

IPAA NSW Spann Oration 2025 with Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

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Key details

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| Date: | Monday 15 September |
| Time: | 3PM – 5PM |
| Speaker: | Governor of NSW, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC |
| Host: | Institute of Public Administration Australia NSW Division (IPAA NSW) |
| Venue: | NSW Parliament House Theatre |
| Media entry: | From 2.30PM via Macquarie Street Gate House |

Media Enquiries

Pragya Bhatnagar
Thought Leadership and Relationship Management Principal
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About the Event:

History: A Legacy of Thought Leadership in Public Administration

Since 1983, the Spann Oration, a distinguished address, provided a national platform for profound reflection on public purpose, good governance, and the enduring values of public service. In 2025, IPAA NSW proudly marks its 90th anniversary with the Oration's return.

The Spann Oration honours the legacy of Professor Richard Neville Spann, a foundational figure in Australian public administration and long-time Chair of Government and Public Administration at the University of Sydney (1954–1981). Each Oration pays tribute to his belief in the centrality of ethical, capable, and future-focused public institutions.

Over the decades, the Oration has attracted some of the most respected voices in public leadership and policy, including Dr Lisa O'Brien, Lord Gus O'Donnell, Anna Bligh, The Hon Nick Greiner AC, Ann Sherry AO, Dr Peter Shergold AC, Sir Michael Barber and Elizabeth Proust AO.

Together, these speakers have shaped a legacy of ideas and insight that continue to influence the culture and systems of the public sector.

Spann Oration 2025

The Spann Oration will be delivered by Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, the 39th Governor of New South Wales. With a remarkable legal career spanning more than four decades, Her Excellency has served as a trailblazer and role model at the highest levels of Australia's judiciary. Her commitment to justice, equity, and public leadership exemplifies the very principles the Spann Oration seeks to uphold.

As public servants and system stewards navigate an era of rapid change and growing complexity, the 2025 Spann Oration offers a rare opportunity to reflect on our shared responsibilities—and to draw inspiration from a tradition of public service anchored in principle, purpose, and professionalism.

This year's address echoes the inaugural speech delivered by The Honourable Sir Phillip Whistler Street, Lieutenant Governor of NSW, in 1935 at the founding of IPAA NSW. It will reaffirm the Oration's role in shaping a public sector that is not only fit for today's challenges, but committed to the long-term prosperity and wellbeing of the people of New South Wales.

The prestigious Oration will be followed by light refreshments and canapés.

Biography: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW



Official Image of Her Excellency: [Low Res \(JPG\) 587 KB](#) or [High Res \(JPG\) 795 KB](#)

Official Image of Her Excellency and Mr Wilson: [Low Res \(JPG\) 824 KB](#) or [High Res \(JPG\) 824 KB](#)

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC is the 39th Governor of New South Wales, and was sworn-in on 2 May 2019.

Prior to her appointment as Governor, Her Excellency enjoyed a long and distinguished law career spanning 43 years, during which time she served as a role model for women in law at both the State and national level.

Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1989, in 1993 she was made a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, the first woman to sit exclusively in that Court. In 1996, she achieved the distinction of being the first woman appointed to the New South Wales Court of Appeal and, subsequently, as the first woman to be appointed as its President. She served, on a number of occasions, as Administrator of the Government of the State of New South Wales.

She was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List on 26 January 2020 for "eminent service to the people of New South Wales, particularly through leadership roles in the judiciary, and as a mentor of young women lawyers."

Her Excellency has three children - Erin, Lauren and Anthony Sullivan - and is married to Mr. Dennis Wilson, a solicitor, mediator, accredited international arbitrator and Adjunct Professor of Law, at Notre Dame University, Sydney.

Her Excellency brings her deep commitment to education, youth leadership, human rights and social justice to the role in service of the people of New South Wales.

Biography: Mr Dennis Wilson



Official Image: [Low Res \(JPG\) 911 KB](#) or [High Res \(JPG\) 28 MB](#)

Mr Dennis Wilson is a solicitor, mediator, and accredited international arbitrator, whose work generally includes difficult cases in both fact and law, dealing in matters of high value or involving significant principle. He is a long-standing member of the legal profession in Australia and has advised on legislative review and policy development and implementation in environmental law and in the mining and resources sectors. Mr Wilson has a particular interest in the World Trade Organisation, the Energy Charter Treaty, Mining and Oil and Gas law and dispute resolution.

Mr Wilson, is an Adjunct Professor of Law, at Notre Dame University, Sydney.

Biography: Mark Webb, President, IPAA NSW



Official Image: [Mark Webb](#)

Mark Webb was elected as President - IPAA NSW in 2022, and then re-elected in 2024. He is the Chief Executive of the NSW Department of Parliamentary Services, a specialist service department working to support the operation of the NSW Parliament by providing logistical support and advice to Members of Parliament, the Departments of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly and the people of NSW.

Mark has worked across the private and public sectors, including 15 years in senior executive roles in the federal public sector, the NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet, the NSW Public Service Commission, the Office of Environment & Heritage and the Department of Planning & Environment. Mark also has experience in the delivery of public services by the not-for-profit sector, through his role on the board of Community First Step, a NFP organisation supporting the Fairfield community.

Mark holds bachelor degrees in Engineering (BEng) and Science (BSc), as well as a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and has completed the Executive Fellows Program at ANZSOG. As well as being a member of IPAA NSW for nearly a decade, he is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Biography: Jo Rose, CEO, IPAA NSW



Official Image: [Jo Rose](#)

As the CEO of IPAA NSW, Jo oversees the strategic direction of the organisation.

She liaises between Council, staff and key stakeholders to ensure IPAA's offerings are aligned with the changing needs of the public sector. Jo is also responsible for the design of IPAA NSW's integrated program, ensuring it remains focused on contemporary, NSW public sector stories.

Jo is passionate about members and ensuring we create an environment where all voices are heard, where diversity is celebrated, and where we honour the knowledge and experiences of everyone through a deep sense of belonging. Jo has led IPAA's digital transformation, the revitalisation of our learning program and the design of IPAA's private sector partnerships.

Prior to IPAA, Jo worked as an advocate for the creative industries and was an award-winning film and TV producer.

Embargoed Materials

Strictly not for publication or broadcast until delivery begins on Monday, 15 September at 3PM. Breaches of embargo may result in loss of accreditation for future IPAA events.

Key Highlights

The Governor's speech will explore how our democratic and administrative institutions remain resilient, relevant and trusted in a rapidly changing environment with the underlying theme revolving around Institutions, Integrity, Trust and Stewardship.

Key themes to be addressed include:

- **The rule of law** – the foundation of fairness, justice and public confidence in governance
- **The intersection between institutions** – how they collaborate, overlap and balance each other
- **Institutional tools in practice** – for example, the use of Standing Orders in the NSW Parliament to ensure accountability and transparency
- **The monitoring of institutions** – the role of oversight in maintaining integrity
- **Institutions with minimal impact** – why some bodies struggle to remain effective and what can be learned from them
- **Integrity and trust** – the essential virtues that underpin strong, enduring public institutions

The Spann Oration, since its very establishment, has become a hallmark event for exploring pivotal issues in public administration and governance. This year's address will provide timely insights into how institutions can continue to strengthen trust, stewardship and integrity across the public sector.

Event Program (Indicative)

- 2:00pm: IPAA Team arrives for setup
- 2:30pm: Media arrives for registration and tech checks
- 2:45pm: Guests seated
- 2:50pm: Her Excellency and IPAA NSW President arrive and join for tech checks
- 3:00pm: From the lectern - IPAA NSW President welcomes attendees and hands to the Governor
- 3:03pm: From the lectern – Her Excellency delivers Oration
- 3:48pm: IPAA NSW President facilitates fireside discussion
- 3:58pm: Closing Remarks by IPAA NSW President
- 4:00pm: Event close for Media

Media Protocols & Guidelines

Accreditation and Entry

- All media must register in advance with Pragma Bhatnagar (02 8066 1913, pragya@nsw.ipaa.org.au)
- All media persons to carry ID cards
- Equipment needs to be put through the security scanner at the entrance, oversized equipment might require prior permissions.

Access & Photography

- Limited press photography permitted – please follow direction from Parliamentary staff
- Media crews may set up equipment 30 minutes before commencement.

Interview Opportunities

- The Governor may/may not be available for one-on-one interviews
- Requests for interviews to be sent to Pragma Bhatnagar (02 8066 1913, pragya@nsw.ipaa.org.au)
- IPAA NSW President and CEO will be available for comment post-event
- IPAA NSW CEO will be available pre-event.

Protocol

- Please stand when the Governor enters the room
- The Governor's full style and title is: **Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales.**
- When first presented to the Governor it is customary to address her as **"Your Excellency"** and, from then on, as **"Ma'am"** or **"Governor"**. The Governor's husband is addressed as **"Mr `Wilson"** or **"Sir"** at all times.

Dress Code

- Business attire or smart causal allowed. Singlets, thongs and offensive branding is prohibited.

Additional Resources

- Media-ready photographs to be shared after the event - please contact Barbara Knezevic (barbara@nsw.ipaa.org.au)
- [Background on IPAA NSW](#)
- [IPAA NSW Logo](#)
- [Spann Oration Logo](#)