

# 2019 Future of LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL SUMMIT

**THURSDAY 23 & FRIDAY 24 MAY 2019**

**THE ANGLISS CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
555 LA TROBE STREET, MELBOURNE  
(LEVEL 5, BUILDING A)**

## THE FUTURE OF LG JOURNEY (EXAMINING THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT):

- TRADITIONAL** rates, roads and rubbish; service focus; business as usual
- 2005 >** facilitating the development of strong and successful communities
- 2009 >** amalgamations vs shared services and innovation
- 2015 >** the New Story: devolve power to communities; empower citizens through participatory and deliberative democracy; make space for community-led actions. Create a 'yes' culture in LG (refer to the Declaration from the 2017 FOLG National Summit)
- 2018-2019** creating a movement: actioning the New Story (actions speak louder than words)

## THE 2019 FOLG NATIONAL SUMMIT (SUMMIT #15) FEATURES INSPIRING SPEAKERS, PRESENTATIONS AND INCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD, INCLUDING:

- Adrian Brown, Executive Director of the Centre for Public Impact (UK)
- Mike Reid, Principal Policy Advisor, Local Government New Zealand (NZ)
- Melissa Appleton, Senior Project Manager of the Participatory Budgeting Project (USA) recorded presentation
- Rethinking The Role Of Mayors And Councillors In The New Story
- The Ghent Commons Transition Plan and The New Zealand Community Boards Journey
- What Can We Do To Reinforce Trust In Local Government?

As well as many inspiring case studies of communities (supported by their Councils) putting the New Story into practice. The movement is growing!



## CREATING A MOVEMENT ON THE ROAD TO LOCALISM

CO-DESIGNING  
SELF-RELIANT, RESILIENT  
COMMUNITIES AND  
PLACES IN THE GLOBAL  
AGE OF DISRUPTION



For possibly the first time in history we are seeing the simultaneous breakdown of trust in our key institutions: government, church and business. People want to take back control. This involves a transfer of power to the local level: putting control of government where it belongs, in the hands of the governed. A reset of democracy. The true objective of local government is to enable communities to determine their own preferred futures. More attention needs to be given to local government's role in the context of local governance, with Councillors as stewards of empowered communities.

A new Australian Localism is emerging, emphasising the fundamental importance of placed and place-based governance, and recognising that every issue demands a localist response. Local government needs to demonstrate its relevance and forge partnerships at neighbourhood, regional and national scales. The sector can capture the Australian political imagination by putting people and place first.

We recognise that Councils are the elephant in the community, the 'glue' that supports community life on a daily basis, and makes the system work at the local level. They manage the most complex service business on earth on a shoestring. Councils do many amazing, innovative things!

## DAY 1: THURSDAY 23 MAY

**8.30AM**     **REGISTRATION AND TEA/COFFEE**

**9.00AM**     **WELCOME BY THE MAV PRESIDENT**

**9.10AM**     **INTRODUCTION BY MC: GILBERT ROCHECOUSTE, VILLAGE WELL**  
**JOURNEY TO DATE, THE NEW STORY, RISE OF THE COMMONS, THE SHARING ECONOMY AND GHENT COMMONS TRANSITION PLAN**

**9.45AM**     **ADRIAN BROWN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR PUBLIC IMPACT (CPI)**  
**HOW GOVERNMENTS CAN ACHIEVE MORE BY 'LETTING GO'**

The Centre for Public Impact (CPI) is a not-for-profit foundation, funded by The Boston Consulting Group, dedicated to improving the positive impact of governments. Legitimacy, Policy and Action are fundamental to public impact. The CPI has worked with leading practitioners and academics from around the world to develop a framework that sets out how government can improve the results it achieves for citizens. The Centre brings together government leaders from around the world to learn and exchange ideas about strengthening public impact. Its work is overseen by a Board of Trustees co-chaired by Sir Michael Barber, the former head of the UK Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. Adrian has over 15 years' experience working on government performance and transformation in the UK and internationally. He has held a range of positions in the UK government, including stints at the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, the Strategy Unit and as a policy adviser in the Prime Minister's Office. He will discuss the various projects the Centre is working on and the CPI framework.

**10.35AM**     **MORNING TEA**

# DAY 1: THURSDAY 23 MAY

## CASE STUDIES: LETTING GO

**10.55AM HELEN SHEEDY, CO-ORDINATOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SUPPORT, WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL**

### **MAKING SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY: LG LETTING GO**

LG is occasionally fearful of letting go, but when a local government did just that; relinquishing control, empowering others and supporting grassroots community placemaking; something amazing was created. Warrnambool City Council developed a model that gets out of the way of the creative contributors in the community and gives them control of placemaking activations in the city.

**11.25AM OLIVIA LUCAS, COLLECTIVE IMPACT OFFICER, BURNIE CITY COUNCIL (TASMANIA)**

### **COLLECTIVE IMPACT BURNIE: THE COMMUNITY TAKING THE LEAD**

After the Burnie paper mill closed in 2010, the town had one of the highest levels of youth unemployment in Australia and school retention rates were very low. The area also had a range of social problems. To identify and address these problems 'Burnie Works' was established in 2014: it is a process of long term and entrenched collaborative activity designed to assist the community to address complex and entrenched social issues. Burnie Works uses the five core principles of collective impact to achieve the goals and vision for city set by the community in Making Burnie 2030. As a result the city has been transformed by implementing a wide range of projects facilitated by local community leadership. A Council representative said 'local governments can go further than just delivering ad-hoc services: "It's not about governments trying to do things for communities, it's about communities trying to do things for themselves; councils are a great intermediary to help facilitate that process."

**11.55AM PECHAKUCHA**

**CR RON COOPER, TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL (NSW)**

### **GRASS ROOTS IS CRITICAL IN RESTORING A PROPERLY FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY**

**CR ANDREW MCEWEN, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DISRUPTION CAN LEAD TO TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE OR COLLAPSE**

**12.25PM PANEL SESSION AND TABLE DISCUSSION**

**12.55PM LUNCH**

**1.40PM MIKE REID, PRINCIPAL POLICY ADVISOR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND**

### **NEW ZEALAND'S 'PROJECT LOCALISM'**

Local Government New Zealand and The New Zealand Initiative have joined forces to develop a policy roadmap on just how to devolve and deconcentrate power through a national Localism Project. New Zealand's diverse communities have long outgrown one-size-fits-all policy making, and there is a growing acceptance that we need to devolve and decentralise decision making to celebrate and leverage our differences. Local government is taking the lead to put forward a new agenda.

## CASE STUDIES: IN LOCALISM

**2.20PM LISA LUMSDEN, FORMER REPOWER PORT AUGUSTA CHAIRPERSON AND PORT AUGUSTA COUNCILLOR**

### **REPOWER PORT AUGUSTA (SA): POWER TO THE PEOPLE**

Port Augusta had long been South Australia's coal-fired powerhouse. But a five-year-long community campaign has delivered solar success and an end to the smokestacks. The world's biggest solar thermal tower with storage has been given the green light, thanks to the Repower campaign. Lisa was one of many locals in Port Augusta who had spent over five years campaigning for the South Australian and Federal Government to reconsider its carbon footprint.

**2.50PM AFTERNOON TEA**

# DAY 1: THURSDAY 23 MAY

**3.15PM** **GRAHAM SANSOM AND SU FEI TAN, INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY (UTS)**

## **RETHINKING THE ROLES OF MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS**

Graham was previously Director of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) and CEO of the Australian Local Government Association. He believes we need to rethink the roles of mayors and councillors to take account of the new 21st century environment, where communities will be more empowered and the 'board of directors' concept is no longer appropriate – if it ever was?

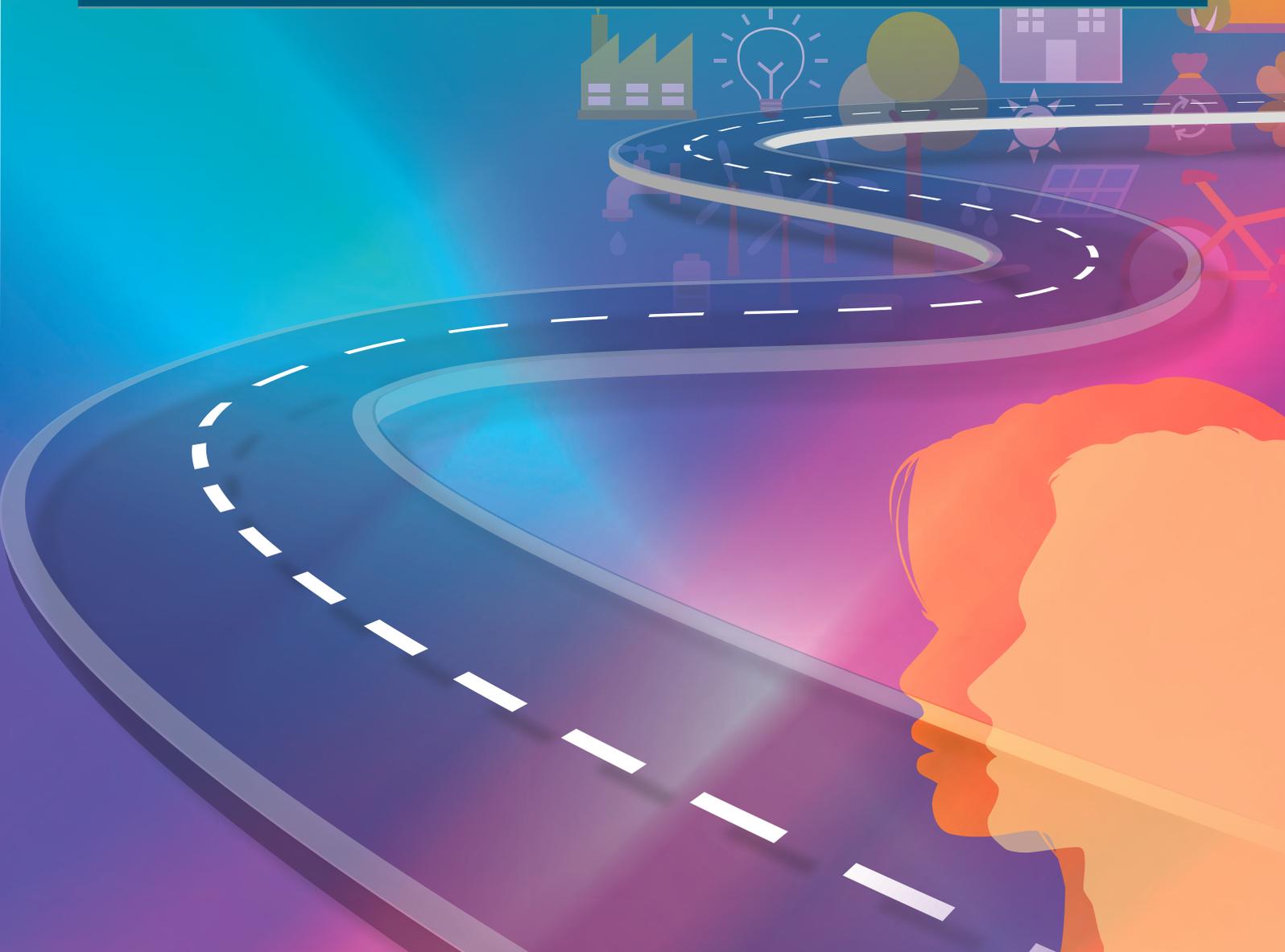
Su Fei Tan has been a senior researcher with ACELG and the UTS Institute for Public Policy and Governance since 2009. She is currently completing her PhD on elected representation in Australian local government and is the author of *Mind the Gap: Australian Local Government Reform and Councillors Understanding of their Roles*. Su Fei Tan will present the preliminary findings of her PhD research on councillors perceptions of their role and local democracy. She will focus on what councillors identified as the main aspects of their role, particularly with regard to representation, community engagement and decision making.

**4.10PM** **TABLE DISCUSSION AND PLENARY DISCUSSION**

**4.45PM** **WRAP UP OF DAY ONE - BY MC: GILBERT ROCHECOUSTE, VILLAGE WELL**

**5.00PM** **INFORMAL NETWORKING WITH DRINKS AND NIBBLES (AT THE VENUE)**

**6.00PM** **CLOSE**



# DAY 2: FRIDAY 24 MAY

**9.00AM INTRODUCTION TO DAY TWO - BY MC: GILBERT ROCHECOUSTE, VILLAGE WELL**

## CASE STUDIES: IN LOCALISM

**9.10AM JOSEPHENE DUFFY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN FOUNDATION  
ATTACKING OBESITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Obesity is being increasingly recognised as a major global crisis. We know what the facts are: more than one in four Australian children is overweight or obese, and these children are likely to become obese adults. Then there's the associated costs of this burden of disease – billions of dollars. The Kitchen Garden Program, currently in place in almost 2000 Australian schools and centres, shows children and their families how to delight in, share and celebrate great food. Many children simply don't get that experience at home. The longest and most structured intervention children and families will participate in is the education system. Experiencing pleasurable food education at their centre and school means children will see it as equally important as everything else they learn, and gain more from their education than we could ever have hoped for. The program has so many benefits including opening up to children and their communities what they could do and what they have to offer the world.

**9.40AM SIMON BECKETT (COMMUNITY MEMBER)  
RENEWABLE NEWSTEAD: AN AMAZING STORY CONTINUES**

Newstead is a small Victorian town where the locals are keen to have a say in the future of their town. A long term vision for the town has been developed and Renewable Newstead, commenced in 2010, aims to transition Newstead to 100% renewable energy, using a combination of solar and storage. The town is the first in Australia to have its own low cost electricity tariff which shares the benefits to all citizens in the township. The final step in the plan is the establishment of a solar park to be announced in May 2019. The town's philosophy is to build social capital and to 'do no harm' with the implementation of the plan.

**10.10AM CR CHERYL MCKINNON, MAYOR, LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL  
THE BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING COMMUNITIES: THE PYRAMID HILL (VIC) STORY**

Australian farmers are joining a regional push for the Australian Government to avoid making citizenship harder for migrants to obtain. The farmers say they worry about the effect on vital foreign workers. It comes as advocates call for an increase to the migrant intake to help revitalise regional Australia. In the small town of Pyramid Hill in Victoria's north, the Fernandez family is quickly becoming the average rural Australian family. Marilyn Fernandez, her husband and their six children are among a hundred Filipinos now making up a quarter of the town's population. Ripple effect in Australia. Nationals MP Damian Drum says the experience in Pyramid Hill is one he would like to see replicated across Australia: "A fantastic example here from Pyramid Hill, but that example here can be replicated right around Australia. And I think the Filipino community, certainly in Pyramid Hill but in many other communities, are doing themselves proud by the way they go about their work and the way they live their lives." The Regional Australia Institute is calling on the Federal Government to increase its migrant intake by an extra 3,000 people a year to make up for the annual population loss in regional Australia. Damian Drum says work is also underway to roll out a new agricultural visa to help direct people into rural industries. Cheryl will discuss the journey to date.

**10.40AM MORNING TEA**

**11.05AM MIKE REID, PRINCIPAL POLICY ADVISOR, LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND  
NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY BOARDS: AN UPDATE**

New Zealand's Community Boards are a legislated place-based governance model where responsibility and funding for agreed functions are delegated to the Community Board by the local Council. Mike will provide an overview of the journey to date and some of the leading case studies.

**11.35AM TRACEY BRADLEY, DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, WARATAH-WYNVARD COUNCIL (TASMANIA)  
THE NEW COMMUNITY CHARTER AND ADVISORY BOARD DEVOLVING POWER TO CITIZENS**

Tracey's presentation in 2018 was one of the highlights of the Summit and she will provide an update of progress since then. In summary, the Waratah Council have adapted the New Zealand Community Board model and devolved power to the community by establishing a Community Charter, an Advisory Board and then committing to the resulting Community Plan. Some cultural challenges were successfully negotiated and the story continues.

**12.05PM TABLE DISCUSSION AND PLENARY DISCUSSION**

# DAY 2: FRIDAY 24 MAY

12.45PM

LUNCH

1.30PM

## MELISSA APPLETON, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT – RECORDED PRESENTATION THE 2018 NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION: CREATING A CITYWIDE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROCESS THE 2018 NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION

- We did it! Yesterday (2018 mid-term elections) was a big day for democracy, from the re-enfranchisement of 1.4 million voters in Florida to an upsurge in turnout across the US. It was also a big day for participatory budgeting (PB): New York City voters approved a city charter revision that will create a citywide PB process!
- In a landslide vote, New Yorkers voted YES on Ballot Proposal #2, creating a Civic Engagement Commission tasked with setting up citywide PB. We expect this process to more than double the size of PB in the US and to raise the bar for PB around the world. We're thrilled that Proposals #1 and #3 also passed with huge support, to make it easier for diverse New Yorkers to run for office and serve on community boards.
- A better democracy really is possible!

Trust in government is at an all-time low, as only 18% of Americans say they can trust the government to do what is right.

PBNYC is the largest and fastest-growing participatory budgeting process in the United States. Over the eight-month period of each participatory budgeting cycle, thousands of people from all over the city participate in over 200 neighborhood assemblies that meet citizens where they live to brainstorm spending ideas that could improve their communities. From these meetings, hundreds of participants go on to become "budget delegates" and work with their elected officials to represent their community's spending priorities and create project proposals. During each PBNYC cycle, a Steering Committee is formed with representation from grassroots organizations, government officials, community stakeholders, and diverse residents. This Steering Committee lays out the framework and rules for PBNYC with the mission of engaging residents who have the highest barriers to civic participation. District Committees, which have a similar makeup but are local to each Council District, are also convened. This approach builds much broader support for PBNYC and systematically changes relationships between government and the people, leading to a more genuinely participatory democracy.

PBNYC's community-led grassroots approach is serving as a new model for participatory budgeting across the US and elsewhere. The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP), together with other PBNYC partners, is using the success of PBNYC to spread similar approaches to over a dozen other North American cities.

2.05PM

## PANEL SESSION WITH ADRIAN BROWN, MIKE REID, TRACEY BRADLEY AND GRAHAM SANSOM FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND SUMMIT DECLARATION

3.15PM

## TWENTY FIRST CENTURY COUNCIL CHALLENGE

Invitation to your Council and your community to sign up to join the New Story: the process

3.30PM

CLOSE

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

### ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST IN CHANGE AND THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

including anyone with an interest in the future of local government: including councillors, CEOs, directors, and managers and officers in Community Development, Innovation, Organisational Development, Corporate Planning, Strategic Planning, Human Resources, Governance, Service Planning, Business Transformation, Digital Transformation, Information Management and Business Analysis. This summit will also appeal to State and Federal Government representatives and private sector personnel.

## COST: \$600 PER PERSON (PLUS GST)

for the full conference (no single day registrations)

## TO REGISTER:

For online registration and conference details go to [www.mav.asn.au/events](http://www.mav.asn.au/events) (click on 'upcoming events' and scroll down to 23 May)

## QUERIES:

email [events@mav.asn.au](mailto:events@mav.asn.au) or telephone MAV events team via 03 9667 5555

## SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATION:

Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, 380 William St, Melbourne. Phone (03) 9322 8000 (refer to MAV event at Angliss Conference Centre for discount).

**NOTE:** Program subject to change. Go to MAV website for the latest version.