

SCU's Law School has developed a unique short course available by distance education, offering you the opportunity to enhance your skills and knowledge on legal research, local government and planning law, consultation, mediation and dispute resolution.

This course will be of great benefit to current and future local council employees, as well as elected councillors across NSW.

*Cr Genia McCaffery*  
*President of the Local Government Association of NSW*

Southern Cross University now offers you a short course in

Local  
Government  
& Planning  
Law

# Now you can take a short course in Local Government & Planning Law at a time and place that best suits you

A recent skills audit of local government employees identified a significant and worrying shortage of planners in local government. That's why Southern Cross University's School of Law has developed this special short course for staff at Local Councils and for elected Councillors.

The course has been specifically designed to provide background and knowledge of planning law to expand career options for Council staff as well as enhance the knowledge of elected Councillors so both gain a better understanding of planning law and planning issues.

Planning has become one of the critical areas for all Councillors, as is the issue of how Councils should consult with residents and other stakeholders. That's why the aim of this course is to provide legal knowledge and skills concerning local government and planning law to people working in the area.

Best of all, if you wish to continue with tertiary studies after completing this short course, you will be given advanced standing towards Southern Cross University's Associate Degree in Law (Paralegal Studies), Bachelor of Legal and Justice Studies, Bachelor of Social Science or Bachelor of Arts degrees.

**The course will be offered on a full fee paying basis at a cost of \$1050 per unit.**

## short course structure

There are four units in this short course, three of which are compulsory or core units. You choose the remaining unit from a selection of three electives.

### LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

**a core unit**

This unit introduces students to a law library, and develops the skills necessary to locate, use and apply law reports, statutes, and secondary legal sources, using both computer assisted legal research and hard copy methods. It will also examine the principles of good legal writing, including an understanding of the use and preparation of legal research material, and provide an introduction to drafting using "plain" legal language to prepare legal documents.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING LAW

**a core unit**

Local government has significant powers over the environment, and additional delegated authority under the Local Government Act 1993 NSW. This unit examines the crucial role of local government in relation to environmental decision-making, and its powers and functions generally. It also provides a comprehensive grasp of planning laws within New South Wales and provides a critical perspective on these laws.

### CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

**a core unit**

This unit introduces strategies for identifying those likely to be affected by decisions and explores the notions of participation and consultation within a variety of contexts, examining a number of ways in which consultation and participation can assist decision making. It applies this knowledge to organisational and community settings with a particular emphasis on local government.

### LAW AND GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING an elective

This unit provides an introduction to the basic principles of government decision-making and to the role of tribunals, courts and the Ombudsman in enabling people to challenge federal government decisions that affect them, including the mechanisms by which the power exercised by governments and public officials may be reviewed and regulated.

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

**an elective**

Environmental law impacts on many areas of practice. It encompasses laws of planning and pollution control, as well as laws dealing with land and nature conservation. As society's awareness of environmental issues increases, the area of environmental law is rapidly expanding. The theoretical framework of environmental law provides important insights into government practice and policy with respect to the environment.

### MEDIATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

**an elective**

This unit examines the theory and applications of conflict resolution and alternative dispute resolution. Students will be grounded with a thorough understanding of the major theories and approaches to mediation, conflict, negotiation, resolution and reconciliation.

# how to apply

For more information or to apply,  
please contact:

Phone: 02 6620 3109

Email: [lawrecep@scu.edu.au](mailto:lawrecep@scu.edu.au)

Or visit [www.scu.edu.au/law](http://www.scu.edu.au/law)