.
landcom.com.au

President's Foreword



As we meet at this year's Rural and Regional Summit, we do so under very different conditions compared with last year's summit.

I sense some reasons to be optimistic about our sector despite the large amount of infrastructure damage that still needs to be repaired following the 2022 floods and the funding commitments that need to be honoured for that to fully occur.

On 14 March, the NSW Parliament opted to inquire into the ability of local councils to fund our infrastructure and services. LGNSW has long advocated that our financial sustainability was a key issue for councils.

As we all know, the rate peg has held councils back for decades and rapidly growing cost shifting has made it increasingly difficult for councils to balance the books.

The inquiry's terms of reference will address both issues. Specifically, it will examine if past rate pegs have matched increases in costs borne by local governments, assess the social and economic impacts of the rate peg in New South Wales over the past 20 years, and compare with other jurisdictions. It will also compare the rate peg as it now exists to alternative approaches with regards to the outcomes for ratepayers, councils, and council staff, as well as considering the impact of cost shifting on service delivery and financial sustainability, and whether this has changed over time.

The Federal Parliament is also inquiring into council funding. Among other things, it is focused on the financial sustainability and funding of local government and trends in the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce.

Let's hope both these inquiries help deliver the changes we need.

Local government remains at the very heart of our communities. Our councils are often the largest local employer, playing a critical role in local economies and employment levels.

We have a range of guest speakers who we have asked to address the problems and challenges we face, in a very focused way. I know from my own travels around NSW the deep levels of passion and commitment councillors and staff apply to this immense task on a daily basis.

By coming together, we have a chance to strengthen our truly unified approach, in which all spheres of government work collaboratively and cohesively.

Welcome to LGNSW's 2024 Rural and Regional Summit ... and to the prospect of a better, stronger future for rural and regional NSW.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Turley'.

Darricia Turley AM
President, LGNSW

Program

8.15am	Registration Desk opens	
9.00am	Conference commences MC Laura Jayes	
9.05am	LGNSW President's Welcome Cr Darriea Turley AM	
9.20am	The Hon Ron Hoenig MP Minister for Local Government and Leader of Government Business	
9.55am	Ability of Councils to fund infrastructure and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmel Donnelly PSM, Chair of Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) • Professor Joseph Drew, Professor of Local Government Economics, University of Newcastle • Brett Whitworth, Deputy Secretary Office of Local Government (OLG) • Laura Jayes, Facilitator and MC 	
10.45am	Morning refreshments and networking in foyer	
11.15am	Renewable Energy Transition – making it work for Rural and Regional NSW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Sheridan Coakes, National Social Practice Lead, Umwelt Australia • Cr Sam Coupland, Mayor Armidale Regional Council • Cr Des Kennedy, Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council • Laura Jayes, Facilitator and MC 	
12.05pm	Showcasing excellence in the rural and regional local government sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Michael Lyon, Mayor Byron Shire Council (Airbnb case study) • David Kirby, General Manager, Brewarrina Shire Council (council employment and crime case study) 	
12.50pm	Working Lunch break and networking in foyer Elite Partner Landcom	
1.35pm	Address by The Hon Chris Minns MP Premier of New South Wales Signing of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between NSW Government and Local Government NSW	
1.55pm	Wendy Tuckerman MP Shadow Minister for Local Government and Shadow Minister for Small Business	
2.15pm	Vision for rural and regional NSW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara Moriarty MLC, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales and Minister for Western New South Wales • Dugald Saunders MP, Shadow Minister for Regional NSW and Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources • Dr Joe McGirr MP, Independent Member for Wagga Wagga • Laura Jayes, Facilitator and MC 	
3.15pm	NSW Reconstruction Authority and new State Recovery Plan and Disaster Adaptation Plans Mal Lanyon APM, Acting CEO NSW Reconstruction Authority	
3.50pm	Final Comments	
4.00pm	Networking and Cocktail Reception in foyer Elite Partner Landcom	
5.30pm	Summit concludes	

Speaker Biographies



Laura Jayes | Journalist and Broadcaster
MC

Laura Jayes has been a journalist and broadcaster for almost two decades. She hosts AM Agenda on Sky News – the channel’s highest rating day-time program, committed to politics, current affairs and challenging debates. Laura has covered every leadership challenge and election since 2010, as well as the biggest breaking news stories in the world – Brexit live from London, the Queensland floods, the war in Afghanistan from Kabul, Kandahar and Tarin Kowt, Donald Trump’s election win and inauguration in Washington, the US Mid Terms and the death of Queen Elizabeth II.



Cr Darriea Turley AM | President, LGNSW

Cr Darriea Turley AM became President of the LGNSW Board in December 2021. She has over 30 years of experience in health and welfare and has initiated various community groups. In 2012, she represented the Commonwealth Government at the United Nations for CSW 56. Cr Turley has received several awards for her contributions, including the 2012 NSW Local Government Award. She served as the National President of the Australian Local Government Women’s Association and President of the National Rural Women Coalition, where she was a member of the National Executive since 2004.



Carmel Donnelly PSM | Chair, IPART

Carmel is the Chairperson of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in NSW. IPART offers impartial regulatory advice to enhance essential services’ productivity, efficiency, safety, and equity. With a background in various senior executive roles, Carmel’s career has focused on improving financial, economic, health, and social outcomes. She holds qualifications in psychology, management, governance, and public health and was awarded the Public Service Medal in January 2022 for her contributions to regulatory reforms in NSW.

Summit Supporter



We are Engagement and Communications specialists
across the Local Government Sector



Professor Joseph Drew | Professor of Local Government Economics
University of Newcastle

Joseph Drew is Professor of Local Government Economics at the University of Newcastle. He has a number of adjunct professorships conferred on him in Japan, South Korea, and continental Europe. His principal research interests are government financial sustainability, performance monitoring, and natural law philosophy. Prof Drew disseminates research and helpful advice to students on his YouTube site, "Professor Joseph Drew", and is the author of more than 90 scholarly works and five books.



Brett Whitworth | Deputy Secretary Office of Local Government (OLG)

Brett Whitworth is the Deputy Secretary, Office of Local Government. He has responsibility for the legal, governance and finance frameworks governing the operation of the local government sector across NSW. The local government sector in NSW covers 48,000 employees, \$13 billion in yearly expenditure and more than \$170 billion in assets under management.

Mr Whitworth has been the Deputy Secretary for both Land Use Planning and Planning Policy within the Department of Planning and Environment, as well as holding executive positions responsible for land release, strategic planning and regional planning teams. He has degrees in economic geography, natural resources law, and policy and public administration and has worked within the planning field for nearly 30 years.



Dr Sheridan Coakes | National Social Practice Lead, Umwelt Australia

Dr Sheridan Coakes is a social scientist with a PhD in Psychology, and 30 years' research and applied experience in the areas of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and stakeholder engagement across a diverse range of sectors including mining, quarrying, oil and gas, infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. She has contributed significantly to the development of SIA across Australia.

She is the National Social Practice Lead with Umwelt Australia, a Commissioner with the NSW Independent Planning Commission, and convenes the SIA Community of Practice for the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand. Dr Coakes has a deep knowledge of planning legislation and policies and has worked in a range of planning contexts.



Cr Sam Coupland | Mayor Armidale Regional Council

Sam came to Armidale for school and university and after twenty years working in Sydney and abroad he and his wife chose to raise their children in Armidale to enjoy all the benefits of a thriving regional city. Early in his career, Sam worked for the international consulting firm Ernst & Young before becoming an owner of the specialist advisory firm FMRC (which has its origins in Armidale). In this role he works with businesses to improve profitability, identify growth opportunities and build employment.

In 2016, he returned to his roots in agriculture and established and now operates a large-scale cattle business in North Queensland. As a business owner, Sam has spent the past 20 years improving businesses or building them from the ground up. He has employed people through the good times and carried them through the tough times and brings a unique skillset and perspective to the Armidale Regional Council.



Cr Des Kennedy | Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council

CR Des Kennedy, Mayor of the Mid-Western Region, has led remarkable achievements such as the \$40m Glen Willow Sporting Complex, funded by State and Federal Governments and Council, and the new Country Universities Centre Mudgee Region. Mayor Kennedy has transformed the region into a prosperous tourist destination while preserving its natural beauty and balancing industry interests. Mayor Kennedy's deep community roots and leadership have been pivotal in the region's development and success.



Cr Michael Lyon | Mayor Byron Shire Council

Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon has been at the forefront of advocating for housing equity, environmental conservation, and ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council. One of Cr Lyons significant achievements during his term has been his successful advocacy for a 60-day cap on non-hosted short-term holiday rentals, a crucial step towards ensuring housing supply and stability for residents.



David Kirby | General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council

David Kirby is the General Manager of Brewarrina Shire Council and formally the Manager of Utilities with Council for 15 years. During that period David has played a major role in the Urban Water Industry and his own community. David shares a very deep connection for his community through his cattle grazing farming background, proud Indigenous cultural heritage and his connection to both land and water. He has a deep fundamental understanding of the community of Brewarrina in which he was born and raised. He feels strongly about sustainability and the important work needed to gain a better understanding of the futures needs and plays an active role in voluntary capacity across many groups and committees both in his own community and across the region.



Mal Lanyon APM | Acting CEO, NSW Reconstruction Authority

Mal Lanyon joins the NSW Reconstruction Authority as Acting CEO following a distinguished career with the NSW Police Force. Lanyon joined the Force in 1987 and most recently held the role of Deputy Commissioner Metropolitan Field Operations, a role he was appointed to in mid-2021. In 2022 he undertook the role of Northern NSW Recovery Coordinator, overseeing the recovery of the Northern Rivers following the devastating floods of February 2022, providing him with a first-hand insight into disaster response and recovery.

Lanyon is a highly decorated officer, having received several awards including the Australian Police Medal (APM) National Police Medal. He also holds several post graduate qualifications and is an Australia New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG) Executive Fellow, and Vincent Fairfax Fellow.



The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of
New South Wales



Dr Joe McGirr MP
Independent Member for
Wagga Wagga



Ron Hoenig MP
Minister for Local Government and
Leader of Government Business



Tara Moriarty MP
Minister for Agriculture, Minister for
Regional New South Wales and Minister for
Western New South Wales



Dugald Saunders, MP
Shadow Minister for Regional NSW
and Shadow Minister for Agriculture
and Natural Resources



Wendy Tuckerman MP
Shadow Minister for Local Government
and Shadow Minister for Small Business



Contact Us

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

GPO Box 7003 Sydney NSW 2001
Level 8, 28 Margaret Street Sydney NSW 2000

T 02 9242 4000
events@lgsw.org.au

lgsw.org.au



[#LGNSWSUMMIT24](https://twitter.com/LGNSWSUMMIT24)