

# Women for council

IN the year of Women in Local Government, the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) are encouraging women to consider careers in Local Government.

President of the Local Government Association of NSW, Cr Genia McCaffery, said councils were working hard to encourage more female executives and councillors, with the LGSA providing training to facilitate an increase in women applying for and gaining senior positions and leadership roles.

"While 45 per cent of NSW council employees are women,

only seven per cent of general managers and less than a third of councillors are women," Cr McCaffery said.

"We now have a female prime minister, a female premier and a female governor-general, and we want to see more women become mayors, councillors, senior staff and CEOs of our councils."

According to Canterbury Council's Cr Linda Eisler, building a rewarding career in Local Government can help you make a difference in the local community.

"Before I stood for Local Government, I was a primary school teacher and active in union poli-

tics," Cr Eisler said.

"I only became involved in a political party after I attended a meeting with local politicians before a federal election. It was organised by the Teachers Federation and I was quite vocal in my questioning of candidates on Public Education issues. As a result I was asked to join an Education Policy Group and through that involvement, decided the Greens were the party I needed to join and as they say, 'the rest is history'."

Cr Eisler said being involved in politics meant being involved with the community.

"I enjoy talking and relating to people," she said.

"I like assisting in finding solutions to my community's issues, whether it is a bus seat for the elderly, fixing up a footpath, assisting with a road closure for a Christmas party, getting bike signage or extra bins in the parks.

"If you enjoy people, have a passion to improve lives and the environment, then get involved in Local Government as a councillor, community activist, or as member of one of the many committees council supports."

For further information, go to [lgsa.org.au](http://lgsa.org.au).