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**Active Women of the North East share their experiences in local government**

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) North East Network recently held one of their triannual meetings at Strathbogrie Shire Council Chambers.

The group get together to network, share ideas, achievements and learnings with one another.

The North East ALGWA Network was established over 10 years ago and is now one of the only regional networks still operating.

Chair and Mansfield Shire Councillor Marg Attley has been involved with the group since its formation and said its longevity is a testament to the amount of active women in North East local government.

"There is some great work being done by women in local government and this group is really beneficial for support and mentorship," Cr Attley said.

At the recent meeting, Strathbogrie shared their Bogie Bulk Buy success story, which has seen nearly 500kW of solar installed at over 90 households and businesses in one of the country's fastest growing solar bulk buy programs.

Strathbogrie's Bogie Bulk Buy program model has now been picked up by six other Councils in Victoria.

Strathbogrie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said she has found the North East ALGWA Network hugely beneficial, particularly when she was starting out in her first term and juggling mayoral life and commitments to her young family.

"There is so much value in networking, sharing experiences and hearing how each Council approaches things differently," Cr McClaren explained.

"These types of groups are integral to ensuring we continue to inspire women to get involved in local government and leadership."

There has been significant progress made by women in local government of late, with the highest number of women Mayors ever elected in Victoria's history last year.

"We have seen huge progress and we want this to continue to grow," Cr McClaren said.

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