

Pre-Election Workshops: What It Means to Be a Local Government Councillor

There are a number of reasons as to why a council should present pre-election information sessions. As an elected body Council must take the initiative to engage the community to ensure that there are good candidates willing to nominate for elective office as Councillor.

It is in the interests of the community they can select from a strong field of candidates who have an appreciation of what it means to be a Local Government Councillor. It is also important that the composition of your Local Government Council reflects the diversity of age groups, gender, views and interests of the community it claims to represent.

To be truly representative the Council must stretch out to the community and encourage a wide range of candidates to nominate for elective office.

The broad aim of the information session is to provide information to persons interested in Local Government and considering nominating for the Local Government 2008 election. The information session will review the roles and responsibilities of a Local Government Councillor.

DURATION: 3hrs (sessions can be conducted during the day or evening)

COST: \$1400 + GST + travel/accommodation at cost

FACILITATOR: Gerry Holmes (see over page for presenter profile)

COURSE OUTLINE:

- What is Local Government?
- Why do I want to become a Councillor?
- A Council's Charter
- Council services and functions
- The Elected Representative - the responsibilities
- Undertaking a community leadership role - the challenge
- The General Manager and staff relationships
- Making decision - Council meetings
- Remuneration allowances for Councillors
- Nomination - how do I stand for election to become a Councillor?
- Interested - further information.

Course enquiries may be directed to Training Administration on 4978 4013.

Local Government Training Institute

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FACILITATOR: Gerry Holmes

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Dip.Ad.Ed, Dip.Crim, Cert OHS&A, Dip.OH&S (Mgt), C.Q.S.W
Lawyer, admitted Barrister, Supreme Court NSW
Senior Fellow (Hon),
Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong*

Gerry is a legal consultant who specialises in local government, corporate governance, risk management and planning and environmental law. He has been involved as a lawyer for many years at the national and state level in local government issues.

Experience with public sector organisations includes working for the city councils of Belfast and Leeds, *Advisory Council for Inter-governmental Relations*, The National Office of Local Government and the *Australian Centre for Local Government Studies* and University of Canberra. In addition he has been involved in a consultancy role to local government national and state peak bodies, department of local government and over 130 local government councils in New South Wales. Gerry has been involved with the Local Government and Shires Associations NSW since 1993 in the development and presentation of professional development workshops for councillors and staff.

Gerry was engaged as a legal consultant to the United Nations Development Program and has the experience of advising other national government on the reform of local government and professional development of local government elected representatives.

Gerry has studied at university in England (Oxford and Leeds), Ireland (Ulster), Germany (Freiburg) and Australia (Sydney, UNSW, TAS).

Research interests include local government, occupational health and safety, risk management and environmental law.

When not presenting legal workshops Gerry can be found in the company of musicians playing traditional Irish and Australian bush music on the button accordion and tin whistle.

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