



The 26th Local Government
**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE 2025**

LGIT25

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Wed 24th - Fri 26th September
Opal Cove Resort, Coffs Harbour
www.lgit2025.coffslgconferences.com.au

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EVENT PROGRAM

DAY ONE | WEDNESDAY 24th September

10:30 19:00 **REGISTRATION** Opals Room, Opal Cove Resort

12:45 13:00 **WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR City of Coffs Harbour

13:00 13:30 **Cyber Security in the age of AI**

► Martin Buckland, Security Specialist, Local Government - Microsoft Australia

13:30 14:30 **⌘ KEYNOTE: Revive and Thrive Masterclass**

► Layne Beachley AO

14:30 15:00 **AFTERNOON TEA**

15:00 16:15 **CYBER SECURITY PANEL**

► Keirstyn Spencer, Partner and National Local Government lead - KPMG

► Dr Amit Chaubey, Chairman of AISA NSW - Australian Information Security Association

► Cr Jeff Whitton, Independent Expert in Cyber Security

17:00 18:50 **WELCOME FUNCTION** & trade exhibition at Opal Cove Resort

18:55 19:00 **WELCOME FUNCTION ADDRESS** by Extreme Networks
Opals Room, Opal Cove Resort

19:00 21:30 **WELCOME DINNER** in Horizons Restaurant
Sponsored by Extreme Networks

DAY TWO | THURSDAY 25th September

08:00 09:00 **REGISTRATION**

08:25 08:30 **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

08:30 09:00 **From Fear to Trust: Building a Positive Security Culture**

► Kirsty Backhausen, Cyber Security Specialist - City of Newcastle

09:00 09:30 **Data Maturity in Local Government: Meeting Councils Where They Are**

► Tracy Whitelaw, Chief Digital Officer - LGAQ

09:30 10:00 **★ GOLD SPONSOR PRESENTATION: Securing the Hybrid Council: Simplifying Access and Connectivity with SSE and SD-WAN**

► Steve Isles, Security Lead - HPE Aruba Networking

HPE aruba
networking

10:00 10:45 **MORNING TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION**

10:45 11:45 **⌘ KEYNOTE: Re-Wiring for the Future: Building Human - Centric Digital Capacity in Local Government**

► Dr Michelle Dickinson



DAY TWO | THURSDAY 25th September (continued)

11:45 12:15 ★ GOLD SPONSOR PRESENTATION: Breach to Burnout: What Real Incidents Teach Us About Cyber Readiness
▶ Aaron Jacobs, Principal Sales Engineer - Sophos

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12:15 12:45 Palo Alto (TBA)

12:45 13:45 LUNCH & TRADE EXHIBITION

13:45 14:15 Strategic Data Governance: Frameworks for driving Trust, Innovation and Value in Local Government
▶ Angela Johnson, Data & Information Governance Manager, Trust Advisory Digital Identity and Verifiable Credentials

14:15 14:55 ⌘ KEYNOTE: The Hard Reality of AI for LGAs
▶ Simon Kriss, Chief AI Officer - Simon Kriss AI

14:55 15:25 Cyber Uplift in Practice
▶ Danijel Andric, Chief Information Officer - Bayside council

15:25 15:55 AFTERNOON TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION

STREAM ONE | COUNCIL SHOWCASE Campbelltown City Council

15:55 16:20 How to Drive a Successful Transformation in Local Government
▶ Tasleem Ullah, ICT Program Manager - Campbelltown City Council

16:20 16:45 Practical Applications of AI in Local Government ICT
▶ Muhammad Saad Aslam, AI and Cyber Lead - Campbelltown City Council

STREAM TWO | COUNCIL SHOWCASE Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Technology Innovation Framework
▶ Jane Kercher, Technology Program Manager, Digital Technology & Customer Service - Port Macquarie Hastings Council

Integrations and workflow automation
▶ Mamoon Irshad, Corporate Applications Officer - Port Macquarie Hastings Council

16:45 CLOSE OF DAY TWO

18:30 19:00 NETWORKING AMONGST THE TRADE

19:00 21:30 CONFERENCE DINNER FUNCTION Sponsored by Nitro

21:30 23:00 AFTER DINNER FUNCTION - GMES ROOM Sponsored by Ethan Indigenous



DAY THREE | FRIDAY 26th September

08:50 09:00 COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

09:00 09:30 Cyber Secret Sauce

► Leanne Siveyer, Chief Information Officer - Sutherland Shire Council

09:30 10:00 Practical applications of A.I. in Local Government

► Jane Howard, Chief Information Officer - Penrith Council

10:00 10:30 ★ GOLD SPONSOR PRESENTATION: Optus

**10:30 11:15 MORNING TEA & TRADE EXHIBITION
PASSPORT DRAW in conference room**

11:15 12:15 ⌘ KEYNOTE: The Art of Future Thinking.

Find better answers to big problems by thinking like a futurist?

► Simon Waller

12:15 12:20 CLOSING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

12:20 GRAB & GO LUNCH

**Program subject to change without notice - please refer to website for details*

For all details on Accommodation, Cancellation Policies & Conditions of Entry
Registration & Bookings: www.lgit2025.coffslgconferences.com.au

Contact or for further details:

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Layne Beachley AO

Seven-time world surfing champion.

Layne Beachley AO is a force of nature. Seven-time world surfing champion, the only surfer (male or female) to win six consecutive world titles, and a woman whose impact reaches far beyond the surf. Her journey from adopted baby to global icon wasn't a smooth ride; it was forged through grit, guts and a deep commitment to growth. Layne's lived experience with mental health challenges, injury and personal loss has become the heartbeat of her message: Choice, not chance, determines our destiny.

Today, Layne is more than a champion athlete. She's a sought-after speaker, a fearless advocate for mental wellbeing, gender equality and environmental action, and a proud ambassador for organisations like Black Dog Institute, Gotcha4Life, and WWF Australia.

As the founder of **Awake Academy**, she's on a mission to help a million people thrive and live more fulfilled, purposeful lives through game-changing online programs, transformative workshops, and her new book *Awake Academy – Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*.

And yes—she's a Gen X baby who grew up rewinding cassette tapes with a pencil, mastering the art of the mixtape, and dominating Pong and Space Invaders before surfing the real waves. From Atari joysticks to powerful purpose, Layne knows how to play and win, on every level.



Dr Michelle Dickinson

Nanotechnologist, and award-winning science communicator.

Dr. Michelle Dickinson (MNZM) is a renowned nanotechnologist and materials engineer with over two decades of experience in leading technological breakthroughs across various fields, including medical applications and solutions for startups and established corporations. She founded New Zealand's only nanomechanical testing laboratory, helping companies translate groundbreaking ideas into tangible realities. Michelle's expertise is highly sought after by investors and venture capitalists for navigating the high-tech investment landscape, emphasising the importance of clear science communication and fostering diversity in engineering teams.

Her personal journey of overcoming challenges through education inspired her to co-found Nanogirl Labs, with a mission to make STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) engaging and accessible for everyone. Nanogirl Labs offers captivating content and interactive learning experiences, empowering individuals from all backgrounds to understand and create technology. Initiatives like "The Kitchen Science Cookbook" and STEM education programs in the Pacific Islands highlight her commitment to breaking down barriers and fostering scientific exploration. Michelle's numerous accolades, including the Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit and the Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award, underscore her significant impact on science and society.



Simon Waller

Author, international speaker and futurist.

After completing postgraduate studies in foresight and future thinking, Simon worked in scenario planning and strategy development for the global mining company Rio Tinto.

Since leaving corporate life, Simon has gone on to support dozens of organisations, deliver hundreds of keynotes, and speak to thousands of business leaders on how future thinking techniques can help them find better answers to their biggest and most pressing challenges. Over the last decade, Simon has worked with local councils and communities, as well as other government-related organisations across Australia and New Zealand. Simon holds a Master of Business Leadership, a Graduate Certificate in Future Studies, a Bachelor of Commerce, and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Simon is also an author and recently published his third book, *The Scenario Planning Guide: How scenario planning can be used to align thinking, stimulate ideas, and overcome the inertia of uncertainty*.



Find the speaker biographies and full list of sponsors
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