



John Barilaro

Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW, Skills and Small Business

Gabrielle Upton

Minister for Environment, Local Government and Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIPS BOOST FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Small Business and Skills John Barilaro, and Minister for Local Government Gabrielle Upton today announced the statewide rollout of a new \$4.6 million vocational education and skills program for local councils.

Mr Barilaro said the statewide program, called the *Local Government Skills Strategy* (LGSS), was a fantastic opportunity to create stronger career pathways within local government.

“This program is all about giving councils every opportunity to gain the skills they need to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible,” Mr Barilaro said.

“That includes upskilling council staff through full or part-time training and attracting a higher intake of apprentices and trainees.

“We recognise the significance of local government as a major employer in smaller communities, and we want councils to be able to recruit more people and retain their best workers,” he said.

Minister for Local Government Gabrielle Upton said feedback from the pilot program which ran between May and October 2017 was positive.

“Last year’s pilot saw more than 700 people get access to training in 29 councils across five regions – the Central West, Namoi, Illawarra, Northern Rivers, and Western Sydney,” Ms Upton said.

“Now we’re going to roll out the program to all councils in NSW.

“As part of the roll out we will be encouraging councils to increase their intake of apprentices and trainees by 10 per cent per year over the next two financial years.

“This will not only help improve the future skills base in local government but also provide great job opportunities for young people,” Ms Upton said.

For more information on the program visit: <https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/>

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