



# Whither Local Government?

18 MARCH 4-7 PM  
MITCHELL THEATRE  
SYDNEY MECHANICS'  
SCHOOL OF ARTS  
280 PITT STREET,  
SYDNEY NSW

Local Government is usually seen as the poor relation of our three tiers of government, not least because it is not recognised in the Australian Constitution and is heavily dependent on the goodwill of State government. On one hand it is extolled as the arm of government "closest to the people", while on the other it is seen as too small and most susceptible to corruption. It is also argued that its future viability depends on direct access to Federal financial support. Our very knowledgeable speakers will explore these and other aspects of the subject.

4.00pm

**Dr Bob Solomon**  
Chairman AIUS (NSW)

## Welcome

**Hon Patricia Forsythe**  
Executive Director, Sydney  
Chamber of Commerce

## "Reforming local government to meet the needs of a world city"

The recommendations and implications of the two reports commissioned by the Chamber, "Who's governing Sydney?" (2007) and "Governance arrangements for Sydney local government authorities" (2008), will be examined and discussed.

**Jennifer Dennis**  
Local Government planner

## "Filling the gaps -- or more?"

What will be the impact of reforms? Where to from here? What will be the future of local government planning? Will local government be reduced to filling the gaps? The speaker looks particularly to the future of local government practice.

**Prof Percy Allan**  
Chairman and Research  
Director, Review Today Pty  
Ltd

## "The future of local government in the Australian Federation"

The infrastructure crisis in local government may be the catalyst that causes Australians to reassess the division of powers and funding between Commonwealth, State and Local governments. A voter backlash to over-centralisation of power, especially at State level, could force a break-up of the States into smaller regional governments and the emergence of local Councils as relevant institutions. This would bring Australia's political governance and possibly its settlement planning more into line with that of other developed countries.

Discussion

Panel of Speakers

5.30pm

Refreshment Break

7.00pm

Close