



Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

Bronnie Taylor
Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

MEDIA RELEASE

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WOMEN ENCOURAGED TO “GO FOR IT” WHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS OPEN SOON

With a little over two weeks until nominations open for local council elections, Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock is urging women keen to make a difference in their community to prepare for their place on the ballot.

Mrs Hancock said from Monday 25 October 2021, candidates will be able to submit their nominations for the upcoming Local Government elections, held on Saturday 4 December 2021.

“My advice to any woman considering a role with their local council is just to go for it,” Mrs Hancock said.

“The participation of women in public life is essential for the development and advancement of women, and the time has come for women to close the gender-gap on local councils.

“As a former councillor, who proudly served 17 years on Shoalhaven City Council, I understand all too well the issues female councillors, and potential councillors face.

The NSW Government provided \$167,500 in funding for a series of workshops for women considering pursuing a place on their local council.

Women for Election Australia (WFEA) held seven face-to-face workshops with a total of 105 attendees and three online training sessions for 90 participants.

In addition, the Australian Local Government Women’s Association also held more than 30 face-to-face workshops, attended by more than 250 women.

Mrs Hancock said that 66 per cent of attendees were more likely to run for council as a result of participating in the workshops, while 98 per cent found them useful.

“It is my hope, we can begin to dismantle entrenched barriers, stereotypes and assumptions that impede women’s ability to play a central role in public life,” Mrs Hancock said.

“Local councils are the level of government closest to the community and can make a huge difference to residents and their families.

“We need women from all walks of life to put their hand up for election to help ensure local councils are representative of the communities they serve.”

Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor said the NSW Government is working hard to empower more women to stand for election.

“We want to ensure that there are as many female voices as possible at all levels of government, so if you are someone who is considering running for election, my advice is to back yourself and stand to be the voice of your community.”

Candidates will have from Monday 25 October 2021 until noon on Wednesday 3 November 2021 to complete their nomination forms.

For more information on how to nominate for the Local Government elections, visit www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

MEDIA:

Alison Balding | Minister Hancock | 0459 879 134

Richard Shute | Minister Taylor | 0409 394 232