



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

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A SPOTLIGHT ON COUNCILS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

Local Government Week 2018 highlights the substantial improvements to the performance and sustainability of local councils across the State, Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

“State and local government have worked hard to develop and implement a package of reforms to strengthen the capacity of local councils to better serve their communities,” Ms Upton said.

“Local councils are a critical part of the NSW economy, spending \$11.3 billion annually on infrastructure and services and employing more than 45,000 people across the State,” Ms Upton said.

“That’s why the Government has introduced a package of reforms to improve the integrity, performance and sustainability of local councils.

Key NSW Government reforms to strengthen local councils include:

- Expanding access to the NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) borrowing facility, providing low interest loans for councils to fund infrastructure
- Introducing new powers to intervene in financially unsustainable councils, including the power to appoint a financial controller, to ensure councils are living within their means and investing more in infrastructure and services
- Professional development and induction training to ensure mayors and councillors are able to perform their roles effectively
- A network of 13 joint organisations, supported by \$3.3 million in NSW Government seed funding and comprising 80 member councils to improve infrastructure and service delivery in regional NSW.

Ms Upton is encouraging residents across the State to get involved in Local Government Week 2018 activities and events which promote the importance of local councils to their communities.

“Local Government Week is the perfect time to acknowledge the improvements to the integrity, performance and sustainability of local councils across NSW,” Ms Upton said.

Local Government Week runs from 30 July to 5 August 2018.

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