

ALGWA NSW 2025 CONFERENCE

TASTE THE INSPIRATION

Thursday 1 May – Saturday 3 May 2025

● Ex-Servicemen's Club, Griffith NSW

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Griffith's Water Tank Mural 2024
Photo Credit: Vince Bucello





INTRODUCTION

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) is the premier organisation supporting and representing women in local government. ALGWA was formed to promote women's participation in local government, both as elected officials and employees. The organisation provides support, networking opportunities, and advocacy for women across Australia and initiatives include leadership programs, mentoring, and efforts to address issues like bullying and harassment in the workplace.

The 2025 ALGWA NSW Annual Conference aims to provide comprehensive training and support for councillors and local government staff. This event offers attendees the chance to gain valuable insights from guest speakers, participate in professional development, and network with peers from across New South Wales. Griffith City Council is honoured to host this significant event, continuing its commitment to fostering excellence and inclusivity in local government.

The conference theme, "Taste the Inspiration," is designed to motivate and empower our delegates, encouraging them to embrace new ideas and approaches to their roles as councillors. This conference offers a unique opportunity for new and returning councillors to reset and develop new ideas and perspectives. By fostering creativity, delegates will be motivated to think outside the box and develop innovative solutions to the challenges faced by local government.



Thursday 1 May

Registrations Open @ Griffith Regional Theatre

4.00 pm

Welcome Function at Griffith Regional Theatre

5.00 pm

Performance by: **Puka Pukan Dance Group**

The Griffith Pukapukan community have been in Griffith over 25 years. Their dance group consist out of 12 dancers and 10 drummers. Their performance will take you on a journey across the 15 islands of the Cook Islands.

Welcome by Cr Mayor Doug Curran
Welcome to Country

Guest Speaker: **Emma Norbiato – Calabria Wines**

Emma Norbiato is an accomplished figure in the Australian wine industry, known for her expertise in winemaking. Emma's work emphasizes sustainable practices and producing award-winning wines.

Music by Belle Madden

Free Evening

7.00 pm



Friday 2 May

Registrations at Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Club Function Room 8:00 am

MC Welcome - Alicia McKay 8.30 am

Welcome to Country - To Be Announced

ALGWA President Welcome - Penny Pedersen

ILG NSW President Phyllis Miller - Insights in Local Government 9.00 am

Alicia McKay - Guest Speaker & MC 9.15 am

Alicia McKay is a vibrant policy analyst and management consultant turned author, speaker, and trainer. Specialising in strategic planning and organisational change, she has worked with over 100 councils and agencies across Australia and New Zealand. Founder of the Not An MBA program, Alicia blends expertise with a no-nonsense approach to leadership.

Morning Tea 11.00 am

PANELLISTS INTRODUCTION & KEY MESSAGE TO DELEGATES: 11.30 am

Zara Lowien - National Irrigation Council (NIC)

Zara lead NIC through the negotiations and input into the Australian's Government' Water Amendment (Restoring our Rivers) Bill 2023 and was appointed CEO in early 2024.

Helen Dalton - Member for Murray

Helen Dalton is Griffith's Local Member for Murray. Known for her commitment to rural communities, Helen champions issues like water rights, agricultural sustainability, and local infrastructure.

The Hon Sussan Ley MP - Member for Farrah

The Hon. Sussan Ley is an experienced Australian politician, currently serving as Minister for the Environment and Water. She has a strong focus on sustainable environmental practices and regional development.

Panel Discussion - Water Challenges 12.00 pm

Lunch 12.30 pm



Friday 2 May, continued

PANELLISTS INTRODUCTION & KEY MESSAGE TO DELEGATES

The Hon. Minister Rose Jackson

Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Youth, and Minister for the North Coast

1:00 pm

Carolyn Doherty – Argyle Housing

Argyle Housing is a not-for-profit organisation providing affordable housing and support services to people in need across New South Wales and the ACT.

Serena Hardwick – Business NSW

The Housing Now initiative by Business NSW focuses on addressing housing affordability and availability across New South Wales. It collaborates with industry, government, and communities to meet growing demand.

Panel Discussion – Housing Challenges

1.15 pm

Bus departs to De Bortoli Wines

2.00 pm

Tour at De Bortoli Winery Gardens – “Why is Water so important”

2.15 pm

Message delivered by Margot & Melissa De Bortoli

Networking, Antipasto and Drinks

3.30 pm

Bus Return to Griffith

5.00 pm

Free evening to Explore Griffith

VOTING TIMETABLE

8:15 am: Office Bearer Nomination Open

9:00 am: Officer Bearer Nomination Close

10:30 am: Office bearer voting Open

12:30 pm: Office bearer voting closes

4:00 pm: Returning Officer presents election for Front Bench



Saturday 3 May

Morning Activity: Banna Murals Walk/CBD Activation

7:00 am

A vibrant walking tour showcasing Griffith’s unique murals and public art. Delegates will experience the creativity of the Her Way Program, which aimed to make public spaces around transport hubs feel safer for everyone, especially women, girls and gender diverse people. Starting point in Kooyoo Street Mall , Griffith.

Morning Tea @ Griffith Ex-Servicemen’s Club

10:00 am

Emma Broomfield – Councillor Wellbeing Session

10:30 am

Emma had a vision to provide a niche consultancy with a focus on working with the local government sector. Since then, she has established a reputation for a down-to-earth, community-centred approach and has had the privilege of working across over 40 local government areas in NSW.

Shirine Nehme (TEDx Griffith)

11:30 pm

Shirine Nehme, a passionate Griffith local, advocates for rural Australia through her involvement in the Griffith Youth Advisory Group and public speaking. She won the 2025 Australia Day Award for Young Citizen.

2026 ALGWA NSW Conference Update from
Blacktown City Council

12:30 pm

Bidding Host 2027

12:45 pm

Lunch

1:15 pm

ALGWA Hotspots

2:00 pm

ALGWA NSW General Meeting – Returning Officer to announce election of Executive team – followed by Afternoon Tea

3:00 pm

Meet in Exies Foyer for bus transfer

6:00 pm

Gala Dinner at Piccolo Family Farm
Announcement: The 2027 Conference Host Council

6:30 pm

Bus departs for transfer back

10:30 pm

VOTING TIMETABLE

- 8:15 am: Executive Team Nomination Open
- 10:30 am: Executive Team Nomination Close
- 11:30 am: Executive Team Voting Open
- 1:45 pm: Executive Team Voting closes
- 3:00 pm: Returning Officer presents election for Executive Team