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Conference & Dinner

10-11 November 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Alice Springs

Navigating Change: Creating Opportunities for Communities



Daniel Milne
MC



Ali Ahmadi
Keynote Speaker



Peter Pangquee BM
President, LGANT



Matt Burnett
President, ALGA



Hon Steve Edgington MLA
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development, Northern Territory Government



Max Duncan
CEO, Groote Archipelago Regional Council



Tracy Whitelaw
Chief Digital Officer, LGAQ



Wayne Snell
Chief Officer, Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services



Elia Hill
Head of Local Government and Industry Partnerships – Tennis Australia, Tennis NT



Kylie Spears
President, ALGWA



Tom Leeming
CEO, Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development



Julie Love
Employee Relations Services Manager, WALGA



Karen Hocking
A/Director Learning and Development, Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development



Athina Pascoe-Bell
Mayor, City of Palmerston

Navigating Change: Creating Opportunities for Communities

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 10 November

7:30am	**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**
8:20am	**Opening** MC Daniel Milne
8:25am	**Welcome to Country** Kumalie Kngwarraye, Tingkabee
8:30am	**Minister's Address** Hon Steve Edgington MLA, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development
9:30am	**Official Opening** Peter Pangquee BM, LGANT President
9:40am	**National Local Government Address** Matt Burnett, ALGA President
10:10am	**MORNING TEA**
10:30am	**JLT Public Sector** Katie McGettigan, Executive Manager NT
10:40am	**The Map Forward** Ali Ahmadi, Keynote Speaker
11:25am	**Roads, Rates and Rapid Prototypes: How LGAQ is Helping Queensland Councils Put AI to Work** Tracy Whitelaw, Chief Digital Officer, LGAQ
12:10pm	**Council Connects: Community Engagement** Kate Walsh, Manager Community and Cultural Development, Alice Springs Town Council Brooke Hutchinson, Community Engagement & Arts Officer, Alice Springs Town Council
12:25pm	**LUNCH**
1:25pm	**Game, Set, Community: Partnering with Local Government for Greater Impact** Elia Hill, Head of Local Government and Industry Partnerships, Tennis Australia
1:55pm	**Communication in Chambers Masterclass** Kylie Spears, ALGWA President
2:40pm	**Local Government Department Update** Tom Leeming, CEO, Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
3:10pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**
3:30pm	**Review of AGM Agenda**
5:00pm	**END OF DAY 1 PROCEEDINGS**
5:45pm & 6:00pm	**Bus departs**
6:30pm	**DINNER**

DAY 2 – Wednesday, 11 November

7:15am	**Optional: ALGWA NT Breakfast** Separate registration required	
8:30am	**ARRIVAL TEA/COFFEE (REGISTRATIONS OPEN)**	
9:00am	**Opening remarks**	
9:05am	**Navigating Employee Relations in the Age of AI** Julie Love, Employee Relations Services Manager, WALGA	
9:25am	**CEO Recruitment and Performance Review Training** Karen Hocking, A/Director Learning and Development, Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	
10:10am	**From Infrastructure to Activation: Creating Places for People** Athina Pascoe-Bell, Mayor, City of Palmerston	
10:25am	**The Establishment of GARC** Max Duncan, CEO, Groote Archipelago Regional Council	
10:40am	**MORNING TEA**	
10:58am	**Remembrance Day Acknowledgement** Commencing at 10:58am, including a one-minute silence at 11:00am	
11:03am	**Music Territory. Local Music, Local Government** Mark Smith, Executive Director, MusicNT	
11:33am	**Concurrent Sessions (Closed – Members Only)**	
	Regional and Shire Forum • **Building Remote Music Touring Networks, with Artback NT** Michelle Bell, CEO, ArtBackNT Rachel Small, Lead Tour Producer – Performing Arts, ArtBackNT • **Roundtable: In Conversation – Remote Communities, Aboriginal Leadership and Local Government** Marion Scrymgour MP, Special Envoy for Remote Communities and Member for Lingiari	**Municipal Forum** Open Discussion
1:03pm	**LUNCH**	
2:03pm	**Video Message from Minister McBain** Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Emergency Management | Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories	
2:13pm	**Emergency Management, Preparedness and Disaster Response** Wayne Snell, Chief Officer, Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services	
2:43pm	**Annual General Meeting**	
4:13pm	**AFTERNOON TEA**	
4:28pm	**Annual General Meeting** – Continued	
4:53pm	**END OF DAY 2 PROCEEDINGS AND CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**	

For more information about our presenters, please scan here



Mark Smith
Executive Director, MusicNT



Marion Scrymgour MP
Special Envoy for Remote Communities and Member for Lingiari



Kate Walsh
Manager Community and Cultural Development, Alice Springs Town Council



Brooke Hutchinson
Community Engagement & Arts Officer, Alice Springs Town Council



Michelle Bell
CEO, ArtBack NT



Rachel Small
Lead Tour Producer, ArtBack NT