



# Invitation to the 2013 National Local Government Researchers Forum

University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus, Adelaide  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

*You are invited to attend the 2013 National Local Government Researchers Forum. The forum is being organised by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) in partnership with the Local Government Association of South Australia, and will showcase the latest in local government-relevant research.*

The purpose of the forum is to:

- Showcase examples of current local government research which relate to pressing policy issues for Australian local government
- Provide opportunities local government practitioners to present work alongside academic researchers
- Discuss the implications of the research for policy and practice.

Over forty papers will be presented around twelve themes including local government finance and revenue, political and executive leadership, future workforce, climate change, planning and community wellbeing, responding to demographic change, and others.

Workshops on building local government research capacity will also be held to give forum attendees tips from the experts in carrying out and publishing research and measuring impact.

The program will conclude with a lively debate titled 'Local Government Reform – Just re-arranging the Deck Chairs on the *SS Federation*'.

You are invited to register your attendance online at <http://lgresearch.net.au/2013-Forum> (please note that places are limited). All enquiries can be directed to [research@acelg.org.au](mailto:research@acelg.org.au).

For all of the latest news and updates on the 2013 National Local Government Researchers Forum, please visit:

**<http://lgresearch.net.au/2013-Forum>**

# Showcase and Forum Program (subject to change)

Day 1: Thursday 6 June 2013

9.00am	<b>Arrival Tea and Coffee</b>		
9.30am	Welcome by Wendy Campana, CEO of the Local Government Association of South Australia, and the Hon. Margaret Reynolds, ACELG Chairperson.		
9.45am	Opening Address by Felicity Ann-Lewis, President of the Australian Local Government Association.		
10.15am	Overview of forum program and format.		
10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>		
	<b>STREAM 1</b>	<b>STREAM 2</b>	<b>STREAM 3</b>
11.00am	<p><b>Local Government Finance and Revenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In our hands: Strengthening local government revenue for the 21st century</i> <b>John Comrie</b>, ACELG (associate)</li> <li><i>Strong foundations for sustainable local infrastructure</i> <b>Darrin Grimsy</b>, Ernst &amp; Young</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Roberta Ryan</b>, ACELG and UTS Centre for Local Government.</p>	<p><b>Political and Executive Leadership (Panel)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A study of the career paths of local government CEOs</i> <b>Theresa Smith-Ruig</b> and <b>Bligh Grant</b>, University of New England</li> <li><i>'You just know': Recruiting CEOs in local government</i> <b>Jacquie Hutchinson</b>, University of Western Australia</li> <li><i>Challenges and motivators – leadership in local government</i> <b>Ruth Pailas</b> and <b>Mark Sumich</b>, Local Government NSW</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Graham Sansom</b>, University of Technology, Sydney.</p>	<p><b>Latest in Regional Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Regional Australia Institute research stocktake</i> <b>Julie Wilson</b>, Regional Australia Institute</li> <li><i>Regional economies and the Upper Spencer Gulf - case study</i> <b>Juliet Hester</b>, Australian Bureau of Statistics</li> <li><i>Researching with reciprocity</i> <b>Thomas Michel</b> and <b>Julie-ann Bassinder</b>, Northern Territory researchers</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>John Martin</b>, ACELG Research Advisory Committee and La Trobe University.</p>
12.30pm	<b>Lunch and opportunity to view posters</b>		

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Day 1: Thursday 6 June 2013 continued

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	STREAM 3
1.30pm	<p><b>Local Government as Community Facilitator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Learning as learning as a driver for change in communities</i> <b>Max Eastcott</b>, Gwydir Shire Council</li> <li>– <i>“Sensemaking” in turbulent environments</i> <b>John Martin</b>, Latrobe University</li> <li>– <i>Does local representation matter?</i> <b>Su Fei Tan</b>, UTS Centre for Local Government</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Maree McPherson</b>, Victorian Local Government Association.</p>	<p><b>Future Workforce (Panel)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Overview of the National Workforce Strategy and underpinning research</i> <b>John Ravlic</b>, Local Government Managers Australia</li> <li>– <i>Motivating and retaining local government workers: What does it take?</i> <b>Robyn Morris</b>, Edith Cowan University</li> </ul> <p>Other panelists: <b>Greg McLean</b>, Australian Services Union; <b>Donna Galvin</b>, WBC Strategic Alliance; <b>Sarah Artist</b>, UTS Centre for Local Government.</p> <p>Facilitated by <b>Melissa Gibbs</b>, ACELG.</p>	<p><b>Recent South Australian Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Development of social infrastructure in growth corridors</i> <b>Bronwyn Webster</b>, City of Charles Sturt</li> <li>– <i>Youth development in local government – future roles</i> <b>Stuart Boyd</b>, Adelaide Hills Council</li> <li>– <i>Participatory decision making software</i> <b>David Hope</b>, Flinders University</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Shane Sody</b>, ACELG Research Advisory Committee and Local Government Association of South Australia.</p>
3.00pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>		
3.30pm	<b>Q &amp; A on Preparing Research Papers (Workshop)</b>	<b>Steps for Publishing in Journals (Workshop)</b>	<b>Measuring Impact of Applied Research (Workshop)</b>
4.30pm	Day's wrap up		
5.00pm	Book Launch (University of New England publication): <i>Financial Sustainability and Infrastructure Finance in Australian Local Government</i>		
5.15pm	<b>Cocktails</b>		
6.00pm	<b>Close Day 1</b>		

Day 2: Friday 7 June 2013

8.00am	Arrival Tea and Coffee		
	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	STREAM 3
8.30am	<p><b>Applying Climate Change Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Carbon offsetting by Queensland councils: Motives and benefits</i> <b>Heather Zeppel</b>, University of Southern Queensland</li> <li>– <i>Planning for the health effects of climate change in rural areas</i> <b>Erica Bell</b>, University of Tasmania</li> <li>– <i>Prospering in a changing climate – South Australia’s climate change adaptation framework</i> <b>Lauren Burton</b>, Dept. of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (SA)</li> <li>– <i>City of Adelaide urban heat island micro climate study</i> <b>Marnie Hope</b>, City of Adelaide</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Adam Gray</b>, Local Government Association of South Australia.</p>	<p><b>A Research Discipline In Local Government? (Panel)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Knowledge City, City of Melbourne case study</i> <b>Austin Ley</b>, City of Melbourne</li> <li>– <i>Research analysts at the City of Boroondara: The many hats</i> <b>Tanya Styles</b>, City of Boroondara</li> <li>– <i>The lived experience of Insider Action Research in a local government setting</i> <b>Adele Kenneally</b>, Glenelg Shire Council</li> <li>– <i>The pitfalls and promises of an academic approach to solving real world problems in local government</i> <b>Jennifer Scott, Jennie Cramp and Michelle Rose</b>, Ku-ring-gai Council</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Tim Robinson</b>, ACELG Research Advisory Committee and Fairfield City Council.</p>	<p><b>Local Demographics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Exploring interventions in urban form which can enable better population health</i> <b>Brydie Clarke, Terry Jenvey and Nicole Vickridge</b>, Knox City Council</li> <li>– <i>Turning numbers into knowledge, <a href="http://www.socialstatistics.com.au">www.socialstatistics.com.au</a></i> <b>Hayden Brown</b>, City of Greater Dandenong</li> <li>– <i>Local government research into a 'hidden' issue</i> <b>Katherine Wright</b>, City of Boroondara</li> <li>– <i>Is anybody listening? The impact of second home ownership on local governments in Australia and elsewhere</i> <b>Chris Paris</b>, University of Adelaide</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Marianne Di Giallonardo</b>, ACELG Research Advisory Committee and Maroondah City Council</p>
10.30am	<b>Morning Tea</b>		

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Day 2: Friday 7 June 2013 continued

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	
11.00am	<p><b>Local Innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>The latest in innovation research</i> <b>Mark Evans</b>, ANZSOG Institute for Governance</li> <li>– <i>Local public broadband – the missing link in Australia’s broadband debate?</i> <b>Ian McShane</b>, RMIT University</li> <li>– <i>Local government as a facilitator of systemic social innovation</i> <b>Sharon Zivkovic</b>, Community Capacity Builders</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Lawrence Pratchett</b>, ACELG Research Advisory Committee and University of Canberra.</p>	<p><b>The Shape, Size and Future of Local Government (Panel)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Where to for ROCs: exploring the Council of Mayors option</i> <b>Alex Gooding</b>, UTS Centre for Local Government (associate)</li> <li>– <i>Local co-governance and environmental sustainability</i> <b>Michael Kortt</b>, Southern Cross University</li> <li>– <i>Benchmarking of councils – a case against comparisons</i> <b>Fran Flavel</b>, Port Stephens Council</li> <li>– <i>'One size fits all?' An appraisal as to how NSW councils have reacted and adapted to new legislation</i> <b>Philip Willis</b>, UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Chris Aulich</b>, University of Canberra.</p>	<p><b>Planning and Community Wellbeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Community wellbeing indicators survey</i> <b>Alan Morton</b>, Local Government Association of Queensland</li> <li>– <i>Cultural planning processes in local government in Victoria</i> <b>Kim Dunphy</b>, Cultural Development Network</li> <li>– <i>Picture Adelaide's Strategic Plan</i> <b>Cate Owen</b>, City of Adelaide</li> <li>– <i>Battle between amenity and conserving biodiversity</i> <b>Andrew Kelly</b>, University of Western Sydney</li> </ul> <p>Facilitated by <b>Wendy Campana</b>, Local Government Association of South Australia.</p>
12.30pm	<b>Lunch and Opportunity to View Posters</b>		
1.30pm	The Great Debate: <i>Local Government Reform – Just re-arranging the deck chairs on the SS Federation?</i>		
2.30pm	Wrap up		
3.00pm	<b>Forum Close</b>		