



Position vacant – Policy Officer (Graduate)

A Policy Officer (Graduate) position is vacant at the LGSA.

Registration is open for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2012

The LGSA Tourism Conference is back for its eighth year. Book now and take advantage of the Early Bird registration fee, which ends on Thursday, 31 January 2012.

Expressions of Interest to host 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference

The LGSA is calling on Expressions of Interest (EOI) to host the 2013 Water Management Conference by Friday, 13 April 2012.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

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Email subscription

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In December 2011, Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director General of the Strategic Division at the NSW Ministry of Health launched the new Health Statistics website.

Item 7: Avoid Mosquitoes this summer

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Item 8: Water safety - swimming

NSW Government Emergency Services Minister, The Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC, and NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon. Don Page MP, are reminding people to be safe and responsible when around water over the summer holidays.

Item 9: National Quality Framework

Early childhood education and care services from Sunday, 1 January 2012 are transitioning to a new national scheme.

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The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) invites participants from your council to participate in its first workshop targeting Local Government representatives.

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The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has drafted new Regional Pest Management Strategies for weed and pest animal management of national parks and reserves across NSW available for public comment.

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The *NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* (WHS Regulation) was published on Friday, 16 December 2011.

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Learning Solutions can arrange in-house workshops to enable you to communicate confidently, deliver presentations and provide constructive feedback.

Item 14: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – February 2012

Local Government Learning Solutions is offering a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Griffith and Albury.

Planning

Item 15: Building Professionals Board Consultations - future scope of NSW building certification system

The Building Professionals Board (BPB) will be holding consultation sessions across NSW in February and March 2012 to invite public input into the future scope of the building certification system in NSW.

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General Interest

Item 2: Registration is open for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2012

The LGSA Tourism Conference is back for its eighth year. Book now and take advantage of the Early Bird registration fee, which ends on Thursday, 31 January 2012.

This year's Conference Program will foster an interesting debate on the benefits and challenges of tourism in a destination where coal mining, agriculture and tourism have to sit side by side in the 'Koala Capital of the World'.

Gunnedah Shire Council is experiencing high mid-week occupancy due to the busy business and mining resources boom. We are urging you to book your accommodation now. It's time to *Check In!*

Visit the Conference website to see listed properties (available at the time of publishing) or call the VIC on 1800 KOALAS to discuss bookings, home stay programs or sharing options. Please avoid booking serviced apartments as these do not provide short term stays. If you experience difficulties call our office on 02 9242 4050.

The theme of the Conference is '**Check In or Check Out! Does your service meet your visitors' expectations?**', and is presented in partnership with Destination New South Wales, the Tourism Industry Council, industry partners and sponsors.

There will be a great line up of speakers including a keynote address by Penny Burke, Director, Author, Speaker and Brand Advertiser who will feature '**Perception is Reality – it's not about you, it's about your customers!**' Penny is creator of the 'Not Happy Jan...' advertisement for Yellow Pages.

The draft program is now available on the website. Don't miss the only Local Government focused Tourism Conference in NSW - by the industry for the industry.



LGSA Tourism Conference
Monday 12 – Wednesday 14
March 2012

Host

Gunnedah Shire Council

Website

www.tourismconference.lgsa.org.au

Further Information

Jann Hing
LGSA Events Coordinator
02 9242 4031
events@lgsa.org.au

Registrations

Early Bird by 31 January: \$550
Register by 29 February: \$660

Accommodation

Gunnedah Visitors Information
Centre
1800 KOALAS (1800 562 527)

Ref: R11/0010 JH

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General Interest

Item 3: Expressions of Interest to host 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference

The LGSA is calling on Expressions of Interest (EOI) to host the 2013 Water Management Conference by Friday, 13 April 2012.

This annual event provides a platform for discussion on issues such as urban water supply and sewerage, as well as other broader water management issues.

The event attracts up to 250 delegates from NSW and interstate, including councillors and council general managers, water managers and professionals, policy makers from government agencies, and key industry stakeholders.

Criteria for the expressions of interest are available on the Water Management Conference website.

Submissions will be evaluated in April/May and applicants will be advised of the outcome in approximately mid-May 2012.

EOI closes

13 April 2012

Website

www.WaterConference.lgsa.org.au

Further information

Jann Hing

LGSA

02 9242 4031

jann.hing@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R00/0027 JH

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General Interest

Item 4: Position vacant – Policy Officer (Graduate)

A Policy Officer (Graduate) position is vacant at the LGSA.

The position will contribute to the development and shaping of LGSA policies, by assisting with select projects in the Policy Division.

The position requires:

- Recent tertiary qualifications.
- Demonstrated skills in undertaking research.
- Good understanding of the role of Australian, NSW and Local Governments.
- Flexibility to meet changing priorities.
- Written and oral communication skills.
- Computer skills.

The position is being offered on a full time basis and at a salary of \$51,076 per annum on commencement.

Applications close

Friday, 10 February

Applications to

Director Policy, LGSA, GPO Box
7003, Sydney NSW 2001

For an information package

Email Emma Moxon

emma.moxon@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R11/0039

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Community

Item 5: Falls Prevention – from windows and balconies

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) NSW President, Associate Professor Brian Owler is reminding parents of the potential fall hazards for children from windows and balconies.

Online Information

<http://kidshealth.chw.edu.au/projects/falls-windows-and-balconies>

Ref: R90/0830-02 MB

The Children's Hospital Westmead has also issued a warning and provided information on hazards of windows and balconies for children through their *Kids Don't Fly* campaign. Fact sheets and posters have been developed as an educational resource for communities and are available online (see fact box).

With the increase in families living in high rise buildings there is concerns that the number of children who will fall from a window or balcony will rise.

The LGSA urge councils to remind parents in their communities be aware of and take precautions against the fall hazards for children from windows and balconies.

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Community

Item 6: Health Statistics website

In December 2011, Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director General of the Strategic Division at the NSW Ministry of Health launched the new Health Statistics website.

Online information

<http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au>

Ref: R96/0060-02 MB

The website provides an overview of key population health indicators and topics, including health priorities trends and information on:

- The health status and demography of the NSW community.
- Health inequalities and the determinants of health.
- The burden of disease and current health challenges.
- Trends in health and comparisons between age groups and geographic locations.

The website will be updated regularly to add new indicators and existing data. There is also a section on the website that highlights 'New and Updated' statistics as they are posted.

The data will be comprehensive and will assist Local Health Districts, Local Government Areas and Divisions of General Practice to assist with local planning.

The LGSA will work closely with NSW Ministry of Health to develop a training package to assist councils in using this new online resource most effectively.

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Community

Item 7: Avoid Mosquitoes this summer

The NSW Ministry of Health is encouraging communities and visitors in southern and western NSW to take extra precautions in protecting themselves against mosquitoes following the recent detection of the Murray Valley Encephalitis (MVE) virus in sentinel chickens.

NSW Health Director of Health Protection, Dr. Jeremy McNaulty advised that the recent detection is a reminder for people to protect themselves by trying to avoid mosquito bites and recognise the symptoms of mosquito borne viruses.

Mosquitoes also carry other human diseases including Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and Kunjin viruses that can cause fever, rash and joint pains.

There is no specific treatment for these viruses so prevention depends on avoiding mosquito bites through a few simple steps:

- Cover up when outside as much possible.
- Use effective repellent on exposed skin.
- Use mosquito coils and vapourising mats when indoors.
- Cover all windows, doors, vents and other entrances with insect bites.

The LGSA encourage councils to access the fact sheets on mosquito borne viruses on the NSW Ministry of Health's website (see fact box) and promote the information to communities that may be concerned.

Online information

Murray River Encephalitis (MVE)
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/murray_valley_enceph.html

Ross River Fever
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/rossriver.html>

Barmah Forest virus
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/barmah_forest_virus.html

Ref: R90/0355-03 MB

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Community

Item 8: Water safety - swimming

NSW Government Emergency Services Minister, The Hon. Michael Gallacher MLC, and NSW Local Government Minister, The Hon. Don Page MP, are reminding people to be safe and responsible when around water over the summer holidays.

Clear key messages to encourage increased water safety are as follows:

- Be aware of any unlocked or faulty pool gates.
- Keep a close watch on toddlers around inflatable pools.
- Be cautious of sea conditions.
- Swim between the flags.
- Take care of yourself and those around you when near the water.

The Royal Life Saving Society is also warning people to take care in, on or around water to further ensure that there are not more tragic drowning deaths. The 2011 NSW Drowning report was released in mid-December reporting 107 lives lost as a result of drowning. One third of these occur in rivers, which tops the list of drowning locations.

The LGSA encourages councils to further promote these important messages of water safety throughout the community.

Online information

<http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/>

2011 National Drowning report

<http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/www/html/157-national-drowning-reports.asp?intSiteID=1>

Ref: R90/0024-07 MB

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Community

Item 9: National Quality Framework

Early childhood education and care services from Sunday, 1 January 2012 are transitioning to a new national scheme.

Quality assessment and ratings will be carried out by the NSW Department of Education and Communities and are expected to begin mid-2012.

For the time being, service providers will continue to submit paper based application and approval forms which can be found at the new Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website (see fact box). Services are will be given a 'provisional' rating until they are formally assessed.

To enquire about the applications process please contact the Department of Education and Communities (see fact box). For more details on assessment and ratings and a guide to developing a quality plan visit the Department's website.

Online information

www.acecqa.gov.au

Further information

www.det.nsw.edu.au/what-we-offer/early-childhood-education-and-care

Contact

Department of Education and Communities
1800 619 113

Ref: R99/0036-02 RP

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Environment

Item 10: Local Government Workshop: *What are the cross-scale barriers to climate change adaptation in Local Government?*

The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) invites participants from your council to participate in its first workshop targeting Local Government representatives.

ISF plans to collectively identify and rank some of the critical barriers to climate adaptation planning, and capture the processes that give rise to these barriers.

Specifically, ISF aims to answer the following questions:

- Which critical barriers did you encounter during your adaptation planning or implementing response stages?
- What underlying conditions do you think gave rise to the barrier?
- How do you think it can, or was, overcome?

Research findings will be made available to policy and decision makers across all scales of government to raise awareness about barriers and help to enable effective adaptation planning and implementation.

The 'Conversation' will appeal to a range of Local Government representatives - specific council representatives may come from the following areas:

- Sustainability & environment teams.
- Land use and development planning.
- General Managers & executive team representatives.
- Infrastructure management, utilities & engineers.
- Policy, planning and finance team representatives.
- Community engagement team representatives.

Please feel free to forward this to relevant people within your council.

Workshop Date

Tuesday, 31 January 2012

Location

UTS Building 10,
235 Jones St, Ultimo, Sydney

Contact

Anna Gero
02 9514 4605
anna.gero@uts.edu.au

Ref: R90/1011

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Environment

Item 11: Regional Pest Management Strategies available for public comment

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has drafted new Regional Pest Management Strategies for weed and pest animal management of national parks and reserves across NSW available for public comment.

Each of the 14 NPWS regions has prepared a new Draft Regional Pest Management Strategy for public exhibition until Wednesday, 29 February 2012. All submissions received before the end of the exhibition period will be considered before finalising the strategies early in 2012.

The strategies have been prepared to provide a strategic approach to pest management on lands managed by the NPWS under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. They aim to minimise adverse impacts of pests on biodiversity, protected areas and the community.

These strategies recognise that pest species are a problem across the landscape. Programs are developed and often carried out in collaboration with neighbours, other government agencies, Livestock Health and Pest Authorities, councils, regional pest committees, universities and community groups.

The new Regional Pest Management Strategies are divided into Part A and Part B. Part A is common to all 14 regions and provides the broader planning framework for the management of pests by NPWS. Part B describes the local circumstances within each NPWS Region and applies the Part A framework to prioritise specific pest management programs.

Electronic copies of the draft strategies can be downloaded online (see fact box). Submissions can be made electronically to the contact email detailed in each strategy.

Please provide the LGSA a copy of any submissions made, particularly if there are issues which could be pursued on a state-wide basis. These can be forwarded to, Geoff Hudson, Senior Policy Officer - Natural Resource Management at geoff.hudson@lgsa.org.au.

Comment due

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

Online Information

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds/RegionPestManagement.htm>

Contact

Geoff Hudson
Senior Policy Officer - Natural Resource Management
geoff.hudson@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0321 KM

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Industrial Relations

Item 12: NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 published

The *NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* (WHS Regulation) was published on Friday, 16 December 2011.

The WHS Regulation and the *NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act) both commenced operation on Sunday, 1 January 2012.

The *WHS Act* and the WHS Regulation can be found on the NSW legislation website (see fact box).

Online Information

www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

Contact

LGSA Industrial Officers
02 9242 4142

Ref: I11/0016 PB

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Learning

Item 13: In-house Training Services – Presentation and Communication Skills Workshops

Learning Solutions can arrange in-house workshops to enable you to communicate confidently, deliver presentations and provide constructive feedback.

Dynamic Presentation Skills

If you want to hook your audience and get your message across more effectively, with a “call to action” then this workshop is for you. It will make you more confident and dynamic when delivering presentations.

Assertiveness Skills

Do you want to communicate more clearly and confidently? Would you like to get your ideas across in a respectful, considerate, effective way? Would you benefit from feeling more in control of yourself when talking to others? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this program is for you!

Communicating Effectively

So many of us struggle with various situations, such as needing to say ‘no’ to unreasonable requests, listening effectively, dealing with ‘difficult’ people, or effectively using the various modes of communication. This workshop is designed to help you become more successful and effective in your interpersonal relationships by enhancing your communication skills in critical areas.

Giving and Receiving Feedback

It is important for staff to be aware of how they are doing at work and to know whether they are meeting performance expectations. The better the feedback, the clearer everyone is about expected performance. This workshop covers both the essentials in setting performance expectations and the skills and approaches required to become more effective when providing feedback to your staff.

Further information

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/153-in-house-training-services.asp>

Contact

Judy Archer
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4180
learning@lgsa.org

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 14: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – February 2012

Local Government Learning Solutions is offering a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Griffith and Albury.

Attend one of Learning Solutions' public workshops and network with staff from other councils while enjoying the very best of Local Government learning.

Workshops include:

Making Consultative Committees More Effective

Thursday 2 February – Sydney

Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Supervisors

Wednesday 15 February – Griffith

Training Small Groups

Thursday 16 February – Sydney

Selection Skills for Local Government Managers

Friday 17 February – Coffs Harbour

Writing Powerful Proposals and Funding Applications

Wednesday 22 February – Sydney

Workforce Planning

Thursday 23 February – Sydney

Report Writing

Thursday 23 February – Sydney

English Grammar and Punctuation

Tuesday 28 February – Sydney

Handling Difficult People

Tuesday 28 February – Albury

Registrations

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/421-public-staff-course-registration-form.asp?intSiteID=1>

Cost

\$550 pp inc. GST

Contact

Jennifer Fanning
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4181
learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Planning

Item 15: Building Professionals Board Consultations - future scope of NSW building certification system

The Building Professionals Board (BPB) will be holding consultation sessions across NSW in February and March 2012 to invite public input into the future scope of the building certification system in NSW.

Certifying authorities (public and private) and other practitioners such as civil, electrical, fire safety and mechanical engineers, access consultants, fire services practitioners, planners, architects and building designers are invited to get involved.

As part of this consultation, the BPB also intends to hold additional meetings with council accredited certifiers to discuss access to appropriate qualifications and experience, proposed possible future directions and options for expanded continuing professional development from 2013.

Session dates and locations

The BPB has advised that the sessions will commence at 10am, with meetings to discuss issues affecting council accredited certifiers commencing from 1.30pm. Venues will be confirmed by the end of January.

| Location | Date |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Ballina | Monday, 13 February 2012 |
| Port Macquarie | Wednesday, 15 February 2012 |
| Tamworth | Friday, 17 February 2012 |
| Dubbo | Monday, 20 February 2012 |
| Katoomba | Wednesday, 22 February 2012 |
| Parramatta | Friday, 24 February 2012 |
| Wollongong | Monday, 27 February 2012 |
| Queanbeyan | Wednesday, 29 February 2012 |
| Wagga Wagga | Friday, 2 March 2012 |
| Sydney | Monday, 5 March 2012 |
| Newcastle | Tuesday, 6 March 2012 |
| Broken Hill | Friday, 9 March 2012 |

Please note relevant dates and look out on the BPB's website for more information about venue locations, registration, a questionnaire and discussion notes.

LGSA staff have been invited to meet with BPB staff in late January, ahead of these consultations sessions. We would welcome comments/input from councils in the mean time. Please contact Jane Partridge (see fact box) if you have any comments or experiences, examples/case studies to share.

Building Professionals Board

<http://www.bpb.nsw.gov.au/page/2012-consultation-sessions/>

LGSA contact

Jane Partridge
jane.partridge@lgsa.org.au

News items on planning issues

<http://planningnetwork.lgsa.org.au>

Ref: R90/0559-03 JP

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