



Local Government
Professionals
AUSTRALIA WA

ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
5-6 NOVEMBER 2025 | CROWN PERTH

impactful
action

President's Welcome

Kaya. Wanju. Hello and welcome.

I'd like to introduce you to the 2025 Local Government Professionals WA State Conference Program and invite you to join us for this outstanding conference experience.



LG Professionals WA exists to enable you to lead and thrive in an industry that is continually improving its service to local communities. In the modern organisational context that means more than being technically competent. It means being:

- resourceful and resilient
- mindful of the things that impact you and how you impact those around you.
- psychologically safe and sound—and ensuring the same conditions exist for those you are responsible for
- aware of taking impactful action for better outcomes.

Our professional challenge is not to win at all costs or to create winners and losers. It's to enable better outcomes for all.

LG Professionals WA works hard to create experiences and opportunities that support staff in both their current endeavours and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The Annual Conference is our premier professional development event and allows you to reconnect with peers, expand networks, explore ideas, and celebrate remarkable achievements within our sector.

This year's Conference theme—'Impactful Action'—goes to the very heart of our professional development mission. It is about improvement of the individual and success of the collective... channelling your personal growth to enhance organisational achievement.

Impactful action is not a case of clever adjectives describing the status quo. It's about genuine change and deep shifts in both attitudes and practices.

The State Conference brings together our members, partners, industry stakeholders, and expert speakers, fostering an environment of connection and collaboration. This is the place where committed endeavour meets assembled wisdom, facilitating the achievement of extraordinary results.

We will recognise some of those extraordinary results in our prestigious LG Professionals WA Honour Awards. These awards celebrate the exceptional achievements of Local Government officers who exemplify excellence and dedication in our sector. They emphasise the values we uphold and the professionalism we strive for, and I am confident you will find plenty of inspiration in the stories of our winners, and in all those nominated.

I congratulate you in advance for recognising the importance of investing in your professional development, and the value this returns to your organisation and the communities we serve.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my gratitude to the Conference Committee, and to the LG Professionals WA team for creating a program filled with vision and inspiration. I eagerly anticipate connecting and reconnecting with many of you at our 2025 Annual Conference in November.

Anthony Vuleta MLGP
President

Presenters

Cheng Lei

Wednesday 5 November

9.00 am – Opening Keynote



Cheng Lei was born in China and moved to Australia aged 10.

She began her career in accounting, working with multinational companies including Cadbury Schweppes and ExxonMobil. Fueled by a passion for journalism and her bilingual fluency, Cheng took a 90% pay cut to work as a journalist in China, rising to become China Correspondent for CNBC, one of the world's most prominent business TV networks.

During her nine-year tenure, she extensively covered China's economic developments, providing in-depth reports and interviews with key figures in business and politics. Cheng later joined CGTN in Beijing, where she served as a presenter for the Global Business show. Her expertise and insights made her a well-respected figure in the industry.

In August 2020, Cheng Lei was detained by Chinese authorities on suspicion of espionage, despite no details of the accusations against her being provided. She was detained until October 2023 when she returned to Australia and reunited with her family.

Currently, Cheng is a presenter and columnist at Sky News Australia, continuing her impactful career in journalism. Her book, *Cheng Lei – A Memoir of Freedom*, was released in June 2025. It is a powerful and harrowing story of her three-year ordeal in China; a vivid and brave account offering a rare glimpse into China's ultra-secret state security prisons and what it takes to survive such incarceration with your humanity intact.

Jonathan Pain

Wednesday 5 November

3.45 pm – Closing Keynote



Jonathan Pain has 41 years of international investment experience.

He holds a joint honours degree in Economics and Politics from Keele University and a Masters in Finance from Exeter University, and has led investment teams in London, Bahrain and Australia.

Jonathan is the author and publisher of a widely read investment newsletter, *The Weekly Pain Report*, and is a regular guest on CNBC TV.

In one of his most contrarian calls he predicted Donald Trump would win the 2016 US election. He then predicted Biden would win in 2020, and that Trump would win a clean sweep in 2024.

In a 2020 CNBC TV interview, he warned of an imminent 20–25% crash in global equity markets during the pandemic, which preceded an eventual 35% market fall.

Through 2021 he warned central banks had kept interest rates too low for too long and had lost control of inflation and issued a stark warning that interest rates would have to rise sharply.

Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, he said the world was seeing the emergence of 'An Axis of Autocracy', comprising Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. This, Jonathan believes, signifies a tectonic shift in the geopolitical landscape.

Jonathan sees the world as a giant jigsaw puzzle, with new pieces arriving every day. Each piece contains a clue and a hint of what the future might look like, and Jonathan is skilled at communicating how these pieces may fit together and impact our world.

Presenters

Rachael Robertson

Thursday 6 November

8.30 am – Opening Keynote



Rachael’s work responds to an exponential demand in the business world for real, practical tools backed by solid theory based on personal, successful leadership experience.

After 15 years leading diverse and remote teams and business units, including serving as Victoria’s youngest ever Chief Ranger at just 32 years old, Rachael was selected to lead the 58th annual expedition to Antarctica. The intensity of this leadership role, where the leader is on-duty all day, every day, for 12 months with no respite, gave Rachael the opportunity to road test leadership ideas the hard way—without the luxury of peers, a desk, or any way out! It was a ‘leadership laboratory’ in the most extreme, hostile environment on Earth.

Her book, *Respect Trumps Harmony*, presents the business case for building a resilient, innovative and high performing team built on a foundation of respect.

Rachael Robertson CSP, MBA is the most booked female speaker in the Asia-Pacific region. She has worked with more than 500 organisations globally to share her research and leadership insights.

Andrew Horabin

Thursday 6 November

2.45 pm – Closing Keynote



Andrew Horabin became a professional speaker and facilitator in 1993, aged 18.

Initially promoting himself to schools, working with 50,000 students and staff over 15 years, he expanded his offering to work with corporate clients, all tiers of governments, professional associations, and community organisations across diverse sectors.

Andrew has delivered specialist work with State and Federal police to agents from 40 countries, including undercover police, surveillance operatives, source handlers, intel analysts, detectives, and senior managers of crime.

Honing his presentation skills and sharpening his insights into people and language through stand-up comedy, Andrew created a character called “Mick the Demotivational Speaker” which became somewhat ironically a great success in corporate comedy.

In 2008 he wrote his first version of 'Bullshift' based on 15 years of experience consulting, teaching, and leading team and projects, and in 2015 he started The Bullshift Company.

The Bullshift Company is now a core team of eight people, with extended team of 30+ collaborators contributing to creating learning resources. The company delivers presentations to thousands of people in over 30 organisations a year, across Australia and overseas.

Program Outline

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025			
8.00 am	Morning Coffee and Registration		
8.30 am	Welcome to Country LGPA President's Address		
9.00 am	Opening Keynote		
LIVE STREAM	<p>Cheng Lei, Australian Journalist and Advocate for Press Freedom</p> <p>In this powerful opening keynote, Cheng Lei shares her transformation from presenter to prisoner during her 1000+ day detention in China.</p> <p>Born in China, Cheng Lei moved to Australia aged 10. She began her career in accounting, working with multinational companies including Cadbury Schweppes and ExxonMobil.</p> <p>Fueled by a passion for journalism and her bilingual fluency, Cheng took a 90% pay cut to work as a journalist in China. She swiftly rose to become China Correspondent for CNBC, one of the world's most prominent business TV networks.</p> <p>In August 2020, Cheng Lei was detained by Chinese authorities on suspicion of espionage, despite no details of the accusations against her being provided. She was detained until October 2023 when she returned to Australia and reunited with her family.</p> <p>Hear her remarkable story of endurance, which will inspire you to pursue an impactful, compassionate life.</p>		
10.00 am	Meet the exhibitors		
	The 2025 State Conference gets underway with a collegiate start. Connect with colleagues, explore exhibitor offerings, and shake hands with sponsors in this interactive opportunity to network and connect.		
10.30 am	Morning Tea – Trade Exhibition area		
11.00 am	Q&A with Minister Hannah Beazley BA MLA		
LIVE STREAM	<p>Hon Hannah Beazley BA MLA, Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne</p> <p>To forge and maintain strong relationships with other tiers of government requires us to advocate, understand and align on our mutual priorities.</p> <p>Join this interactive session for your opportunity to ask questions and share your views on the issues and initiatives driving impactful action in our communities.</p>		
11.50 pm	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
12.00 pm	<p>Conversation with the Crime Corruption Commission</p> <p>Daniel Parker, Director Investigations, CCC</p>	<p>Coastal Erosion Case Study</p> <p>Scott Wildgoose MLGP, CEO Shire of Gingin</p> <p>Conversations on Coastal Hazard Risk Management Planning can be controversial and complex, with scepticism and lack of urgency at times hindering resolutions.</p> <p>Scott Wildgoose will share real world examples from the recent erosion impacting Lancelin, where potentiality has turned into reality and infrastructure is under imminent threat. Discover the conversations, advocacy and action needed to positively impact this important issue.</p>	<p>Walmanyjun Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment: 30 years in the Making</p> <p>Jeremy Hall MLGP, Director Infrastructure and Kirsten Wood, Shire of Broome</p> <p>Transformational projects like the Walmanyjun Cable Beach Foreshore Redevelopment come to life only with meticulous planning and meaningful consultation.</p> <p>Hear how the Shire of Broome brought this ambitious project to fruition, with strategic collaboration and careful consultation paving the way to secure grant funding to turn vision into reality. Packed with insights and lessons learned, this presentation is a must-see for other local governments embarking on community-transforming initiatives.</p>
12.45 pm	Lunch		

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025 continued

1.45pm	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
	<p>AI in practice at local level City of Stirling City of Bunbury</p> <p>Anti-drowning technology powered by AI showed its lifesaving capabilities in the first documented AI-assisted rescue at a WA public pool at the City of Stirling’s leisure centre.</p> <p>The City of Bunbury is also making great strides in AI-integrated innovation and efficiency as they work toward becoming a connected ‘Smart City’.</p> <p>See how AI is already creating real, positive change in communities and uncover practical ways you can harness its potential to tackle challenges and positively impact your own operations.</p>	<p>Building the Newman Youth and Community Hub and YES Youth Entertainment Space: regional and metro perspectives on youth-centred design</p> <p>Pete Madden MLGP, City of Gosnells and Steve Harding MLGP, CEO Shire of East Pilbara</p> <p>From skateparks to multipurpose hubs, discover how local governments are partnering with young people to design facilities that meet real needs and show them they’re a vital part of the community.</p> <p>Featuring case studies from the transformational Newman Youth and Community Hub, which addresses fragmented services, limited infrastructure, and complex social challenges by co-locating health, education, cultural, and recreational services; and the YES split-level skating plaza, this session will inspire new ways to engage youth and deliver spaces that matter.</p>	<p>Live more simply with ‘lessence’ – the essence of less (Recycling) Peg Davies</p> <p>The way we choose to live, work, and play can be either excessive or frugal—a vital plea to live more simply with a light footprint. Peg Davies ‘talks rubbish’ for a living.</p> <p>She’s a waste education extraordinaire who developed the award-winning Earth Carers course at Mindarie Regional Council. Renowned in the waste education space for her vast knowledge and enthusiasm—she’s even been interviewed on TV by Costa from <i>Gardening Australia!</i> Peg provides valuable wisdom about a complex subject important to everyone personally and an essential part of every local government. She will inspire you with practical ‘lessence’—the essence of less and encourage you to make improvements immediately. More than a learning experience focusing on sustainability—this is about prioritising your wellbeing and those around you.</p>
2.40pm	<p>Defusing Conspiracy-Driven Narratives: A Practical Playbook for Executives Matthew Lonsdale</p> <p>Acquire a fast, respectful way to handle disruption in public forums—whether it’s, ‘smart-city mind control’, 5G fears, anti-vax claims, or unconventional identity assertions (e.g. ‘I identify as a cat’). We focus on what works in the room, based on identifying core human needs and local cultural levers, then using a behaviour-first approach to redirect heat without debating entrenched beliefs. Attendees learn a simple escalation ladder aligned to the Behaviour–Attitude–Belief gradient (what you can change quickly vs. what you can’t), plus live diffusion techniques—empathetic acknowledgement, values-sandwich reframing, status-neutral language, and meeting-flow cues. We finish with the SURGE framework (Scan, Understand, Resolve, Guard, Enhance) so leaders can spot flashpoints early, respond consistently, and keep dignity intact for all participants.</p>		
3.15pm	<p>Afternoon Tea – Trade Exhibition area</p>		
3.45pm	<p>Closing Keynote Jonathan Pain</p> <p>Jonathan Pain believes world history is the story of how powerful personalities have shaped the world. Whatever your view on Donald Trump, Jonathan says the US President is the most powerful political personality in the post-war era, and he will write our next chapter.</p> <p>Jonathan also believes we have seen the emergence of an Axis of Autocracy—comprising Russia, China, North Korea and Iran—that is looking to challenge the United States and the post-war order.</p> <p>Seeing the world as a giant jigsaw puzzle, Jonathan endeavours to put the pieces together every day. Today, he sees one of the most fascinating, exciting, and complex puzzles of his 41 years in global financial markets.</p> <p>Our closing keynote will take us on a whirlwind world tour and the global economy to help us understand and identify the key forces likely to shape our world and define the new reality, including predicting what this all means for Western Australia and Australia.</p>		
4.50pm	<p>Annual General Meeting of LG Professionals WA</p>		
5.00pm	<p>Welcome Reception – Sponsors’ Cocktail Hour and Sponsors’ Prizes Trade Exhibition area</p>		
7.00pm	<p>Annual LG Professionals WA Awards Dinner, Grand Ballroom</p>		

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025

8.30am **Opening Keynote:**

LIVE STREAM

Rachael Robertson

In 2005 Rachael Robertson was chosen to lead an expedition to Davis Station, Antarctica. One of the youngest leaders ever to do so, and tasked with leading a group of people she had never met, Rachael transformed a group of diverse individuals into a high-performing team—with their lives in Antarctica depending on their teamwork.

Her book, 'Respect Trumps Harmony' presents the quantified business case for building resilient, innovative and high performing teams from a foundation of respect, drawing on leadership lessons and insights from this unique experience. Rachael will share insights into developing a culture allowing people to speak up, speak out, raise issues, deal with them and move on in this inspiring opening keynote.

9.30am **Standing up for fair rating – the Shire of Mount Magnet v Atlantic Vanadium**

LIVE STREAM

Adam Watts – McLeods Lawyers

This year, the Supreme Court of Western Australia decided an appeal commenced by the Shire of Mount Magnet resulting from an adverse decision of the State Administrative Tribunal. In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal and confirmed that occupied Crown land held under a miscellaneous licence is rateable land under the *Local Government Act 1995*. The Supreme Court’s decision confirmed and clarified the intention of the rating provisions and the rateability of occupied Crown land pursuant to a miscellaneous licence.

Adam Watts, Partner of McLeods Lawyers, who acted for the Shire of Mount Magnet in this matter, will discuss the key elements of the Supreme Court’s decision and how this example of strength and pursuit by the Shire represents a guiding light for the local government sector which connects with the theme of this conference

10.15am **Morning Tea – Trade Exhibition area**

10.45am

Session 7

Session 8

Session 9

Critical Decision-Making

Wayne Weeks

Mission focused methodology, grounded in effective decision-making, provides a vital executive framework, especially when the stakes are high.

Led by ex-military presenter Wayne Weeks, you’ll learn how to apply principles such as ‘commanders’ intent’, better manage ambiguity and high tempo operations, and reinforce the psychological component of stress management to stay mission oriented and sharpen your response mechanisms to improve outcomes and impacts.

Negotiating Essentials

Todd Hutchison

Balancing a win-win approach with maintaining strong relationships is vital to effective negotiation.

This session will give you fast-paced insights on preparing for and approaching negotiations, key negotiation techniques, balancing assertiveness and cooperation, building rapport and reaching agreement to impact and improve your negotiations.

Implementing No Triangles

Rachael Robertson

No Triangles—the practice of direct conversations—measurably improves team productivity, morale, creativity and performance.

Backed by her research of more than 200 teams and insights gained as one of the youngest leaders of Davis Station, Antarctica, Rachael will guide this session on the No Triangles tool. Learn how to stop gossip, improve accountability and quality of feedback and drive innovation in your team with this impactful action.

12.10pm **Implementing Inclusive Employment In Local Government—Banyule City Council**

Jane Nixon, Strategic Development Officer, Banyule City Council

What does impactful action look like in inclusive employment? This session showcases Banyule City Council’s Inclusive Employment Program: a place-based initiative breaking down barriers to work and creating tangible prospects for those often excluded from the labour market. The program creates City job opportunities tailored to an individual’s areas of interest, goals, strengths and ability.

Jane Nixon will share the program’s journey from community co-design to delivery, backed by stories, data, and practical tools. Walk away with clear insights on how local governments can embed inclusive hiring and lead systemic change from the ground up to help you empower individuals and address workforce challenges.

1.00pm	Lunch – Trade Exhibition area
1.45pm	<p>Unlocking the Impact of DEI Dr Eva Zellman, ECU</p> <p>Embedding true diversity, equity, and inclusion is imperative for local governments seeking real impact. ECU’s evidence-based Diversity & Inclusion Capability Maturity Model (D&I CMM) offers decision-makers a tangible, self-assessment framework to gauge their organisation’s current DEI maturity and guide continuous improvement toward truly inclusive workplaces.</p> <p>The session concludes with a panel discussion exploring how local government leaders can put this tool into immediate, impactful action.</p>
2.45pm	<p>Closing Keynote: Bullshit—Get more openness, honesty and straight talk at work Andrew Horabin</p> <p>In this fast, entertaining and interactive session, Andrew will use the Bullshit Ladder of Relationships (Adversarial, Competitive, Co-operative, Collaborative) to explore what 'Impactful Actions' can help individuals and teams to be more clear, open and honest at work.</p>
3.30pm	Closing Remarks followed by Networking drinks

Conference Planning Committee

- Annie Riordan MLGP, Shire of Harvey
- Anthony Vuleta MLGP, City of Kalamunda
- Jamie Parry FLGP, City of Joondalup
- Mia Maxfield MLGP, Shire of Coorow
- Scott Wildgoose MLGP, Shire of Gingin
- Steve Harding MLGP, Shire of East Pilbara
- Suzie Haslehurst MLGP, Shire of Harvey

ALSO
CEO CONNECTIONS
 FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER—
 CROWN HOTEL,
 BOTANICAL
 ROOM

Delegate Registration

Register online: <https://www.lgprofessionalswa.org.au/stateconference>

Registration Deadline

The early bird registration deadline is **Friday 3 October 2025**.
Closing date for registrations is **Friday 24 October 2025**, however late registrations can be accepted and negotiated with the LG Professionals WA office.

Registration Information

Full Conference Delegate fee includes the following:

- Attendance at the Conference Wednesday 5 to Thursday 6 November.
- Welcome Coffee, Morning Tea, Full Buffet Lunch and Afternoon Tea on each day.
- Delegate Satchel
- Conference App.

Registration Costs (Note: all prices include GST)

Registration Type	Member	LGWA Member	Non-Member	Local Government Subscriber*		
				Gold	Silver	Bronze
Early Bird Registration (by Friday 3 October 2025)	\$1,640	\$1,950	\$2,050	\$1,640	\$1,745	\$1,845
Standard Registration (after 3 October 2025)	\$1,800	\$2,140	\$2,250	\$1,800	\$1,915	\$2,025
One Day Conference Registration (Wednesday or Thursday)	\$1,080	\$1,285	\$1,350	\$1,080	\$1,150	\$1,215
Live Stream Conference Registration Sessions—as marked on pages 5 and 7	\$560	\$665	\$700	\$560	\$595	\$630

*Please email events@lgprofessionalswa.org.au for your Local Government Subscriber discount code.

Annual Awards Dinner (Wednesday 5 November) Registration Fee \$60 | Partner Registration \$150

Accommodation

LG Professionals WA has secured a group booking at the Crown for the duration of the Conference.

Group Rates are available from Tuesday 4 November 2025 to Friday 7 November 2025 inclusive.

The group rate is only available through direct online booking.

The weblinks will close 7 days prior to the Conference.

Crown Towers Perth

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/131392?groupID=4727948>

Crown Metropol Perth

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/76836?groupID=4727902>

Crown Promenade Perth

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/76838?groupID=4727900>

Dress Code

The dress code for the Conference and the Annual Awards Dinner is smart casual.

Disclaimer

The information contained within this booklet is correct at the time of publication. Local Government Professionals Australia WA, and the Conference Organising Committee reserve the right to alter or delete items from the program or alter costs. The above mentioned shall not be held liable for any costs or damage arising from any action based on the information contained herein.

Terms and conditions apply, please visit <https://www.lgprofessionalswa.org.au/stateconference/terms> for more information.

Contact Information

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www.lgprofessionalswa.org.au



ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

5–6 NOVEMBER 2025 | CROWN PERTH

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

- Aware Super
- LGIS
- McLeods Lawyers
- Moore Australia (WA)



PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

- Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety
- LO-GO Appointments
- Market Creations and Integrated ICT



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- Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee



TRADE MAJOR PARTNERS

- Tango Information Technology



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