
MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW ENGAGEMENT TEAM LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT COUNCILS

The Office of Local Government has launched a new engagement team dedicated to working with local councils to support them in delivering key services and infrastructure to their communities.

Office of Local Government Acting Chief Executive Tim Hurst said the new Council Engagement Team will improve collaboration between State and local government as part of joint efforts to strengthen local councils.

He said the new team will be an invaluable part of the Office of Local Government's programs to support local councils.

"Together the six Council Engagement Managers have more than 70 years' experience in local government," Mr Hurst said.

"They bring with them a range of skills and experience in fields including governance, community engagement, community development, environmental planning and sustainability, strategy and policy, integrated planning and reporting, and capacity building.

"This new team will be instrumental in changing the way in which the Office of Local Government engages with councils, other State agencies and the broader local government sector."

Mr Hurst said the Council Engagement Team will help strengthen relationships between State and local government and improve collaboration and support.

"Through regular and ongoing contact with metropolitan, regional and rural councils, the team will be able to quickly identify and address emerging issues – recognising the different needs of individual councils," he said.

"The engagement managers will also provide information and assistance to councils on State Government policy priorities and programs. They will act as a conduit not only to the Office of Local Government but other NSW Government agencies implementing changes and programs involving local councils.

"Each manager will travel extensively and work with a cluster of councils on a regional basis as well as our new joint organisations. They will work closely with Department of Premier and Cabinet regional directors and other State agency representatives in the regions as well as other teams from the Office of Local Government.

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“I wish them well in their new roles and am confident they will be a valuable resource for local councils across the State.”

Photos of Council Engagement Managers - Elizabeth Dixon, Virginia Errington, Anita Gambhir, Jodie Healy, Karen Purser and Cameron Templeton - are available in the Dropbox link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/Office%20of%20Local%20Government%20Council%20Engagement%20Team>

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