

# FastTrack 2020

## THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

VLGA Leadership Development Program for  
Mayors, Deputy Mayors & Councillors

**FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY**  
**9:30AM TO 6:30PM**

RACV CITY CLUB  
501 BOURKE STREET  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Featuring:

- **Opening and Q&A**  
with the Hon Adem Somyurek MP, Minister for Local Government.
- **Governance Procedures for the 2020 Local Government Elections**  
with David Wolf (Deputy Commissioner, IBAC), Andi Diamond (CEO, City of Monash) and Celia Robinson (Governance Coordinator, Wyndham City Council). Moderated by Chris Eddy.
- **Circular Economy: Opportunities for Local Government**  
with Veena Sahajwalla (ARC Laureate Professor), Cr Cathy Oke (City of Melbourne, Chair of ICLEI) and Cameron McKenzie (Director, ASPIRE Pty Ltd). Moderated by Chris Eddy.
- **Navigating the Councillor Code of Conduct: presented by Justitia**  
with Sarah Rey (Managing Partner, Justitia) and Melissa Scadden (Partner, Justitia).
- **Campaigning and Social Media for the 2020 Elections**  
with Ruth McGowan, Stephen Mayne and Cr Sarah Carter (Mayor, City of Maribyrnong). Moderated by Chris Eddy.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided.  
Please stay for informal drinks and canapes at the end of the day.

**VLGA MEMBERS:** \$400 (plus GST)  
**NON-MEMBERS:** \$600 (plus GST)

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### **Cr Lambros Tapinos | VLGA President, Mayor of Moreland City Council**

Councillor Lambros Tapinos is serving his third term as Mayor of Moreland City Council. As President of the VLGA, Cr Tapinos is a leader and advocate for the local government sector at the state government level. Cr Tapinos is passionate about providing quality services for young families and seniors, as well as urban redevelopment and building better places, spaces and community facilities.



### **Hon Adem Somyurek MP | Minister for Local Government, Minister for Small Business**

Minister Somyurek has served as Member of Parliament for the South Eastern Metropolitan Region since 2002. He holds the portfolios of Local Government and Small Business in the Victorian Parliament. Minister Somyurek previously held the role of Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade in the Andrews ministry from December 2014 to July 2015.



### **Chris Eddy | Moderator**

Chris Eddy is an experienced and enthusiastic consultant and facilitator with over 30 years of experience in senior management roles in the public and private sectors. This includes more than 18 years in local government executive roles, with responsibilities including communications, governance, information and knowledge management, organisation development and industrial relations. His local government career culminated in six years as Chief Executive Officer at Hobsons Bay City Council.

Previously, Chris enjoyed a successful career of 18 years in regional media, through on-air and management roles in television and radio in Shepparton and Ballarat.

Chris currently provides consultancy services in governance and performance management matters to various councils and non-profit agencies around Victoria. He is a board member of the Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council (ARCC), and chair of its Strategic Planning Committee; and an independent member of the Nillumbik Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee.



### **David Wolf | Deputy Commissioner, Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)**

David was recently appointed Deputy Commissioner of IBAC and will commence his three year term on 28 January 2020. Currently David is the Chief Municipal Inspector and head of the Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate which is the dedicated integrity agency for all local councils in Victoria. David established the Inspectorate in 2009 and has an extensive career in leading integrity and regulatory organisations.

David is an ANZSOG executive fellow and the current chair of a not for profit board.



### **Dr Andi Diamond | Chief Executive Officer, Monash City Council**

Dr Andi Diamond is the Chief Executive Officer of Monash City Council, a position she has held since April 2012. Dr Diamond was previously Chief Executive Officer of Yarra City Council for four years. She is a current Board Member of Respect Victoria and the St John Ambulance Victoria Board. She is a former President of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.

Dr Diamond started her career as a social worker, working as part of Victoria's first sexual assault team. She went on to train both child protection workers and Victoria Police in interview techniques. Her career in local government included manager and director roles at Boroondara Council, Shire of Melton and Monash City Council.

She holds a BA in Social Work, a Master of Business Administration and a Doctorate of Business and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



### **Celia Robinson | Coordinator Governance, Wyndham City Council**

Celia has been working in the Victorian public sector for twenty five years. Celia has a Bachelor of Business (Local Government) and a Master of Public and International Law and is the Coordinator Governance at Wyndham City Council. Located in Melbourne's outer west Wyndham City Council is a sector leading organisation that delivers to one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia.

Over the past ten years Celia has developed considerable skills and expertise in good governance practices in the Local Government sector. Celia's interests include looking for new ways to deliver professional development programs for Councillors to contribute to their success in the role. Prior to focusing on governance Celia provided policy and legislative advice for State Government related to the work of Local Government including in the areas of road safety and public health.



### **Sarah Rey | Managing Partner, Justitia**

As the leader of an award-winning legal practice, Sarah, along with her colleagues, has created a unique professional organisation that is values-based and leads by example. Justitia's lawyers know that to help clients create an exceptional workplace, a multi-disciplinary team representing diverse perspectives is often required. In addition to providing legal advice, Justitia and Sarah seek to offer creative and workable solutions with a view to avoiding the costs of litigating protracted disputes.



Sarah's principal practice areas span human resources law, employment and discrimination advice and litigation, arbitrating Code of Conduct breaches, workplace legal training and investigations into employee misconduct and bullying. Her clients are in the government, professional/legal services, education and retail sectors. As a trained mediator, Sarah has a particular interest in early intervention to resolve conflict.

### **Melissa Scadden | Partner, Justitia**

Melissa contributes an international perspective to her work and the legal team at Justitia. She completed her legal qualifications and training in the United Kingdom and is admitted as a solicitor in both England and Wales as well as in Victoria. Melissa has spent time working in-house in both jurisdictions, gaining valuable insight into how to work with employers to add value and find solutions, rather than simply provide legal advice.



Melissa practices in workplace, industrial relations and employment law. She has a particular interest in assisting clients to take a proactive approach to building an exceptional workplace, rather than just mitigating risks when problems arise.

Melissa has experience working with large private sector clients across various industries including education, local government, healthcare, professional services, construction and labour hire. She has a keen interest in alternative dispute resolution, is a trained mediator and regularly conducts workplace training.

### **Ruth McGowan OAM**

Ruth McGowan OAM has three decades experience managing projects and communications for both state and local governments and is a former Victorian mayor and councillor.



She is a fearless advocate for more women in local government and is known throughout the sector as an expert on gender equity having authored *The Best Practice Guide for Gender Equity in Local Government* for the Victorian government in 2018.

In 2019 Ruth wrote Australia's first national campaign guide *Get Elected*, aimed at encouraging more women to stand for politics at local, state and federal levels. This includes information on how candidates need to be social-media savvy and manage the risks of online platforms. Ruth is a sought after facilitator, trainer and engaging speaker.

Through her use of platforms such as LinkedIn and Twitter, Ruth writes about issues impacting local government and is a recognised influencer in the sector with thousands of online supporters.

### **Stephen Mayne**

Stephen Mayne founded Crikey in February 2000 and has remained as a contributor since selling it in 2005. He's a former political staffer and local government councillor who also pursues shareholder advocacy as a two-time former director of the Australian Shareholders' Association. Stephen campaigns broadly for transparency, good governance and accountability across the media, business and political sectors. He also spent two years working for the Alliance for Gambling Reform and continues to campaign against the gambling industry.



### **Cr Sarah Carter | Mayor, Maribyrnong City Council**

Cr Sarah Carter was first elected to Maribyrnong City Council in 2008 and re-elected in each consecutive Council election.

First elected Mayor in 2011, Cr Carter is the current Mayor of Maribyrnong City Council.

Cr Carter has represented Council and the community on many committees and advisory groups during her terms on Council. She is passionate about gender equity, social justice, diversity, education and opportunities for young people. Cr Sarah Carter was instrumental in the development of Festival City. She represented Council as a board member of LeadWest's Council from 2011 to 2016 and has been Council's Gender Equity Ambassador since 2011.



**Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla | ARC Laureate Professor**

ARC Laureate Professor Veena Sahajwalla is revolutionising recycling science to enable global industries to safely utilise toxic and complex wastes as low-cost alternatives to virgin raw materials and fossil fuels. As Founding Director of UNSW’s Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology, Veena and her team are working closely with industry partners to deliver the new science, processes and technologies that will drive the redirection of many of the world’s most challenging waste streams away from landfills and back into production; simultaneously reducing costs and alleviating pressures on the environment.



She is reimagining the global supply chain by demonstrating the viability of ‘mining’ our overburdened landfills to harness the wealth of useful elements like carbon, hydrogen and materials like silica, titania and metals embedded in our waste. Using precisely controlled high temperature reactions that selectively break and reform the waste into previously unimaginable value-added green materials and products, Veena and her team are building an unparalleled portfolio of new science and engineering that is overcoming many of the technical limitations and cost barriers of conventional recycling that currently leave much of our waste behind.

**Cr Cathy Oke | City of Melbourne**

City of Melbourne Councillor Cathy Oke is Chair of the Environment portfolio. She is also Deputy Chair of the Finance and Governance and Aboriginal City portfolios. First elected to the City of Melbourne in 2008, Dr Cathy Oke has over 20 years’ experience in the sustainability sector.



Cr Oke currently works at the Connected Cities Lab of the University of Melbourne.

A resident in the City of Melbourne municipality for more than 30 years, Cathy is committed to supporting programs which enable a safe, vibrant and creative community.

Cr Oke is the council representative on the Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Local Governments’ Waste Forum, Yarra Park Advisory Committee and International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) – First Vice President & member of Executive Board & Management Committee.

**Cameron McKenzie | Director, ASPIRE Pty Ltd**

ASPIRE is an online platform and marketplace that helps drive innovation in the transition to a circular economy in Australia.

Also, ASPIRE highlights the latest sustainability education and resources coming from the data generated from the exchanges.

ASPIRE matches business resources to assist in identifying products with sustainable materials by encouraging them to look towards recycled content. ASPIRE’s key functionality helps build critical end markets for recycled products in Australia that works to close the loop.

ASPIRE provides essential education to those in the supply chain about options for greater sustainability, originating from a program run by CSIRO & Data61 in conjunction with the City of Kingston and Hume, Dandenong, Knox & BSWRRG.

