

raise your hand

Helping
Achieve
Non-discriminatory
Diversity



Getting Women Elected

A guide to understanding Local Government,
campaigning and getting elected!

Tonight's Seminar

- ❖ Women as decision makers and the business case for Gender Equity
- ❖ The nuts and bolts of Local Government and getting involved
- ❖ Campaigning to Win!
- ❖ Other resources – useful links
- ❖ Guest Panel

Women as Decision Makers

The Business Case
For
Gender Equity

"If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

- Abigail Adams, US First Lady 1776

"Because men and women are the complement of one another, we need women's thoughts in National affairs to make a safe and stable Government."

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton 1869

"There is no such thing as being non-political. Just by making a decision to stay out of politics you are making the decision to allow others to shape politics and exert power over you. And if you are alienated from the current political system, then just by staying out of it you do nothing to change it, you simply entrench it."

- Joan Kirner 1994

"The statistics demonstrate that if women stand for election they are likely to be elected. What we need are more women who are willing to stand for election."

- Judith Hannan 2012

The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
(2010-2013)



Her Excellency, Quentin
Bryce, AC CVO
Governor General of Australia
(2008-2014)



Her Excellency, Professor
Marie Bashir, AC CVO
Previous NSW Governor
(2001-2014)



Marise Payne, Minister for
Defence (2015)



The Hon. Julie Bishop
Minister for Foreign Affairs
(2013) and the Deputy
Leader of the Liberal Party
(2007)



The Hon.
Kristina
Keneally

MP Premier of
NSW (2009-
2011)



The Hon. Anna
Bligh
MP Premier of
Queensland
(2007-2012)



The Hon. Lara
Giddings
MP Premier of
Tasmania
(2011-current)





Mayor Marina Voncina



Mayor Helen Kuiper



Mayor Christine Towndrow



Mayor Judith Hannan



Cr Denise Appel



Cr Kate Terry



Cr Cassandra Vernon



Cr Ana Wilmont



Cr Wendy Underwood



Kate Spicer



Robyn Davies



Joan Derk



Glenda Chalker



Eve Langham

Gender Imbalance across Government

Women in Federal Parliament:
House of Reps: 26.7%
Senate: 38.2%

Women in NSW Parliament

Legislative Assembly: 30%

Legislative Council: 23%

Only 5 women in the NSW
Cabinet (April 2011)

Women in NSW Local
Government:

Women Mayors: 19% (2012)

Women GMs: 11.2% (2014)

Women comprise 51% of the
NSW population but continue to
be significantly under represented
in key leadership positions.

Gender Imbalance- Council Staff

Position	Women		Men	
	Number	Ratio	Number	Ratio
General Manager	11	7%	141	93%
Executive	88	16%	451	84%
Manager	624	33%	1,284	67%
Other Supervisor	2,046	38%	3,298	62%
Non-Supervisory	17,119	46%	19,751	54%

Data – 2010 Census of Local Government Employees

Gender Equity Statistics in Local Government

NSW	Total Candidates	Female Candidates	% Female	Total Elected Reps	Female Elected Reps	% Female	Total Mayors	Female Mayors	% Female
2008	4,441	1,480	33	1,455	387	27	148	34	23
2012	855*	353*	41*	1,465	354	24	147	45	31

Statistics from the NSW Electoral Commission

Business Case for Gender Equity

- ❖ Women and men working as equals provides broader perspective – better decision making
- ❖ More realistic representation of demographic
- ❖ Increased focus on community and social infrastructure (i.e. family support services, playgrounds, childcare, children's services)
- ❖ Empowers local women's organisations – gives women a stronger voice in their LGA
- ❖ Needs based approach to funding (more than roads, rates and rubbish)

WSC Response to Gender Diversity

- ❖ “Raise Your HAND – Helping Achieve Non-discriminatory Diversity”
- ❖ Initiative demonstrating council’s commitment to Gender Equality.
- ❖ Workshop/information session as part of Council’s New Councillor Induction Program – encourage and support women who are considering becoming a Councillor.

The Nuts and Bolts of Local Government:

Getting Involved

Understanding Government

Federal Government

- Defence
- Trade Relations
- Education
- Communications
- Immigration
- Pensions
- Foreign Affairs

Local Government

- Town Planning
- Social Planning
- Cultural Development
- Public Libraries
- Waste Collection
- Community Services
- Local Roads

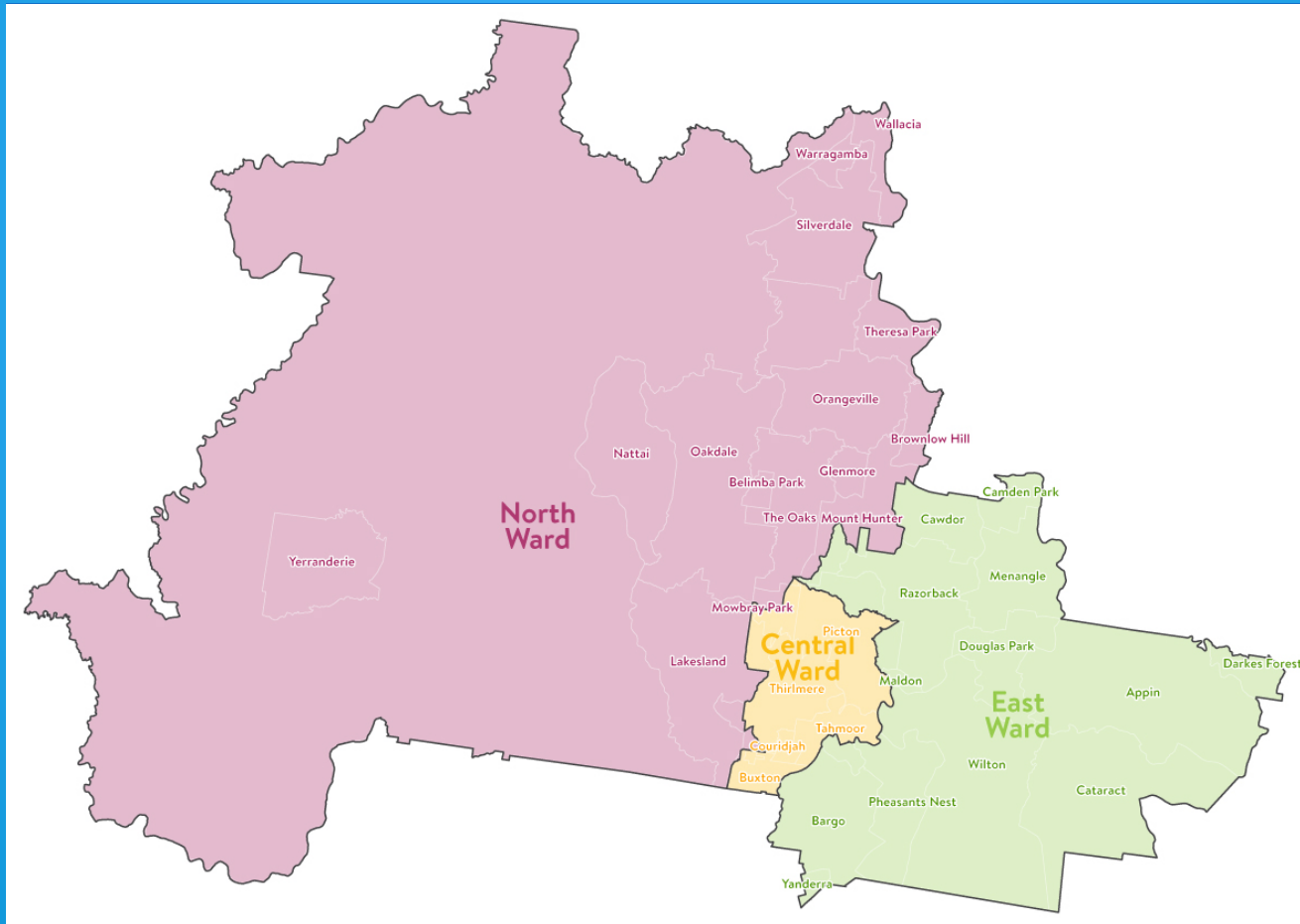
State Government

- Public Hospitals
- Public Schools
- Police, Ambulance and Fire Services
- State Roads

Local Government in NSW

- ❖ Currently in NSW there are over **1500** Councillors in **152** Councils
- ❖ Local Government in NSW employs over **50,000** people and spends more than **\$5 billion/year**
- ❖ Fit for the Future Reforms

Local Government in Wollondilly



Council Services and Functions



Why run for Local Government?

Being a Councillor is hard work, but very rewarding:

- ❖ Making decisions for the best social, economic and environmental outcome for your community
- ❖ Identifying community service needs and supporting infrastructure requirements
- ❖ Influencing the long term strategic direction for your community
- ❖ Working with a diverse range of people on a wide range of issues
- ❖ Being a strong advocate for your community

Implementing the skills you already have

- ❖ Are you passionate? Do you have confidence, energy, enthusiasm, honesty, resilience, humour?
- ❖ A passion for social justice and your community
- ❖ Good communication and interpersonal skills (listen, learn, advocate, negotiate, mediate)
- ❖ Strategic thinking – Do you see a solution?
- ❖ We can provide opportunities for you to gain skills, and we will support you!

What is expected of a Councillor

- ❖ Community advocacy and representation; input into what happens in Wollondilly
- ❖ Strategic policy development
- ❖ Oversight of Councils Delivery Program
- ❖ Say in service delivery priorities
- ❖ Say in Council projects
- ❖ Oversight of regulatory and statutory obligations
- ❖ Performance review of General Manager

Mayors Responsibilities

- ❖ Chair Council meetings
- ❖ Carry out civic and ceremonial functions
- ❖ In the rare event of an emergency situation exercise decision-making functions on behalf of the Council
- ❖ Leading the team of Councillors
- ❖ Setting the strategy (phase 1 of reforms)

General Manager

- ❖ Efficient management of Council's operations
- ❖ Implementation of Council decisions
- ❖ Management of Council Staff
- ❖ Responsible for embedding EEO and gender equity principles into management of Council
- ❖ Exercising other functions as delegated by the Council

Council's Accountability to the Community

- ❖ Consulting on major issues/proposals
- ❖ Making open and transparent decisions
- ❖ Councillors not protected by Parliamentary Privilege
- ❖ Regular Reporting
- ❖ Honest and ethical behaviour – including declaring any conflicts of interest
- ❖ Compliance with the Council's agreed Code of Conduct by Councillors and Council Staff
- ❖ Reporting to Electoral Funding Authority on expenditure on campaigning activities

Councillor Support Services

- ❖ Electoral allowance
- ❖ Conferences
- ❖ Training
- ❖ Travel, accommodation, meals (Council business)
- ❖ Phone, internet, computer
- ❖ Stationary to support Council related duties
- ❖ Carer's expenses whilst performing Council duties

Am I eligible to nominate?

- ❖ At least 18
- ❖ Australian Citizen (or British Subject on Australian Roll 25 January 1984)
- ❖ Resident/ratepayer/occupier of rateable land within Council LGA
- ❖ Enrolled to vote
- ❖ Not disqualified (i.e. currently serving prison sentence/convicted of certain offences/working for Council)

Key Contacts

- ❖ ALGWA NSW
- ❖ Election Funding Authority NSW
- ❖ Elections NSW
- ❖ NSW Office of Local Government
- ❖ NSW Local Government & Shires Association
- ❖ Relevant Party Head Office (if applicable)
- ❖ Current elected representatives
- ❖ Key community groups, business organisations and volunteer groups

First Steps... Consider your Campaign

- ❖ Get organised early!
- ❖ Know your key dates (nomination deadline)
- ❖ Complete all paperwork accurately and on time
- ❖ Establish your support network (campaign team, volunteers, family and friends)
- ❖ Identify your community networks

Wollondilly Issues Paper

Identifies the local concerns and issues that Wollondilly Shire Council has identifies through;

*Growing your future together –
Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033*

Why have an issues paper?

- ❖ To focus on the major issues in Wollondilly
- ❖ Useful tool when Advocating for the Community
- ❖ Link issues to the State Plan - Funding

Other resources – useful links

- ❖ **Election Funding Authority NSW**
www.efa.nsw.gov.au
- ❖ **Electoral Commission NSW**
www.elections.nsw.gov.au
- ❖ **Your local Council website**
www.councilname.nsw.gov.au
- ❖ **Office of Local Government**
www.olg.nsw.gov.au
- ❖ **Local Government Shires Association NSW**
www.lgsa.org.au
- ❖ **Local Government Managers Australia**
www.lgmansw.com.au
- ❖ **Australian Centre of Excellence in Local Government**
www.acelg.org.au
- ❖ **Women's Electoral Lobby**
www.wel.org.au
- ❖ **ALGWA NSW**
www.algwa.org.au
- ❖ **Political Parties:**
www.nsw.greens.org.au
www.nsw.alp.com
www.democrats.org.au
www.nsw.liberal.org.au
- ❖ **Unions representing Local Government:**
www.apesma.com.au
www.usu.org.au
www.depa.net.au
- ❖ **NSW Local Council Elections 2016**
www.votensw.info/

Q & A with the Guest Panel