



# LG101 - 2009: An Introduction to Local Government for Central Government Policy Advisors

27 November, 2009

The Overseas Terminal Function Centre  
Chaffers Marina, 1 Herd Street, Wellington

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THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

# LG101 - 2009: An Introduction to Local Government for Central Government Policy Advisors

## THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop is specifically designed for staff of central government agencies involved in developing policy on issues likely to impact on local government .

The overall aim of the workshop is to help participants develop a basic understanding of how local government works. We will aim to highlight the key points of similarity and difference between how central and local government plan and make decisions, and to draw out some of the implications of these for the development of effective policy advice on matters likely to impact on local authorities.

Following last year's very successful first "LG101" event we have substantially revised the programme - while part of the "core curriculum" remains the same we have brought in new material and a new set of case studies.

Sessions will cover:

- The recent history of the system of the New Zealand local government, with a new separate section on the "same but only different" history of local government in Auckland;
- The legislative framework that local authorities operate under, including the Local Government Act, the Resource Management Act, and others;
- The 10 year plan - what it is, how it is developed, and why central government needs to be aware of it;
- Decision making in local government, and how this differs from central government;
- Community engagement, how it is actually done, with two very different case studies;
- Local authority finance and funding; and
- Shared services in local government

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP?

This workshop is aimed at staff of central government agencies who:

- Are involved in policy development in areas impacting on local government;
- Are in roles that require them to deal with local authorities; or
- Simply wish to develop their knowledge base by learning more about local government and how it works.

## KEY INFORMATION

### Course Date & Time:

- Friday, 27 November 2009 - 9.00 am – 4.45 pm (8.30am for general registration)

### Venue:

The Overseas Terminal Function Centre, Chaffers Marina, 1 Herd Street, Wellington - The Azzura Room

### Attendance fee:

SOLGM Members \$135.00 (plus GST)

Non-SOLGM Members \$150.00 (plus GST)

## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

The registration desk will be open from 8.30 am on Friday 27 November. At the time of registration you will receive a pack with full programme details and other relevant information.

The Seminar will start promptly at 9.00 am

### Friday 27 November 2009

8.30 - 9.00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
	Welcome tea and coffee
9.00 - 9.05	<b>WELCOME</b>
	Don Mackay, Manager Good Practice and Policy, NZ Society of Local Government Managers

9.05 - 10.30	<b>History and Framework</b>
	<p><b>Don Mackay, Manager Good Practice and Policy, NZ Society of Local Government Managers</b>  <b>Rosalind Plimmer, Manager Strategic Analysis and Information, Department of Internal Affairs</b></p> <p><i>The Short History</i></p> <p>This session gives you a brief overview of the evolution of the system of local government over the past 20 years. Starting with a snap shot of the system prior to the amalgamations of 1989, it covers the major changes in local government since that time.</p> <p><i>The Same, Only Different</i></p> <p>Although the official position has always been that we have one national system of local government, Auckland has always been a bit different, and there have been a succession of Auckland-specific government interventions over the years. This session gives a quick summary of the separate parallel history of Auckland local government.</p> <p><i>A Creature of Statutes</i></p> <p>Local authorities are 'creatures of statute': - a fact of many statutes, some specific to local government, some dealing with specific sectors or activities across central and local government, and others that are part of the general law of the land. This session overviews the legislative framework for local government.</p>

10.05 - 10.50	<b>MORNING TEA</b>
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10.50 - 12.20	<b>Planning and Decision-making</b>
	<p><b>Don Mackay, Manager Good Practice and Policy, NZ Society of Local Government Managers</b>  <b>Katharine Palmer, Strategic Policy Manager, Thames-Coromandel District Council</b>  <b>Mike Reid, Manager Governance, Local Government New Zealand</b></p> <p><i>One Plan to Rule Them All</i></p> <p>The 10 year plan (LTCCP) required by the Local Government Acts intended to be a comprehensive integrated medium to long term plan, and it is subject to audit. Developing the systems and processes necessary to produce it has been a big challenge for local authorities, but the result is more and more reliable information for both decision-makers and the public than has ever previously been available.</p> <p><i>Making Decisions in Public</i></p> <p>Central and Local Government are each variants of 'representative democracy' but the context and processes by which decisions are made are very different. This session focuses on how decisions get made in local government and draws some comparisons with the roughly equivalent central government processes.</p> <p><i>Apples and Pears</i></p> <p>The development of the 10 year plan requires councils to make decisions about competing spending priorities across the full range of the council's activities in a single decision-making round - "will it be extra sealing of rural roads, the new suburban swimming pool, or the upgrade of the sewerage treatment plant that makes the cut?" How do you get orderly decision-making in this sort of setting? Thames-Coromandel District Council developed a decision-making tool. Hear how and why it was constructed and how it works.</p>

## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME CONT

12.20 - 1.05	LUNCH
1.05 - 1.55	<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <p><b>Katherine Palmer, Thames-Coromandal District Council</b></p> <p><b><i>Getting Beyond the Usual Suspects</i></b></p> <p>Local authorities are expected to engage effectively with their communities. One of the big challenges is how to get past “the usual suspects” and open communications with the sometimes apathetic and disconnected broader general public. The “technology” of community engagement has evolved rapidly in recent years. In 2007 TCDC undertook a strategic planning exercise for the Coromandel Peninsula - branded as the “Coromandel Blueprint”. Hear how the council went about engaging with community and how it worked.</p>
1.55 - 2.35	<p><b>Shared Services in Local Government</b></p> <p><b>Ross Carter, Chief Executive, Bay of Plenty - Local Authority Shared Services Ltd</b></p> <p><b><i>Many Hands</i></b></p> <p>There is a long history of collaborative work among councils. In recent years there has been an increasing focus on “shared services” as a possible driver of greater efficiency, a means of offering a greater range of choice to communities, and as a way of making better use of capability within the sector. One of several large multi-council initiatives to emerge has been Bay of Plenty - Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (BoP LASS to its friends). Hear how this initiative came about, what has so far been done, and where it is heading.</p>
2.35 - 2.55	AFTERNOON TEA
2.55 - 4.25	<p><b>Funding, Finance and Hard Choices</b></p> <p><b>Meaghan Miller, Communications Manager, Queenstown-Lakes District Council</b>  <b>Raymond Horan, Senior Advisor, Good Practice and Policy, NZ Society of Local Government Managers</b></p> <p><b><i>There’s a Hole in My Bucket</i></b></p> <p>The result of a 10 year plan exercise is not necessarily good news. Sometimes what emerges is that the things people want are going to cost more than they might have expected, and perhaps more than they are prepared to pay. How do you communicate this to the community? Queenstown-Lakes District Council was one of several local authorities which in the most recent 10 year planning round, found that a significant revenue stream has dried up, and that this had consequences for the long term finances of the district and the range of choices available to the community. Hear how QLDC communicated with its community about the situation during the development to its 2009-2010 10 year plan.</p> <p><b><i>Show Me the Money</i></b></p> <p>At the end of the day the things local authorities do have to be paid for. Where does the money come from and what does it get spent on? With the improved information being generated from 10 year plans we are getting a clearer picture of local authority revenue and expenditure trends than ever before.</p>
4.25 - 4.45	<p><b>Concluding Thoughts</b></p> <p><b>Don Mackay, Manager Good Practice and Policy, NZ Society of Local Government Managers</b></p> <p>The “Policy Development Guidelines for Regulatory Functions Involving Local Government”, and why they matter, and other concluding thoughts.</p>

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27 NOVEMBER 2009



Please fax or post this registration form to: Fiona McDonald,  
Event Coordinator, Society of Local Government Managers, PO Box 5538, Wellington,  
Phone: 04 978 1289, Fax 04 978 1285, email fmcdonald@solgm.org.nz

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BUSINESS TITLE:	
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A registration confirmation email will be sent to the Delegate's email address <input type="radio"/> Tick this box to subscribe to SOLGM's mailing list and receive information from SOLGM and the Business School via email	
TELEPHONE: (BUS)	(MOB)
DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS? <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> YES	
PLEASE LIST:	

Yes I am Personally a member of SOLGM

## FEE AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

SOLGM GST No: 49 723 490

The attendance fee for SOLGM Members is: \$135.00 (plus GST)

The attendance fee for Non-SOLGM Members is: \$150.00 (plus GST)

- Enclosed is a cheque for \$152.00 or \$169.00 (including GST) made payable to the SOLGM Opus Business School, PO Box 5538, Lambton Quay, Wellington
- Payment will follow by cheque/direct credit
- Please send an invoice (Purchase Order number MUST be supplied)  
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## CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

- If cancellation of registration is received 7 working days or more prior to the start date of the event, the registration fee will not be invoiced, or if pre-paid, a full refund will be given.
- If a cancellation of registration is received less than 7 working days prior to the start date of the event, or in the case of registered non-attendees, the registration fee will be payable in full and no refund given.
- Once a completed registration form has been received, any cancellation request must be made in writing by way of a fax to 04 978 1285 or email fmcdonald@solgm.org.nz
- SOLGM Opus Business School reserves the right to cancel any event due to insufficient registrations.

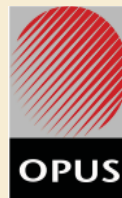
REGISTRATION FORM



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