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Role of Local Government

What do councils do?

Councils control such things as garbage removal, local roads, buildings, parks and libraries, child care, youth services, social planning and the local environment in general as well as many other resident services.

Councils work together with both the Federal and State Governments in a number of areas, like making sure that the risk of damage from flooding is as small as possible.

What makes up a local council?

Each local council is governed by a group of people called councillors.

The leader of the councillors is called the mayor. In Sydney, Parramatta, Newcastle and Wollongong, the leader of the council is called the lord mayor.

The council meets in the council chambers on a regular basis to discuss local issues and to make decisions on behalf of the local community.

County councils are formed by individual local councils who join together. In that way, they can perform those jobs which are better done by more than one council. They have specific jobs to do, for example, flood control or water supply or weed control. Sometimes councils join a regional organisation of councils. This is a good way for local councils to get together and discuss issues which affect more than one council, for example, job creation or regional planning or air pollution. Sharing resources and expertise allows individual councils to save money.

How councils are governed?

Each local council has between five and fifteen councillors. Their role is to make decisions about the running of the community and the council. By consulting with their community, they discover