Roles and Responsibilities of Local Government Officers

Engineers and professionals working in local government perform a vital role in the delivery of services to their communities. These roles are quite different to private sector counterparts given the complex and ever changing regulatory environment of local government. Decisions are subjected to a high level of scrutiny with those responsible held to a very high standard by their communities.

Being aware of the additional roles and responsibilities is only the first step. Implementing good governance and effective management practices are all part of the day-to-day operations of government. It is not merely a ‘tick box’ exercise to achieve legislative compliance - it is what the community expects.

This seven-part webinar provides local government professionals with the tools for ensuring that statutory powers and responsibilities are exercised within a strong governance framework. Attendees will obtain core knowledge to implement a practice of good governance, understand risk and avoid adverse consequences for both the professional and the organisation.

The seminar series is designed for all levels of local government professionals from graduates to technical officers, supervisors, managers to experienced local government professional leaders. It will cover responsibilities for:

- planning, development, delivery and management of public works; and
- designing project briefs and procurement documents.

Course structure
Sessions will be presented via a series of seven live and interactive webinars. Questions will be encouraged so other attendees benefit from the sharing of information.

Attendees will earn a total of seven CPD hours for the full program.

For more information please
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Troy Webb
Partner

**Webinar One: Good Governance 101**
In this webinar we will provide an overview of the key legislation dealing with good governance and ethics. There will be a focus on the basics associated with the exercise of powers and responsibilities within a strong governance framework. Case studies will be considered to assist attendees avoid the adverse consequences of non-compliance and effectively deal with customers and government regulators.

Sarah Hausler
Senior Associate

**Webinar Two: Transparency in decision making and the provision of reasons**
Further discussion will be undertaken relating to the decision accountability measures set out in the Local Government Act and the new Planning Act 2016, which confers new requirements to provide reasons for development assessment decisions. Many of the requirements will be new for local government engineers and other professionals. This session will cover the importance of sharing knowledge to those stakeholders to implement a system of compliance.

Cameron Dean
Partner
Liam Fraser
Senior Associate

**Webinar Three: The Famous Five: things local government professionals need to know about employee relations and safety matters**
This session focuses on current trends and developments in workplace relations and safety. Successful management of these issues requires a proper understanding of the risks, requirements and how to avoid legal pitfalls. We will focus on issues relevant to local government engineers, including recent developments in the response to work health and safety incidents as well as dealing with practical issues that can arise out of management of personnel.

Michael Rochester
Partner

**Webinar Four: Procurement: Assets and Contracts**
Much is stated about the requirement to achieve value for money in the procurement process. The way in which assets are procured and operated is a prime consideration for this requirement and for the long-term financial sustainability of local government. This session will cover Local Government Act procurement requirements for infrastructure and goods and services plus procedural recommendations to ensure probity and compliance. Different contractual models will be discussed including for ongoing operations and maintenance.

Patrick Day
Lawyer

**Webinar Five: Obtaining effective compliance outcomes – investigations and powers of entry**
Local government engineers and other professionals play an important role in ensuring that compliance is achieved by developers and other community members with a range of laws and conditions imposed upon approvals. In this session, the key procedures for effective investigations, compliance with legislative powers of entry will be explained in conjunction with case workshop studies.

Melanie Simmonds
Special Counsel

**Webinar Six: Infrastructure agreements: tips and traps**
A Council’s power to levy charges and impose conditions for infrastructure is regulated by complex rules. Infrastructure agreements are often used to overcome planning constraints and funding limitations. This session will explain the legal requirements and provide tips and traps for successful infrastructure agreements.

**Webinar Seven: Environmental and waste management issues for local government**
From sewage spills to landfills and beneficial use of resources, this webinar will cover environmental issues across the establishment, operational, maintenance stages of projects, as well as termination and remediation.