

# LG Forum

an international perspective on reform



THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY INTERNATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES DURING PERIODS OF REFORM.

27 February 2015

Sheraton on the Park, Sydney

Focussing on the *Fit for the Future* reform agenda, our programme of international and local speakers provides:

- informative sessions and discussion
- international examples of sector reforms
- business efficiency processes and major service reviews
- amalgamations and mergers
- financial implications of sector reform

Local Government  
Professionals  
Australia, NSW

Level 10, 22 Market Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

02 8297 1202  
events@lgprofessionals.com.au

[www.lgprofessionals.com.au](http://www.lgprofessionals.com.au)



## ABOUT THE EVENT

**27 February 2015, 9.30am-4.15pm, Sydney**

Join us as we take a look at local government reform from an international perspective. Through presentations and open discussion, the LG Forum will assist the industry in addressing issues arising from the current reform. Hear how our international colleagues managed change through their respective reform periods and how they now deliver on community expectations. Each international presentation will be followed by discussion with the audience and an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification.

## WHO SHOULD COME

Local government reform will impact everyone working in NSW councils and therefore all elected representatives and council staff will find this programme relevant, especially:

- Mayors
- General Managers
- Councillors
- Directors
- Senior Staff
- Integrated Planners
- Finance Managers and Staff
- Human Resource Managers and Staff
- Community Engagement Managers and Staff
- Community Services Managers and Staff



## EARLY BIRD PROMOTION

Register by **30 JANUARY** and **SAVE**

LG Professionals, NSW Members only \$295.00 | Non Members only \$385.00

**Hurry! Register now.**

# PROGRAMME

**9.00am**                    **REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING**

**9.30am**                    **FORUM WELCOME**

*Barry Smith, President, LG Professionals Australia, NSW - General Manager, Hunter's Hill Council and Jim Bennett, ICMA President - City Manager, City of Presque Isle*

**10.00am**                    **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM : 7 YEARS ON – THE DANISH EXAMPLE**

*Lars Wilms, Chief Executive Officer, Municipality of Egedal, Denmark* will present on the Municipal Amalgamation Reform of 2007; the processes they went through; the new structure and task; and the waves of implementation. He will also address the ongoing reform of welfare services and how today, 7 years on, the amalgamation is still going on. Following his presentation, Lars will open discussion with delegates about the Danish experience including the effects and challenges faced and their learnings about leadership, before, during and after the reform.

**11.00am**                    **THE END OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS WE KNOW IT - EXPERIENCES IN THE UK**

Local councils in the UK are in the middle of their greatest challenge, as they respond to the pressures of a generation-long “age of austerity”, with many of them dealing with unprecedented 50% cuts in government funding by 2020!

Over the past few years, the first phase of the changes this involves, have been dealt with well, through major efficiency savings and cost cutting, without a proportionate cut in the scope and quality of local public services. As a result, public support and trust has grown at the local level, while the reputation of national politicians has seen a growing decline!

But the next wave of funding cuts after the Election in 2015, coupled with demographic change, the growing use of new technology, and increasing public demand and expectations, will require a very different approach. Many local councils in the UK are now rethinking their role, their structures, and the way they do things, as they plan for greater devolution of powers to the local level and a radical transformation of local public services over the next 5 years.

*Kim Ryley, SOLACE (UK) Board Member and former Chief Executive, Cheshire East Borough and Shropshire Councils, England* joins us to share the UK's growing understanding of what has worked (and what has not) in making these changes at speed, as well as what new models are emerging that are likely to create resilient and sustainable alternatives, as they face 'the end of local government as we know it'.

**12.00pm**                    **SPONSOR PRESENTATION - LG SUPER**

**12.15pm**                    **LUNCH** served in Feast Restaurant, providing the opportunity to network with international speakers and ICMA delegates.

**1.00pm**                    **SMOKE AND MIRRORS: FALLACIES IN THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL CAPACITY**

The Revitalising Local Government report supports the view that larger councils are more financially sustainable than small ones. In his recent paper, *Dr. Peter Abelson, Mayor of Mosman Council and past Professor in Economics at Macquarie University* disputes this claim and writes that local council scale and financial capacity are not equivalent. Financial capacity is fundamentally a function of income, not of “scale” however that may be defined, and that this has important and fundamental implications for the structure of local government and amalgamation policies. In this session, Dr. Abelson will expand on his view that there is no basis for the belief that larger councils are necessary for financial sustainability.

2.00pm

### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT COMMUNITIES FACE WITH STRUCTURAL CHANGE

At the heart of local government is the commitment to provide services to the community. With reform comes change and these changes impact, in one way or another, on the communities we serve. **Simon Farbrother, City Manager City of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada** will explore with us the challenges and opportunities that communities will face as local government in NSW undergoes the reform process. He will talk through what all local councils should be looking out for and have open discussion on how the reform can be more of an opportunity than a challenge for our communities.

3.00pm

### SPONSOR PRESENTATION - LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION

3.30pm

### INTERNATIONAL REFORM PANEL SESSION

In this session we will invite some of our international delegates to the stage for a facilitated discussion about NSW local government reform, the opportunities to capitalise on and pitfalls to be aware of. Panellists include : **Jim Bennett, City Manager, City of Presque Isle, Maine, USA** and **Clay Pearson, City Manager, City of Pearland, Texas, USA.**

4.15pm

### FORUM CLOSE

## SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for this event



Land & Property  
Information



LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
SUPER

CIVICA



# SPEAKERS

## DR PETER ABELSON

**MAYOR, MOSMAN COUNCIL**



Dr Peter Abelson is a Director of Applied Economics P/L and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Sydney. He is a principal economic advisor to NSW Treasury. In recent years he has run several workshops on cost-benefit analysis for the Victorian Department of Infrastructure as well as for the Economic Society of Australia (NSW branch). His consulting work in areas such as transport, urban and environmental issues, health, and education economics includes many cost-benefit studies. Peter re-drafted The Handbook of Cost-Benefit Analysis for the Department of Finance which was republished in January 2006. He is the author of Public Economics: Principles and Practice (2012), which is the leading text in this field in Australia.

## JAMES (JIM) BENNETT

**CITY MANAGER, CITY OF PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE, USA AND ICMA PRESIDENT**



Jim has been actively involved in public administration since 1982. In addition to serving as an elected town official, he has managed seven municipalities, ranging from a small community of 2,500 up to the 2nd largest city within the State. Most recently, he served as the Interim Town Manager for Sabattus, Maine.

Throughout his career, Jim has focused on ways to effectively assist communities facing varying degrees of financial challenges, having written and implemented multiple successful financial recovery plans.

## SIMON FARBROTHER

**CITY MANAGER, CITY OF EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA**



Over the course of 20 years of public service, Simon has improved organisational structures, increased employee morale, effectively implemented strategic plans and facilitated urban intensification.

He has served as President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) (2007) and as President of the Canadian Institute of Planners (1999). He is currently a member of the ICMA International Committee, a Director of the Alberta Emerald Foundation Board and a member of the Conference Board of Canada Public Sector Executives Network.

## CLAY PEARSON

**CITY MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION, CITY OF PEARLAND, TEXAS, USA**



Clay served as the City Manager of the City of Novi from 2006- 2014 after serving as Assistant City Manager from 2000- 2004. Prior to that, Clay served the City of Elgin, Illinois for more than a decade in various capacities, including Assistant City Manager.

Clay has more than 20 years experience in municipal government. During his tenure at the City of Novi, he oversaw all city operations and worked closely with City Council to carry out their annual goals and policy directives.

## KIM RYLEY

### SOLACE (UK) BOARD MEMBER AND FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH AND SHROPSHIRE COUNCILS, ENGLAND



Kim Ryley has 35 years experience in local public service, with 14 of these as a Chief Executive in several large City and Unitary Councils.

He is a recent Past President of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (Solace, UK), is a Solace Board Director, and is currently Chair of the Society's business arm, Solace in Business, as well as the Society's Lead on International Relations.

## LARS WILMS

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MUNICIPALITY OF EGEDAL, DENMARK



Lars holds a Master of Political Science and has had 23 years as top executive in 4 different Danish local governments (Egedal, Solrød, Bramsnæs, Køge).

He was the developer of and participant in various development and education projects for top executives and politicians in the Danish public sector.

He is the chair of the international committee of Komdir (Association of Danish City Managers) and Board member (VP) of ICMA (International City/County Management Association).

## HOW TO REGISTER

### [www.lgprofessionals.com.au](http://www.lgprofessionals.com.au)

1. From the events menu, click on the name of the event. This will re-direct you to the event page.
2. Sign in using your username and password to receive your member discount
  - a. If you are not sure of your username/password use the forgot my username/password links.
  - b. If you are a new user you can use the create a new account link.
3. Once you are logged in, click the register myself button, then click the add button beside the items you wish to register for, then click the proceed to checkout button
4. Select your payment option and click the submit order button to complete your registration
5. You will be emailed a confirmation within 48 hours of registering online

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Privacy – by registering for this event you agree to the Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW to handling and disclosing personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988.
2. Recording Policy – by registering for this event you authorise Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW to record the presentation (which includes any questions or comments by any participant or audience member) in audio or visual format or both. You agree the Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW is the owner of the copyright and other intellectual property in that recording and that it may use the recording for any purpose it considers appropriate, including publicity, education and/or other activities and may earn income for Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW's own benefit. You waive any moral rights you have. Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW is not obliged to exercise the right to make any recording.
3. Code of Conduct – Delegates attending this event agree to act professionally with respect to all fellow delegates, sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW staff.
4. Criteria – Registration for this event is open to Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW members, council employees and Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW invited guests.
5. Close – Registrations for this event will close fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement date unless sold out.
6. Cancellation Policy – A full refund will be provided where written notification (by email or fax) is received by Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW at least twenty one (21) days prior to the event. No refund available for cancellations within twenty one (21) days prior to the event.
7. Every effort has been made to ensure this programme is correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change.

# LG FORUM 27 FEBRUARY 2015

**Book Online**  
[www.lgprofessionals.com.au](http://www.lgprofessionals.com.au)

Fax to LG Professionals, NSW on 02 9262 6705  
Complete and scan to [events@lgprofessionals.com.au](mailto:events@lgprofessionals.com.au)

## REGISTRATION FORM

### **Closing date for registrations is Friday 20 February 2015**

By completing this form you acknowledge that you have read and understood the terms and conditions of registration.  
All prices exclude GST.

## DELEGATE DETAILS 1

Title..... First Name..... Last Name.....  
Council..... Position.....  
Postal Address.....  
Postcode..... Telephone..... Mobile.....  
Email.....  
Special Requirements (dietary/disability etc).....

## DELEGATE REGISTRATION 1

Early bird discounts apply for full conference registrations received before Friday 30 January 2015.

### **Registration**

- LG Professionals Member      EB \$295.00    REG \$395.00
- Non Member                      EB \$385.00    REG \$485.00

## DELEGATE DETAILS 2

Title..... First Name..... Last Name.....  
Council..... Position.....  
Postal Address.....  
Postcode..... Telephone..... Mobile.....  
Email.....  
Special Requirements (dietary/disability etc).....

## DELEGATE REGISTRATION 2

Early bird discounts apply for full conference registrations received before Friday 30 January 2015.

### **Registration**

- LG Professionals Member      EB \$295.00    REG \$395.00
- Non Member                      EB \$385.00    REG \$485.00

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

- EFT: An invoice will be forwarded upon receipt of your registration    Purchase Order No.....
- Credit Card: Please charge my total registration amount to my                       MasterCard     Visa
- Card No.....    Expiry Date.....
- Name on Card.....

Contact Us For  
More Information

**Local Government  
Professionals Australia, NSW**

Level 10, 22 Market Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000

02 8297 1200

[events@lgprofessionals.com.au](mailto:events@lgprofessionals.com.au)

[www.lgprofessionals.com.au](http://www.lgprofessionals.com.au)