



LG Pro Annual Conference 2026

June 17-18, 2026



Graphic Recordings

INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOOK!
LGPro

AND THE FIRST RESEARCH INTO AI ADOPTION IN LOCAL GOVT

30 YEARS OF THIS AMAZING CONFERENCE!
 MYKEL DIXON #LGProAC26

GO VISIT ALL OF OUR SPONSORS... EXPLOIT THEIR GENIUS!



SIMON THIESSEN

BETTER PEOPLE OR BETTER LEADERSHIP?
 BUILDING CULTURE THAT INSPIRES PERFORMANCE

IS YOUR ORGANISATION A MICROCOSM OF THE COMMUNITY YOU ARE TRYING TO SHAPE?

HOW TO RESHAPE CULTURE:

1. DEFINE YOUR IDEAL CULTURE

VALUES

I LOVE THAT THIS HOLE WILL MAKE SUCH A DIFFERENCE!

2. DEFINE YOUR WHY
 FOCUS ON 3 PROJECTS!

3. MEASURE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

APTITUDE
 ATTITUDE
 AUTHENTICITY

SIMPLE IS NOT EASY!

PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE LEADERSHIP & CULTURE THEY ARE EXPOSED TO

ATTENTION
 - INTENTION

IM PACT

SOVING HIGHER QUALITY PROBLEMS

HIGH PERFORMING CULTURE

CULTURE IS THE SUM PRODUCT OF:

EVERY CHOICE
 made by
 EVERY PERSON
 EVERY DECISION

EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

HARMONIOUS ACCOUNTABLE RUTHLESS

LGPRO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

PARK HYATT, JUN 17



KIM SEEING SMITH
AI, TRUST, AND THE COST OF GETTING IT WRONG

SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE AI PROJECTS...

1. BUILD STRATEGY BEFORE TOOLS
 CUSTOM EMBEDDED EVERYDAY

WE'VE USED MICROSOFT SINCE 1984. SO...

Cloud AI Gemini Perplexity

WHAT TECHNOLOGY ARE YOUR PEOPLE BRINGING INTO THE ORGANISATION?

START HERE!

PRODUCTIVITY

BUDGET

THE URGENCY OR AI ADOPTION IS REAL

TRADING AWAY EMPLOYEES FOR AI COSTS:

- TRUST
- KNOWLEDGE
- RELATIONSHIPS
- BRAND

KEY TRAITS TO HIRE FOR:
 ADAPTABILITY
 RESILIENCE
 CURIOSITY

2. MAKE SIX DISCIPLINED DECISIONS:

ATLASSIAN ORACLE
 PREMATURE DELIBERATE
 VALUES CONTRADICTION
 1. AUTOMATION 2. GOVERNANCE 3. SCALING
 4. TRAINING 5. DATA CLEANUP 6. MEASURING SUCCESS

3. TAKE THEIR HUMANS ON THE JOURNEY

AI IMPLEMENTATION
 AI TRAINING

DIGITAL FLUENCY

HOW TO EMBRACE AI...

...WITHOUT BURNING THROUGH TRUST?

CURRENCIES OF CHOICE

SCAN FOR A DIGITAL COPY





Sketch
oxer

VISUAL NOTES
by sketchgroup.com

CAPTURED WITH M ON WUJUNGERI COUNTRY

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JUNE 17, 2026
PARK HYATT, MELBOURNE



SUE WILKINSON

THE EXPERTISE ACROSS LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS EXTRAORDINARY!

LGPRO CAN BRING THAT TOGETHER.

WE NEED A DIVERSE BOARD...

... NOMINATE AND GET INVOLVED!

WINITHA BONNEY OAM

CLOSE THE IMPLEMENTATION GAP AND TURN TEAMS INTO HIGH-VELOCITY INNOVATORS IN THE AGE OF AI

THE AGENCY ADVANTAGE

ALL CHAOS IS ENERGY

WE WILL ALWAYS BE FACED WITH...

CRISIS CHANGE UNCERTAINTY

DISCOMFORT

CHALLENGES COMPLEXITY CHAOS

LGPRO
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS

CONFERENCE 2026

JUNE 18 PARK HYATT, MELBOURNE

WE KNOW OUR **WHY**

WE KNOW THE **WHAT**

THE BRIDGE IS THE **HOW**

(NOT THE SKILLS - WE HAVE AI TO HELP WITH THAT)

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH DISCOMFORT

GROWTH LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF PAIN

AGENCY

TO THINK INDEPENDENTLY...

PROACTIVELY SOLVE PROBLEMS

LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A SUPERPOWER

ARE YOU TAKING OWNERSHIP OF THE TASKS OR THE OUTCOME?

BY REMOVING:

- BUDGET
- TIME
- TOOLS

OUR HUMAN INTELLIGENCE WILL RESORT TO REAL INNOVATION!

How CAN WE DO MORE WITH LESS?

THEORY OF CONSTRAINTS

COLLECTIVISM AS AN ANTIDOTE TO

- EGO
- LIZARD BRAIN RESPONSES

RESILIENCE

DAY TO DAY ACTIONS

LOCALLY LED: TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

MYKEL DIXON

INNOVATION WHAT IS CREATIVITY? FUN IDEAS

ME! FOR YOU? SOUL LIVELY CONTAGIOUS

REBELLION NOT ENOUGH YOUR ORGANISATION STIFLING

WHAT ELSE COULD WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BRING TO THE WORKPLACE?

EVERYDAY CREATIVE

5 YRS 10 YRS 15 YRS 30 YRS

98% 30% 12% 2%

A DIMINISHING COHORT OF ARTISTIC GENIUSES

DATA STATS A.I. EFFICIENCY

CONFORMITY

BE OUTRAGEOUS. BE DARING. BE **BOLD**.

MY JOB DESCRIPTION:

- Chief Fist Bump Officer
- Architect of Joy
- Cultural Architect
- Head of Crystal Balling

SMALL INVITATIONS

SCAN FOR A DIGITAL COPY!

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2026

GOVERNING in the age of AI

WHAT IS THE VALUE
TO OUR
- EMPLOYEES?
- CUSTOMERS?

COMPARED TO 3 YRS
AGO, EVERYONE IS
USING AI AT WORK NOW

UNDERSTAND THE
COMMUNITY'S APPETITE
FOR RISK WITH AI

USE AI ON
YOUR JOB
APPLICATION,
BUT CHANGE
THE FORMATTING!

HAVE A STRONG BS
DETECTOR!

START AN AI
CHAMPION GROUP!

JUST IN
TIME

PRIVACY
NOTICES vs
PRIVACY
POLICY

TAKE A
DEEP BREATH!

MONITORING TIME
BETWEEN AI OUTPUT
AND HUMAN APPROVAL

START A REGISTER
OF AI USE ACROSS
THE ORGANISATION!

WHAT DOES AGENTIC AI
LOOK LIKE IN COUNCIL?

WHAT DOES MEANINGFUL
PRIVACY LOOK LIKE?

WHEN IS "HUMAN IN
THE LOOP MEANINGFUL
OR JUST A CHECKBOX?

WHERE SHOULD SOMEONE
START IF YOU DON'T
HAVE A POLICY?



PETE
GERVASONI



JUSTIN
DALY



EMMA
MACKENZIE
BLACKMORE



PATRICK
DILLON



VISUAL NOTES BY SKETCHGROUP.COM

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2026

WHOSE MEETING IS IT ANYWAY?

TRAINING IS
REQUIRED TO BECOME
A CANDIDATE

REMOVING
AMENITIES
CAN MAKE PEOPLE
ANGRY:

- AQUATIC
CENTRES

- AGED CARE



RENEE
SMITH

PLANNING
WORK IS CRUCIAL

- WHAT
- WHEN



COUNCIL MEETINGS
ARE DECISION MAKING
FORUMS, NOT
CONSULTATIVE PLATFORMS

RESPECTFUL
INTERACTIONS



MICHAEL
TONTA

POLICY

HOW YOU UNDERSTAND
YOUR COMMUNITY
INFLUENCES HOW YOU
MAKE DECISIONS

PARTNERSHIPS



FRAMEWORK

WHAT DOES A
COUNCIL DOING
A GOOD JOB
LOOK LIKE?

HOW TO
DEAL WITH
OVERENGAGED
CITIZENS?

COUNCILLORS ARE
BURNT OUT — WHAT'S THE
BEST WAY FOR THEM TO CONNECT
WITH THE COMMUNITY?



JENNA
WILLIAMS

VISUAL NOTES BY SKETCHGROUP.COM



Here's how we
help local
governments
engage their
communities.



VideoSketch™

Animated videos that
simplify complex
messages.



LiveSketch™

Discussions captured
live, for all to see.



IdeaSketch™

Every contribution,
visible and valued.



Scan for a
case study



Ready to bring
clarity, connection
and **trust** to your
community?

*"Loved the friendly,
efficient and
responsive team. It
was the most positive
seamless experience!"*

- Banyule City Council



Find out more at

 sketchgroup.com
 hello@sketchgroup.com
 [@sketchgrp](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sketchgrp)



Scan for a
case study

