

Media Release

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Minister for Local Government officially releases the National Local Government Workforce Strategy

Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA) and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) today welcome the official release of the *Future-Proofing Local Government: National Workforce Strategy 2013-2022* by the Minister for Regional Australia, Local Government and Territories, the Hon. Catherine King MP.

“For the first time, we have a comprehensive, consistent national approach to local government workforce planning and development,” said LGMA National President Mark Ferguson.

“The importance of this strategy cannot be overstated, and we thank the Minister for recognising this, and formally releasing the Strategy today,” he said.

The Strategy is designed to address retention, development and attraction at a time when Australia is experiencing higher demand for skilled workers, and local government is taking on increasing responsibilities for service delivery at the local level.

Funded by the Australian Government, the Strategy was prepared by the Local Government Practice Unit of LGMA as a consortium partner on behalf of ACELG’s Workforce Development Program.

“Local governments must have the workforce capability required for a productive, sustainable and inclusive future, and the capacity to utilise the skills in its workforce to meet the needs of the community,” said ACELG Chair, the Hon. Margaret Reynolds, a former Minister for Local Government.

The nation’s ageing population means one third of local government employees are over 50 years old and will soon retire, increasing the pressure on the development of a sustainable workforce.

“The Strategy addresses this by providing long-term solutions for building diverse and flexible workplaces that draw on local resources to deliver local services. The strategy provides for increased investment in skills, improved productivity and the use of technology, maximising leadership and people management skills, and greater integration with the changing political and operational environment in all tiers of government,” said Mark Ferguson.

“Effective implementation of this Strategy will establish councils as the local employer of choice,” he said.

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- LGMA and ACELG welcome the Minister’s invitation to state ministers to initiate implementation of the strategy and call on councils to do the same.

“This requires a rigorous and long-term approach by governments at all levels, and this strategy is a blueprint to achieving this,” said Margaret Reynolds.

“It’s not a one-size-fits-all mandate, but it is a comprehensive framework and it requires a cooperative effort within local government and between all tiers of government to be effective,” she concluded.

The Strategy will be made available to all councils, and further practitioner guides and resources will be provided to the sector on a regular basis to ensure the strategy remains current.

The Strategy is available for download at: <http://www.acelg.org.au/news-detail.php?id=329>

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