

4. Councillor Professional Development Program - February to June 2009

The Local Government Shires Association NSW have submitted its Councillors Professional Development Program for councillors consideration and the Department of Local Government have requested information on the attendance of Councillors at the induction program run by them following the council elections and any feedback that Councillors may have.

General Manager

BACKGROUND

10 Local Government and Shire Association Professional Development Program

Councillors will have received from the Local Government Shires Association (LGSA), information regarding the LGSA Councillors Professional Development Program from February to June 2009. Councillors may wish to consider opportunities to participate in workshops which address areas not covered in the Councillors Induction Session, held in Narooma in October 2008 or the induction programs undertaken by Council staff last year.

20 It is suggested Councillors may wish to consider the following workshops. Courses would generally be held in Sydney and would cost approximately \$350 per person per course in registration fees, unless specified below. Travel and accommodation costs would be in addition to the registration fees.

- Financial Skills
- Good Governance
- Effective Chair
- Community Leadership
- Councillor Weekend Program – Coffs Harbour, Registration \$880
- LGSA Tourism Conference – Kiama, Registration \$637.

Attendance at Department of Local Government Information Seminars

30 The Department of Local Government (DLG) have requested that the General Manager confirm that all Councillors attended the Induction Seminar Program run by the DLG and held in Narooma in October 2008. Councillors have also attended an induction program run over a period of 10 weeks which covered Corporate Governance and Strategic Planning arrangements.

Financial

An annual budget of \$24,700 is provided for Councillors attendance at conferences and professional development of which \$10,554 has been expended this financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Councillors consider whether they wish to attend any LGSA or other professional development program courses.
2. That Council note that all Councillors attended the Department of Local Government Induction Program in 2008.

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