



LGA Conference - Registration closing soon

Voting delegates must be registered by Monday 10 October to produce voting materials. The list of voting delegates is updated daily and available online.

AWA 2011 Engineers - Operators Regional Conference

The NSW Branch of the Australian Water Association (AWA) will hold its 14th NSW Engineers-Operators & Regional Conference themed "Turbulent Flow - Meeting the Challenges Facing the NSW Water Industry" in October.

LG Events Network meeting

The Local Government Events Network invites you to attend the next meeting, jointly hosted by the LGSA and Blacktown City Council at their newly built AFL Function Room.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

tel: 02 9242 4000
fax: 02 9242 4111
email: lgsa@lgsa.org.au
website: www.lgsa.org.au
GPO Box 7003 Sydney 2001
Level 8, 28 Margaret St
Sydney NSW 2000

Email subscription

Subscribe to receive the Local Government Weekly and media releases directly by email on the LGSA website at: www.lgsa.org.au/subscribe

Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

General Interest

Item 2: LG Events Network meeting

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Community

Item 5: Disability Policy and research working group

The Disability Policy and Research Working Group (DPRWG) has recently launched a website which contains content related to its operations and work program that may be relevant to the disability sector, including people with disability, services providers, peak organisations, academics and government agencies.

Item 6: 2011 Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program Information Workshops

The NSW Department of Education and Communities are conducting regional workshops to provide information on the program guidelines and application process for funding to support increased Aboriginal employment in the public and Local Government sectors.

Item 7: Grandparents Day

The Premier, the Hon. Barry O'Farrell MP, recently announced the creation of a NSW Grandparents Day to be held annually on the last Sunday of October. The State Government is encouraging NSW Councils to join in celebrating this significant day.

Item 8: Physical disability and dementia

The Physical Disability Council of NSW is running a number of workshops on working with people with dementia who have a physical disability.

Item 9: Social Issues Committee hearings

The Standing Committee on Social Issues of the Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW will be conducting public hearings into two inquiries: transition support for students with additional or complex needs and their families; and domestic violence trends and issues in NSW.

Environment

Item 10: Behaviour Change for Sustainability National Congress 2011

Behaviour Change for Sustainability National Congress is presented in partnership with the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and developed in collaboration with some of Australia's most active and committed behaviour change practitioners.

Item 11: Survey on Woodsmoke Control Measures

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is consulting with Local Government about the effectiveness of current woodsmoke control measures.

Finance

Item 12: IPART – Measuring Local Government Productivity

The IPART has released a discussion paper on the measuring and assessing of Local Government productivity. A productivity factor is used in determining the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), and submissions are invited.

Learning

Item 13: Local Government PA/EA and Learning and Development Networks

As part of our service to member councils, the LGSA's training unit, Local Government Learning Solutions, provides two free networks to help staff upskill, share resources and network.

Item 14: In-house Training Services – Handling Difficult People, Time Management and Speed Reading

The following workshops cover topics to enhance productivity such as handling difficult people, time management and managing information overload.

Item 15: Local Government Reform Funding – Free Long Term Financial Planning eLearning program

Under the federally funded Local Government Reform Fund project, Local Government Learning Solutions have been able to provide a FREE eLearning program on Long Term Financial Planning.

Item 16: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – November to December 2011

Local Government Learning Solutions offers a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for Sydney, Lismore, Merimbula, Coffs Harbour and Narrandera.

Planning

Item 17: Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas

This five-day course designed to provide Local Government planning and development professionals with the skills and understanding to apply the relevant requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, *Rural Fires Act* and AS 3959 (Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas).

Item 18: Review of NSW Planning System – issues for consideration by Local Government

Consultation forums on the review of the NSW planning system are continuing across the State and the Planning Review Panel is inviting preliminary submissions on issues from all interested parties by Friday 4 November 2011.

Item 19: Electronic Housing Code (eHC) Project – EoIs invited

The eHC Project is to be expanded to include a further 24 councils. Councils are requested to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to participate in this project.

Item 20: New State and Regional Development SEPP

The NSW Government's new assessment system for State significant development began on Saturday 1 October, following the release of a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for State and Regional Development on Friday 30 September 2011.

Water

Item 21: AWA 2011 Engineers - Operators Regional Conference

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In the News

Item 22: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media release distributed by the LGSA

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Grandparents Day

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General Interest

Item 2: LG Events Network meeting

The Local Government Events Network invites you to attend the next meeting, jointly hosted by the LGSA and Blacktown City Council at their newly built AFL Function Room.

"Kicking Goals" is the name of the day, and it's not all about sports; it's about the successes achieved by council in a variety of areas. We have planned some topical and informative sessions including a tour of the newly built AFL Cricket precinct, with Gavin Robertson, Corporate Partnerships Executive, Greater Western Sydney Giants.

Gavin will also discuss "How to attract a sporting group to your city".

Other program topics will include:

- Alcohol Free Events, Australia Day Case Study, Superintendent Wayne Cox, Mount Druitt Police.
- Social Networking for Events - Blacktown City Council, PR Department.
- Sustainable Events update on working policy – BCC Peter Filmer, Manager Communication, Events & Industry Liaison, Blacktown.
- Australia Day Ambassadors - How to make them work for you - Tina Baines Principal Project Officer Community Initiatives Branch, Community Engagement and Events, Premier's Department.

This will be a great opportunity to catch up with other Events Officers so don't miss out!

Join the Network

Whether you're in events, marketing, communications, in the Mayor's office or the library - if you're involved in organising council events – then this network is for you! Visit the website and sign up to become a member.

You will have access to members only pages, be able to sign up to attend events, receive updates on industry news and have the opportunity to speak directly with other members in the Events Network Forum.

Please note that only Local Government employees in NSW are able to become members.



Event Network Meeting

Monday 7 November
Blacktown International Sports
Park, Eastern Rd, Rooty Hill

RSVP due

Thursday 3 November

Program

<http://eventsnetwork.lgsa.org.au/content/events>

Cost

Free for NSW LG staff
Includes morning tea & lunch

Events Network website

eventsnetwork.lgsa.org.au

Further information

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

Ref: R11/0021 JH

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General Interest

Item 3: LGA Conference - Registration closing soon

Voting delegates must be registered by Monday 10 October to produce voting materials. The list of voting delegates is updated daily and available online.

Late registrations will be accepted during next week only. All details including an updated draft program will be available on the Conference website.

The Conference is hosted by Shoalhaven City Council and supported by Elite Sponsor Essential Energy.

Please note:

Correction: LGA Executive Membership

On page two of the LGA 2011 Annual Conference Business Paper, Cr Rod Towney was inadvertently not listed as a Country Executive Member.

Please note that Cr Rod Towney is a current LGA Country Executive Member and Cr Allan Smith is the Country Vice President.



Conference

Sunday 23 - Wednesday 26 October
Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre

Hosted by Shoalhaven City Council

Registration deadline

Monday 10 October

Conference website

www.LGAConference.lgsa.org.au

Registrations

Bradley Hayden
LGA Conference Secretariat
02 6023 6300,
bradley@ccem.com.au

Awards & voting delegates

Karen Rolls
02 9242 4050
karen.rolls@lgsa.org.au

Motions

Peter Coulton
02 9242 4030

Councillor Workshops

Learning Solutions
02 9242 4181

Ref: R09/0031 JH

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General Interest

Item 4: Property Officer Conference

This Conference is aimed at Local Government property and land officers responsible for crown land matters, acquisitions, leasing and disposal.

The Conference will feature speakers from the Division of Local Government, Crown Land Division of Department of Primary Industry and Marsdens Law Group, talking on a range of land and property issues including:

- *Land Acquisition* (Just Terms Compensation) *Act* guidelines.
- Aboriginal Land Claims and Native Title.
- Road closures.
- Crown Lands Reserve Reporting System.
- Pre and post-acquisition valuation issues.
- Plans of management for Crown Land.
- Contracts for commercial transactions.

The Water Directorate and Roads and Transport Directorate will launch their joint *Land Matters Guideline* at this conference.

Property Officer Conference
Tuesday 25 - Wednesday 26
October
Forbes Services Memorial Club,
Forbes

Cost
\$150 (inc. conference dinner)

Contact
Kylie Grayson
Forbes Shire Council
02 6850 2305
kyliegr@forbes.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R98/0064-02

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Community

Item 5: Disability Policy and research working group

The Disability Policy and Research Working Group (DPRWG) has recently launched a website which contains content related to its operations and work program that may be relevant to the disability sector, including people with disability, services providers, peak organisations, academics and government agencies.

DPRWG is a standing committee of the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Advisory Council (CDSMAC). DPRWG comprises members from Australian, State and Territory Governments disability agencies - nine jurisdictions in total. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) is also a member of DPRWG and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Productivity Commission both have observer status.

DPRWG is responsible for:

- Preparing and proposing the disability agenda for CDSMAC and the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (CDSMC).
- Providing strategic advice to CDSMAC and to CDSMC on all disability-related issues.
- Overseeing the implementation of the National Disability Agreement (NDA).
- Providing a cross-jurisdictional forum to discuss disability issues of national interest.

The National Disability Agreement, which replaced the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) from 1 January 2009, forms part of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on Federal Financial Relations which was progressed through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2008. The overarching objective of the National Disability Agreement is:

People with disability and their carers have an enhanced quality of life and participate as valued members of the community.

The Agreement also aims to achieve progress towards the following outcomes:

- People with disability achieve economic participation and social inclusion.
- People with disability enjoy choice wellbeing and the opportunity to live as independently as possible.
- Families and carers are well supported.

The DPRWG website contains:

- Details about [DPRWG Member Jurisdictions](#) in each State and Territory.
- Information on the [National Disability Agreement](#) and the [National Reform Priorities](#).
- More about national [data development](#) in the disability sector.
- Information about [research and development](#) initiatives being undertaken.

Online information

www.dprwg.gov.au

Further information

Ageing, Disability and Home Care,
Department of Family and
Community Services NSW
83 Clarence Street Sydney NSW
2000

02 8270 2000

TTY: 02 8270 2167 (for people
who are deaf)

servicembx@facns.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0058 MK

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Community

Item 6: 2011 Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Program Information Workshops

The NSW Department of Education and Communities are conducting regional workshops to provide information on the program guidelines and application process for funding to support increased Aboriginal employment in the public and Local Government sectors.

The LGSA encourages councils to participate in the workshops.

The Elsa Dixon program aims to create employment, temporary secondment and career development opportunities for Aboriginal people in the public and Local Government sectors by providing salary, training and other support costs.

Workshop details are as follows:

Location	Date	Location	Date
Lismore	Wednesday 2 November	Newcastle	Tuesday 15 November
Tamworth	Wednesday 2 November	Wagga Wagga	Tuesday 15 November
Coffs harbour	Thursday 3 November	Wyong	Wednesday 16 November
Moree	Thursday 3 November	Griffith	Wednesday 16 November
Wollongong	Tuesday 8 November	Singleton	Thursday 17 November
Batemans bay	Wednesday 9 November	Parramatta	Tuesday 22 November
Bega	Wednesday 10 November	Dubbo	Tuesday 29 November
Sydney City	Monday 14 November	Orange	Wednesday 30 November
Port Macquarie	Tuesday 15 November		

Registrations due
Wednesday 19 October

Registrations
http://www.training.nsw.gov.au/programs_services/funded_other/acp/index.html

Or email your registration form to stsas@det.nsw.edu.au

Online information
<https://www.training.nsw.gov.au>

Further information
please contact your nearest Aboriginal Training co-ordinator
Or 13 28 11 for your nearest site

Ref: R01/0045 CC

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Community

Item 7: Grandparents Day

The Premier, the Hon. Barry O'Farrell MP, recently announced the creation of a NSW Grandparents Day to be held annually on the last Sunday of October. The NSW Government is encouraging NSW Councils to join in celebrating this significant day.

The inaugural day will be held this year, on Sunday 30 October 2011. The NSW Government has asked councils to help make this first year a special one by providing local activities in which families can participate. Councils may be able to leverage off existing activities, or utilise library services to host intergenerational activities, or simply provide a discount entry to recreational facilities in support of this day.

Council support in promoting the day to local families will add value in ensuring that Grandparents Day is recognised across NSW.

Grandparents play an invaluable role in families, enriching the lives of their grandchildren and other children in the community by providing care, mentoring and stability.

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is also working with government agencies and the non-government sector to facilitate activities for the inaugural year's celebrations and is planning to expand the campaign in following years.

Date

Sunday 30 October

Online information

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au

Further information

Ms Catherine Parker
Director, Events and
Communications Management
02 8270 2152

[catherine.parker@facs.nsw.gov.a](mailto:catherine.parker@facs.nsw.gov.au)
u

Ref: R96/0126 MK

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Community

Item 8: Physical disability and dementia

The Physical Disability Council of NSW is running a number of workshops on working with people with dementia who have a physical disability.

This is a skills based program for community service providers supporting clients who have physical disability and dementia.

Each workshop encompasses two days (one module each day):

- Module 1 includes: Defining physical disability, dementia causes and treatments, social and political construction of disability, stigma and judgment.
- Module 2 includes: Understanding confusion, communication, individual care and the IMPACT principles, disability and dementia case studies.

Please note that the workshops are free.

Key Details

9am - 4pm, Thursday 20 and Thursday 27 October
Education Centre, Alzheimers Aust (NSW) Coxs Road, North Ryde

9am - 4pm, Monday 7 and Monday 14 November
Education Centre, Alzheimers Aust (NSW) Coxs Road, North Ryde

9am - 4pm, Thursday 8 and Thursday 15 December
Education Centre, Alzheimers Aust (NSW) Coxs Road, North Ryde

9am-4pm, February at Penrith
(dates and venue to be confirmed)

9am - 4pm, February at Blacktown (dates and venue to be confirmed)

Contact

Lachlan
02 9552 1606
lachlan.hazelton@pdcnsw.org.au

Ref: R90/0058 MK

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Community

Item 9: Social Issues Committee hearings

The Standing Committee on Social Issues of the Legislative Council, Parliament of NSW will be conducting public hearings into two inquiries: transition support for students with additional or complex needs and their families; and domestic violence trends and issues in NSW.

Although the closing date for submissions has passed, the committee is still accepting late submissions. If you would like to make a late submission, please contact the Secretariat ASAP (see fact box).

Transition support

Monday 10 October and Tuesday 13 December at Parliament House, and Monday 5 December at Dubbo

Domestic violence

Monday 17 October, Monday 7 November and early 2012

Online information

[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/AC0F69B8361679B8CA2578B60006CEDB?open&refnavid=CO3_1,](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/AC0F69B8361679B8CA2578B60006CEDB?open&refnavid=CO3_1/)

http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/1B710AE4E5F4409ECA2578D9000B031C?open&refnavid=CO3_1/

Transition support

Teresa McMichael
02 9230 3556
teresa.mcmichael@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Domestic violence

Merrin Thompson
02 9230 2895
merrin.thompson@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0058 MK

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Environment

Item 10: Behaviour Change for Sustainability National Congress 2011

Behaviour Change for Sustainability National Congress is presented in partnership with the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage and developed in collaboration with some of Australia's most active and committed behaviour change practitioners.

This congress will:

- Bring together a diverse range of thinkers, researchers and practitioners.
- Explore complex issues around behaviour change.
- Use a careful blend of traditional and innovative facilitation techniques.
- Inform and inspire you to come up with agile solutions to complex problems.
- Maximise on the knowledge, ideas and experience of all congress delegates.

Everyone will be actively involved throughout these two days of knowledge sharing, guided by Lead Facilitator Geoff Brown and members of our Behaviour Change for Sustainability Active Learning Program.

Key Speakers

- Professor Garry Egger, Author of Planet Obesity: How we are eating ourselves and our planet to death and Director of the Centre for Health Promotion and Research.
- Ed Gillespie, Co-Founder, Futerra (UK) via video.
- Tom Crompton, Change Strategist, WWF (UK) via video and author of Common Cause.
- Ian Lowe, President, Australian Conservation Foundation.

Key Themes

- New mindsets and ways of looking at our work.
- Cross sector learning and collaboration.
- Communication and reaching past the converted.
- Evaluation and measuring success.

PLUS Separately Bookable

- [Clinic](#) for Behaviour Change Practitioners.
- [Workshop](#) on How to build a community of change agents.

Dates

Thursday 10 – Friday 11
November
Australian Technology Park,
Sydney

Early bird closes

Friday 21 October

Online information

<http://www.3pillarsnetwork.com>

Contact

Zaf Makdum
02 9555 4203
zaf@3pillarsnetwork.com.au

Ref: R91/0038 RV

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Environment

Item 11: Survey on Woodsmoke Control Measures

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is consulting with Local Government about the effectiveness of current woodsmoke control measures.

Councils play a key role in regulating the installation and operation of wood heaters. OEH wishes to explore with councils, the effectiveness of current woodsmoke control measures and whether new measures for reducing woodsmoke are needed.

OEH is sending a survey via email which explores a range of issues relating to the management of woodsmoke to all councils in NSW. OEH encourages council officers responsible for managing air quality issues including woodsmoke, agricultural and backyard burning, and emissions from non-scheduled premises to respond to the survey.

If you are interested in completing this survey on behalf of your council and have not received the survey directly, please email CleanAirRegulationMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Survey due

Tuesday 1 November

CleanAirRegulationMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au (preferred)
or faxed to 02 9995 5938

Contacts

Robert Verhey

LGSA

robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au

Dilini Hevathirana

OEH

02 9995 5851 or

dilini.hevathirana@environment.nsw.gov.au

For copy of the survey

CleanAirRegulationMailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0003 RV

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Finance

Item 12: IPART – Measuring Local Government Productivity

The IPART has released a discussion paper on the measuring and assessing of Local Government productivity. A productivity factor is used in determining the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI), and submissions are invited.

Following the rate pegging determination, in December 2011, for 2011/12, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) decided to consult with councils, the LGSA, LGMA and other interested stakeholders during 2011 to obtain comments on how they may improve our existing processes for: setting the productivity factor used in the LGCI, and assessing the productivity criterion in assessing applications for special variations.

IPART has prepared a discussion paper on the measuring and assessing of productivity performance in Local Government. Submissions in response to our discussion paper are required by Friday 4 November 2011. IPART's normal practice is to make submissions publicly available online (see fact box). Improvements to our existing approaches are to be implemented in time for IPART's determination of the rate peg for councils for 2012/13. This is scheduled to be announced in December 2011.

The LGSA have met with IPART and will be making a submission. We would appreciate comments from councils to assist with this submission. Please direct comments to Sascha Moege (see fact box).

Submissions close

Friday 4 November

Submissions to

local_government@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Online information

www.ipart.nsw.gov.au

IPART

local_government@ipart.nsw.gov.au

LGSA

sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0397 smcb

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Learning

Item 13: Local Government PA/EA and Learning and Development Networks

As part of our service to member councils, the LGSA's training unit, Local Government Learning Solutions, provides two free networks to help staff up skill, share resources and network.

The PA/EA Network features guest speakers, activities and discussions that are pertinent to Personal and Executive Assistants in councils.

The next PA/EA Network Meeting will be held on Monday 28 November in Sydney.

The Learning and Development Network is for anyone with training responsibilities in councils. It workshops the latest training tools and trends, site visits and group discussions which encourage the sharing of knowledge as well as resources.

The next Learning and Development Network Meeting will be held on Monday 5 December in Sydney.

If you are not on our email list for either network, send us an email with your contact details and we will provide you with regular updates and information.

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 14: In-house Training Services – Handling Difficult People, Time Management and Speed Reading

The following workshops cover topics to enhance productivity such as handling difficult people, time management and managing information overload.

Councils can gain significant savings by having training workshops customised to their needs and supplied in-house. Below are some of the one day skills programs which could be conducted on your premises:

- **Handling Difficult People** – Staff who need to be more assertive with aggressive clients or colleagues, improve their communication and who need to know a process to diffuse anger, should attend this workshop.
- **Time Management** – There is an old saying “I was given a book on time management but didn’t have time to read it”. If this is you, then maybe you need this highly interactive workshop. All examples given are relevant to our industry.
- **Managing Information Overload: Speed Reading** – We all have the potential to at least double or triple our reading speed and improve our comprehension. Depending on our motivation, we can read at thousands of words per minute. Enhance your performance by learning this skill.

For a comprehensive proposal, contact Learning Solutions with your details and the names of the courses about which you are enquiring.

Online 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.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 15: Local Government Reform Funding – Free Long Term Financial Planning eLearning program

Under the federally funded Local Government Reform Fund project, Local Government Learning Solutions has been able to provide a FREE eLearning program on Long Term Financial Planning.

Over 300 councillors and senior staff have now attended the free Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning workshops in July and August 2011.

The workshops were complemented by provision of FREE DVD's on the funded topics.

The final component of the project, an eLearning program called "Long Term Financial Planning", has also been developed and is available at www.lgls.edmore.com.au. Follow the prompts to log on.

Both the DVD's and eLearning programs are also suitable as part of your Induction training for new starters in finance and other relevant areas of council.

eLearning program
www.lgls.edmore.com.au

Contact
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4182
learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 16: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – November to December 2011

Local Government Learning Solutions offers a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for Sydney, Lismore, Merimbula, Coffs Harbour and Narrandera.

One of the great benefits of attending Local Government oriented workshops is that you get to network and learn with people from many other NSW councils, and bring that experience back to your own council.

Improve Your Business Writing

Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 November - Lismore

Verbal Judo for Contact Professionals

Wednesday 9 November – Sydney

Assertive Skills

Tuesday 15 November - Sydney

English Grammar and Punctuation

Wednesday 16 November - Sydney

Time Management

Thursday 17 November – Sydney

Introduction to Local Government

Thursday 24 November – Sydney

Handling Difficult People

Thursday 24 November – Narrandera

Wednesday 7 December - Sydney

Wednesday 14 December - Coffs Harbour

Mentoring Skills for Managers

Friday 25 November – Sydney

Coaching Skills for Leaders

Tuesday 13 December – Coffs Harbour

Registrations

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

Cost

\$550 per person inclusive of GST
(and \$990 inclusive of GST for Improve Your Business Writing)

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Planning

Item 17: Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas

This five-day course designed to provide Local Government planning and development professionals with the skills and understanding to apply the relevant requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, *Rural Fires Act* and AS 3959 (Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas).

It is essential that professionals involved in this area have a thorough grasp of both the legislation and planning and design principles involved, as well as an understanding of related aspects of bushfire behaviour and management. This is required not only to produce quality outcomes but also to help protect councils against claims of negligence in exercising their development control functions.

The course will be of value to planners, building surveyors, subdivision engineers, bushfire control personnel, architects and others responsible for the design and control of development.

The program includes a mix of lectures, workshop sessions and a field trip. It will be taught interactively, with ample opportunity for discussion.

Dates

Monday 20 – Friday 24 February 2012

Duration

5 Days

Cost

\$1990 (GST Free)

Availability

Places available

Course Brochure

<http://www.clg.uts.edu.au/shortcourses/PDFs/PBPA.pdf>

Register Online

<http://www.clg.uts.edu.au/shortcourses/onlinereg.html>

Contact

Ann O' Loughlin
Short Course Coordinator
+61 2 9514 7884
clg@uts.edu.au

Ref: R02/0013

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Planning

Item 18: Review of NSW Planning System – issues for consideration by Local Government

Consultation forums on the review of the NSW planning system are continuing across the State and the Planning Review Panel is inviting preliminary submissions on issues from all interested parties by Friday 4 November 2011.

The Panel has raised a number of questions specifically for Local Government to respond to, and the LGSA are seeking councils' feedback.

We would welcome your comments/input on any or all of the following questions to include in the LGSA's preliminary submission to the Review:

NSW Planning Review Panel

<http://www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Consultation/KeyStakeholderGroupsandIndividuals/tabid/91/Default.aspx>

Consultation Map

<http://www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Consultation/ConsultationMap/tabid/89/Default.aspx>

Consultation List

<http://www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au/Consultation/ConsultationList/tabid/90/Default.aspx>

Submissions to

review@planningreview.nsw.gov.au
Planning System Review,
GPO Box 39, Sydney 2001

News items on planning issues

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

Comments due

Thursday 20 October

Comments to

Jane Partridge
jane.partridge@lgsa.org.au or
shaun.mcbride@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R04/0066 JP

Public participation principles

1. Should people have the right to participate in planning decisions that affect them at both the strategic planning and development assessment stage, or should public participation in planning decisions be pushed to the front end of the process (i.e. strategic planning)?

Electronic planning data – The Planning Minister is keen to utilise electronic capabilities in planning processes.

2. What is required to achieve electronic integration of the maximum amount of development control, zoning and planning information? What would be the likely costs to set up such a system and for ongoing maintenance?

Conciliation and mediation – The Panel is considering mechanisms to facilitate conciliation and mediation in the development process.

3. Would a requirement to minute pre-development application (DA) lodgement meetings assist in achieving this outcome?

Conciliation and mediation

4. What dispute mechanisms/processes could be put in place earlier on in the development application process to preclude the need for appeal in the Land and Environment Court?

Standard conditions of consent – The Panel is considering options that may improve timeframes for

5. What scope (options, costs and benefits etc) does Local Government consider is available to standardise conditions of consent for particular types of

development consent, including minimising concurrence delays.

Development contributions – The Panel is exploring options for collection and spending of development contributions.

Appeals processes – The Panel is looking into what changes might be needed to the appeals process (e.g. where appeals might be directed,).

Building and development applications – The Panel is considering various issues around the development application and building certification process.

Building and development applications

Decision making processes for strategic planning – The Panel is interested in strategic decisions which cross LGA boundaries.

development, for example dwelling houses?

6. Is progressive payment of development contributions a viable alternative to up front payment?
7. Should a refusal to initiate a rezoning proposal (made by either the Minister or a Council) be appealable? If so, where should these appeals be directed, and what order-making rules, enforcement and regulatory processes should be in place?
8. In the present system, retrospective development consent is not possible for a new project, however, it is possible to grant retrospective approval to building modifications. Does this situation need review?
9. Building certificates and occupation certificates - is this two step process unnecessarily onerous?
10. What might be the appropriate decision making process for decisions by councils which affect more than one Local Government area (for example supra-Council issues such as regional intractable waste management facilities)?

Councils are invited to comment on any or all of the above questions. The LGSA will be making an initial submission to the Panel in November 2011.

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Planning

Item 19: Electronic Housing Code (eHC) Project – EoIs invited

The eHC Project is to be expanded to include a further 24 councils. Councils are requested to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) to participate in this project.

The eHC Project is a joint project of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, and the LGSA, to apply electronic processes to the Housing Code.

Additional funding of \$4.33 million has been provided from the NSW Government to expand the Project to a further 24 councils. Currently 11 councils have been involved in the Project.

The benefits of inclusion within the Electronic Housing Code include:

- Improved land and property information data quality and accuracy.
- The mapping of existing business processes and the tools to adopt a best practice ePlanning approach.
- The ability for stakeholders, and council staff, to investigate whether a property is eligible for exempt and/or complying development (without the need for council customer service to be contacted).
- Offering local industry professionals and the community an electronic standardised and transparent complying development application and lodgement process.

Eleven Councils in NSW have already taken part in the initial pilot project for the eHC, namely; Bankstown City, Blacktown City, Lake Macquarie City, Liverpool City, Port Macquarie – Hastings, Rockdale City, Shellharbour City, Sutherland Shire, Tamworth Regional, The Hills Shire and Tweed Shire Councils.

Interested councils are advised to contact the Department and also to discuss potential participation with councils that took part in the initial pilot project.

Expressions of Interest

Councils must apply by Friday 21 October 2011. An independent panel has been established to assess the applications, the outcome of which will be communicated late November/early December. The project will commence in February 2012.

Applications close

Friday 21 October

Project commences February 2012

Online information

www.ehc.nsw.gov.au

Contact

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Ref: R09/0015 JD

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Planning

Item 20: New State and Regional Development SEPP

The NSW Government's new assessment system for State significant development began on Saturday 1 October, following the release of a new State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for State and Regional Development on Friday 30 September 2011.

The NSW Government has published key documents to allow new applications to be lodged under the system, including:

- A SEPP which outlines what projects will be considered State significant.
- A regulation providing further detail about how the new system will operate, along with transitional arrangements for the now repealed Part 3A system.
- A series of circulars, fact sheets, checklists and flowcharts.

The new SEPP is part of the NSW Government's process to repeal the former Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The reforms are expected to halve the number of projects requiring state significant development approval.

The system has been tailored to only deal with projects which are genuinely State significant. The Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) will have the primary role to determine projects, following an assessment by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

Under the changes, commercial, retail, residential and coastal subdivision applications will be returned to local councils for assessment. Projects over \$20 million will be referred to the independent Joint Regional Planning Panel for determination.

Projects of genuine state significance will be assessed by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure with two distinct avenues for determination:

- State Significant Development (SSD) (e.g. large-scale industrial, resource and other proposals) - to be determined by the PAC.
- State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) applications by public agencies (e.g. roads, railways, pipelines) - to be generally determined by the Minister for Planning, with the PAC determining projects proposed by the private sector.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure will determine non-contentious proposals.

Details can be found on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website (see fact box).

Department of Planning and Infrastructure website
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Development/DevelopmentAssessmentSystems/Statesignificantassessment/tabid/517/Default.aspx>

News items on planning issues

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

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Water

Item 21: AWA 2011 Engineers - Operators Regional Conference

The NSW Branch of the Australian Water Association (AWA) will hold its 14th NSW Engineers-Operators & Regional Conference themed "Turbulent Flow - Meeting the Challenges Facing the NSW Water Industry" in October.

The Conference will focus on recent national reviews of urban water, particularly the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Urban Water Sector, which have dealt with issues of urban water quality and water security and are expected to have long-term ramifications for the water industry in NSW.

The Conference will look at how challenges to the future provision of secure and sustainable urban water resource management in regional NSW will be addressed by Federal, State and Local Government and the wider water industry in NSW. Projected increases in water demand and climate driven reductions in water availability, together with potential emerging issues including recycled water and coal seam gas developments, are likely to place additional pressure upon water resources and potentially impact upon all aspects of water supply, sewerage and stormwater services.

The Conference includes an operator training workshop based upon the National Water Training Package subject NWP207A – Work Effectively in the Water Industry. A Certificate II Statement of Attainment will be issued by NSW TAFE to those who successfully complete this session, which includes a workplace based project.

This workshop will focus on providing practical information and knowledge to water industry operations staff in relation to current water industry issues affecting NSW councils and local water utilities including:

- Knowledge and application of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling.
- Legislative, regulatory and licensing requirements, including the NSW Office of Water's Best Practice Management Guidelines and implications of the new *Public Health Act (NSW) 2010*.
- NSW water supply and sewerage performance monitoring system.
- Environmental risks and impacts, including the practical application of environmental management plans for water and sewerage activities.
- Strategies to ensure long-term water sustainability, e.g. Integrated water cycle management, North Coast water restriction levels, water recycling, etc.

Conference

Monday 24 - Wednesday 26
October
Byron Bay Theatre and
Community Centre

For program and registration

www.awa.asn.au/nswengineers-regional

Contact

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Ref: R90/1056-12 SM

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In the News

Item 22: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media release distributed by the LGSA

Local Government Association Annual Conference 2011

Sunday 23 to Wednesday 26 October 2011

Media representatives invited to register

7 October 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3931-7-october-2011-local-government-association-annual-conference-2011.asp?intSiteID=1>

Delegates at this year's Local Government Association (LGA) Conference will discuss how to strengthen the Local Government sector in NSW, and improve services and conditions for local communities. The Conference delegates will consider more than 150 motions ranging from discussing the effects of carbon tax on Local Government to roads funding and the waste levy.

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