



LGSA Employment Solutions – now Management Solutions

LGSA Employment Solutions is now known as Management Solutions to reflect the range of services provided to councils. See [Item 2](#).

ePlanning role model councils announced

Twelve NSW councils are set to work with the Department of Planning and the Associations on an electronic Housing Code pilot project. See [Item 15](#).

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

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Grants and Funding

Item 1: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

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Item 2: LGSA Employment Solutions – now Management Solutions

LGSA Employment Solutions is now known as Management Solutions to reflect the range of services provided to councils.

Item 3: Local Government Event Coordinators Network Meeting

Gourmet Giga-bites: fresh marketing techniques will be held on Friday 6 November 2009 in Bankstown.

Community

Item 4: Access All Areas Film Festival

As part of NSW International Day of People with a Disability, Don't DIS myABILITY campaign, films will be shown at accessible locations across NSW. The festival runs during November and December.

Item 5: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Research Grants

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is providing funding for research grants. Councils are encouraged to promote the grants to their communities and stakeholders.

Item 6: Grants available to support positive ageing

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is providing grants under two separate programs for projects that promote and support positive ageing in the community.

Item 7: Home and Community Care Open Tenders 2009-11

Ageing, Disability and Home Care in the NSW Department of Human Services will advertise the HACC Open Tender for the two year period 2009-2011 on Monday 26 October 2009. The tender will close 3pm Thursday 3 December 2009.

Environment

Item 8: Renewable Energy (Wind Farm) Precinct Advisory Committees

Nominations for the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's (DECCW) Wind Renewable Energy Precinct Advisory Committees are being sought.

Item 9: Water for the Future and MDB Plan - Information Sessions

The Australian Government is holding a series of community information sessions throughout the Murray-Darling Basin on its Water for the Future Plan and the development of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Councils are invited to participate.

Finance

Item 10: Local Government Reform Fund

The Australian Government has established the \$25 million Local Government Reform Fund to help build capacity and resilience in Local Government and strengthen its ability to manage its assets and anticipate service and infrastructure needs.

In the News

Item 11: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Item 12: Local Government Media

View the latest Local Government media articles

Learning

Item 13: Council Safe Manual Handling Presentation (Webinar)

Due to the number of manual handling injuries that occur in Local Government, WorkCover NSW is holding a free online manual handling course.

Item 14: Councillor Professional Development Program Public Workshops

Five key councillor workshops have been scheduled in November in Sydney.

Planning

Item 15: ePlanning role model councils announced

Twelve NSW councils are set to work with the Department of Planning and the Associations on an electronic Housing Code pilot project. The project is the first step in the establishment of an online system for lodging and processing complying development applications under the NSW Housing Code.

Procurement

Item 16: LGP Conference – Early Bird rate extended

Local Government Procurement (LGP) is very proud to coordinate the third Annual Procurement Conference for the NSW Local Government sector. The Early Bird rate has been extended to Friday 6 November.

Roads and Transport

Item 17: Safety alert - Water filled safety barriers

WorkCover NSW reminds controllers of road works that there are only two types of plastic contained water filled temporary safety barrier systems currently accepted by the RTA.

Grants and Funding

Item 1: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

Following is a list of the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government:

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The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is providing funding for research grants. Councils are encouraged to promote the grants to their communities and stakeholders.

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Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is providing grants under two separate programs for projects that promote and support positive ageing in the community.

General Interest

Item 2: LGSA Employment Solutions – now Management Solutions

LGSA Employment Solutions is now known as Management Solutions to reflect the range of services provided to councils.

Local Government Management Solutions continues to provide the full range of executive recruitment, performance management, and remuneration survey services.

Owned by the NSW Local Government industry associations, the Management Solutions provides cost-effective services to councils in NSW. Management Solutions facilitates around 25 recruitment processes per year and is used by over 70 metro, regional, and rural councils to conduct the performance review for their general managers and directors. The Unit's annual remuneration survey provides the most comprehensive picture of NSW Local Government Executive Remuneration. After collecting remuneration data since 1999, Employment Solutions has been offering member councils annual remuneration reports since 2005.

Organisational reviews and staff climate survey services have been successfully added to the Unit's service spectrum. Management Solutions has conducted seven organisational reviews in the past 18 months, and has refined its climate survey tool to make it available as a stand-alone product.

File Reference: I09/0016

Online information

www.lgms.org.au

For further information

Mark Anderson, Manager: 02 9242 4161, mark.anderson@lgsa.org.au

Christian Morris, Senior Consultant: 02 9242 4160, christian.morris@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 3: Local Government Event Coordinators Network Meeting

Gourmet Giga-bites: fresh marketing techniques will be held on Friday 6 November 2009 in Bankstown.

This is a free event for council event professionals and an excellent opportunity to learn and share knowledge and experiences with peers from other councils.

The day's agenda will focus on marketing - niche marketing with Bankstown Bites food festival, and digital marketing/social networking.

- Bankstown is one of Sydney's most diverse areas and is an exciting melting pot of cultures and cuisines. Discover how Bankstown saw this as a niche opportunity for a new event to encourage visitors and liven up the town.
- Twitter, Facebook, blogs - what is social networking all about? Learn what the options are, how they work and if they really are a good promotional method for your events.
- Find out how to work with your local TAFE to up-skill and achieve VET accredited and qualified staff and volunteers at your events.
- We'll be one of the first to hear about the Premier's Macquarie 2010 Bicentenary Commemorations, organised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (formerly OPSE).
- At the end of the session, join us for a mini food tour to explore and experience the unique culinary mix found only in Bankstown!

All details including the full agenda is available on www.lgsa.org.au/EventsNetwork.

The LGSA conducts three Event Coordinators' Network Meetings per year.

We want to hear from you!

Do you currently use digital marketing or any social networking tools in your council and/or for your events? Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, blogs – or anything else! Please email michelle.muller@lgsa.org.au to let us know what you're doing.

Join the network

Local Government professionals working in events, marketing, public relations, or a similar field are encouraged to join the Event Coordinators Network, which facilitates the exchange of information, education and networking amongst professionals. Please email michelle.muller@lgsa.org.au for more information.

R00/0012: MM

Key Dates

Friday 6 November 2009

Website

www.lgsa.org.au/EventsNetwork

Host

Bankstown City Council

Further information

Michelle Muller, Events
Coordinator, LGSA: 02 9242
4031,
michelle.muller@lgsa.org.au

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Community

Item 4: Access All Areas Film Festival

As part of NSW International Day of People with a Disability, *Don't DIS myABILITY campaign*, films will be shown at accessible locations across NSW. The festival runs during November and December.

Access All Areas Film Festival presents a program of Australian features and shorts across NSW. Bookings are essential for access services and to reserve tickets. All films are audio described, captioned and wheelchair accessible. Introductions and Q&A sessions are Auslan interpreted.

The festival will be held at the following venues:

St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill

Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind children, North Rocks

Griffith City Cinemas

Wagga Wagga cinema

Orange Cinema

Sydney Dendy Opera Quays

File Reference: R05/0055

Key dates

November – December 2009

Online information

www.accessallareasfilmfestival.com.au

For further information

02 9281 5608

karina@thefestivalists.com

16 November

17 – 18 November

23 November

25 November

30 November

3 December

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Community

Item 5: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Research Grants

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is providing funding for research grants. Councils are encouraged to promote the grants to their communities and stakeholders.

The Program will fund research across a range of areas in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, such as history (including family and community history), politics, law, public policy, health (social, cultural and environmental aspects), biological sciences, education, Indigenous knowledge systems, linguistics, social anthropology, archaeology and the arts.

Applications in the special emphasis categories of 'Relations with Government', 'Economic Sustainability' and 'Knowledge About and Caring for Country' are particularly encouraged.

Please note that AIATSIS does not fund:

- publication or production costs;
- returning materials to communities or repatriation of material; or
- research for Native Title claims.

Applicants should refer to the *Information for Research Grant Applicants* for full details about how to apply. All applications must be submitted using the *Research Grant Application Form*. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact AIATSIS well before submitting applications in order to ensure the eligibility of their topics and to receive constructive feedback from Research staff.

All applicants will be informed of the success or otherwise of their grant applications in June 2010.

File Reference: R90/0966-03

Applications close

11 January 2010.

Online information

<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/grants/grants.html>

For further information

Ms Anna Johnstone Research Grants Administration AIATSIS: GPO Box 553, Canberra ACT 2601, 02 6246 1144, grants@aiatsis.gov.au

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Community

Item 6: Grants available to support positive ageing

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is providing grants under two separate programs for projects that promote and support positive ageing in the community.

Applied Research Grants Program provides maximum grants of \$250,000 over two years and the Positive Images of Ageing Grants Program provide grants of up to \$50,000.

The projects will also help foster partnerships between service providers and academia, thereby supporting the translation of research into practice.

Positive Ageing Grants

The Positive Ageing Grants are aimed at community groups, Local Government organisations and not-for-profit bodies to develop and implement projects that bring older people and the community together to promote positive active ageing.

Successful applicants will need to develop and implement short-term projects that bring older people and the community together in an interesting and creative way.

Applied Research Grants

The Applied Research Grants focus on participation by older people as volunteers in the non-government sector and the integration of care across primary health and community services. Among other things, research will examine the efficacy, cost-effectiveness and quality of service performance of programs dealing with demographic change.

File Reference: R96/0126

Applications close

27 November 2009 (for both grants)

Further information

Positive Ageing Grants: Guidelines and application forms are available at www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au or by calling the Seniors Information Service on 13 12 44.

Applied research Grants: Information packages and application forms are available at www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/tenders or by calling 07 5569 3984 between 9.30am and 3pm on weekdays.

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Community

Item 7: Home and Community Care Open Tenders 2009-11

Ageing, Disability and Home Care in the NSW Department of Human Services will advertise the HACC Open Tender for the two year period 2009-2011 on Monday 26 October 2009. The tender will close 3pm Thursday 3 December 2009.

In 2008, ADHC introduced a three year planning cycle for the HACC Program. The HACC Triennial Plan 2008-11 details the priorities for funds allocation for the program over the triennium and has been endorsed by the NSW and Australian Government Ministers.

The extensive consultations undertaken by ADHC have identified a range of additional HACC services required to build regional capacity and to meet the needs of service users in local areas. ADHC is now seeking applications from capable organisations to provide these additional services.

Applicants are encouraged to view the Profile of Services and Service Codes for each tender prior to completing their application/s. Potential applicants should note some important changes:

1. The HACC tender for 2008/09 was for one year's growth funding. To reduce the burden of annual tendering this HACC tender is allocating two year's growth funding (2009/10 and 2010/11) through this tender process.
2. To streamline the administration of this two-year allocation, three tenders are being conducted concurrently:
 - a. DADHC.09.35
 - b. DADHC.09.40
 - c. DADHC.09.41
3. For each tender the Service Codes are grouped into categories which, in most cases, reflect service type or client group (refer Column A of the Profile of Services).
4. The Profile of Services also indicates the financial year to which each Service Code applies (refer Column I and J). For most Service Codes this will be either 2009/10 or 2010/11 but in a small number of cases a Service Code will apply to the two-year period 2009/10 and 2010/11.
5.
 - a) The funding amounts for 2009/10 are confirmed.
 - b) The funding amounts for 2010/11 are indicative (estimated) until confirmed by a joint announcement of the NSW and Australian Governments. Should the indicative funding vary from the final jointly announced amounts, successful applicants will be notified and the final funding value and expected service outputs will be negotiated with each provider prior to the commencement of service.

Please note that the advertisement for the HACC Services 2009-11 Tender which appeared in the Koori Mail on 21 October 2009 was incorrect and should be disregarded.

File Reference: R96/0126

Applications close

3 December 2009

Online information

<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Doing+business+with+us/tenders.htm>

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Environment

Item 8: Water for the Future and MDB Plan - Information Sessions

The Australian Government is holding a series of community information sessions throughout the Murray-Darling Basin on its *Water for the Future Plan* and the development of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. Councils are invited to participate.

The community information sessions will be led by senior staff from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and will provide in-depth information on the Australian Government's water policies and programs. Sessions have already been held in Deniliquin (12 October) and Griffith (13 October).

Online information

For information about the community information sessions or to register, visit: www.environment.gov.au/water or call 1800 218 478.

Upcoming sessions

- Shepparton, 4 November 2009;
- Swan Hill, 5 November 2009;
- Mildura, 11 November 2009;
- Dubbo, 1 December 2009;
- Bourke, 2 December 2009;
- Moree, 8 December 2009;
- Goondiwindi, 9 December 2009; and
- St George, 10 December 2009.

Background

The *Water for the Future Plan* is the Australian Government's plan to secure the long-term water supply of all Australians. The plan consists of four key priorities: taking action on climate change, using water wisely, securing water supplies, and supporting healthy rivers. Under the plan the Australian Government is investing \$12.9 billion over a 10-year period. This includes the *Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin Program* (\$3.1 billion) under which water entitlements are purchased in order to return the associated water to the environment as well as the *Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program* (\$5.8 billion) to improve productivity and efficiency of irrigation infrastructure.

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan - an integrated water resource management plan for the whole basin - is currently developed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority with the aim to restore the river systems in the basin to a healthy state. The key element of the Basin Plan will be limits on the quantities of water that can be sustainably diverted for consumptive use from the basin's catchments/water resources (sustainable diversion limits). These limits are expected to result in substantial reductions of water available for consumptive use. This is likely to have significant socio-economic impacts on affected communities that need to be taken into account in the Basin Plan. Councils will be interested in these impacts as well as the much needed environmental outcomes for the basin.

The Associations encourage councils to participate in these sessions. The LGSA recognise the need for sustainable levels of water diversion to protect the health, resilience, and productive base of the river system in the Murray-Darling Basin. The Associations believe, however, it is critical to also identify and appropriately manage potential socio-economic impacts on regional and rural communities of water buy-backs and reductions in water availability.

File Reference: R90/1056-12 SM

Environment

Item 9: Renewable Energy (Wind Farm) Precinct Advisory Committees

Nominations for the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's (DECCW) Wind Renewable Energy Precinct Advisory Committees are being sought.

DECCW will establish an Advisory Committee in each of the six Renewable Energy Precincts: New England Tablelands, Upper Hunter, Central Tablelands, NSW/ACT Border areas, South Coast and Cooma/Monaro. These areas have been identified as having strong wind resources.

The Precinct Advisory Committees will comprise Local Government and community members. Their aim is to enhance Local Government and community consultation, provide input on renewable energy development issues to ensure that regionally specific issues are properly considered and ensure community access to information on matters relating to renewable energy, specifically wind farms. For example, the Committees may provide advice to councils on regionally appropriate approaches to wind development assessment issues that are not covered in the national guidelines, assist to promote the benefits of wind energy generation, and identify renewable energy opportunities and issues or concern.

The Precinct Advisory Committee will comprise up to 10 members representing the range of interests in the Precinct. It will include:

- An independent Chairperson;
- Up to four representatives from the local councils located within in the Precinct;
- Up to four representatives, covering a cross-section of community interests (e.g. landowners, industry, environment, local business and township community); and
- The Regional Coordinator from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The NSW Government has written to Mayors in the Precincts inviting nominations for local council membership. Councillors or council staff can be nominated.

The Associations are helping DECCW assess and coordinate local council representatives, so please submit your nominations to LGSA. Local Council nominees are required to provide a letter of endorsement from the Mayor or General Manger of their Council.

The NSW Government has also invited Expressions of Interest from members of the public interested in becoming a member of the Precinct Advisory Committee for their Precinct through newspaper advertisements and a media release.

File Reference: R06/0041:AL

Nominations close

13 November 2009

Online information

Nomination form, selection criteria
Committee Terms of Reference:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/windprecincts.htm

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Finance

Item 10: Local Government Reform Fund

The Australian Government has established the \$25 million Local Government Reform Fund to help build capacity and resilience in Local Government and strengthen its ability to manage its assets and anticipate service and infrastructure needs.

The fund will be used for initiatives aimed at implementing nationally consistent asset and financial management frameworks, improving the consistency and quality of Local Government data, and enabling collaboration and service sharing among councils.

Only state and territory governments are eligible to submit project proposals under the Local Government Reform Fund to the Australian Government. States and territories, in partnership with their Local Government Associations, are to decide on projects to be submitted for funding and partner with their Local Government Associations to manage successful projects.

In NSW, the Department of Premier & Cabinet's Division of Local Government (DLG) is in the process of preparing a funding submission in close consultation with the Associations. Importantly, the Associations and the DLG are working on proposals for NSW-wide programs building capacity in asset management and financial planning to support the introduction of integrated (community strategic) planning and reporting.

Councils are advised not to submit individual submissions or funding applications at this stage. However, the Associations would welcome ideas from councils on what the state-wide program should aim to deliver.

Types of activities funded by the program must be directly relevant to asset and financial management and/or collaboration to build capacity and resilience in Local Government. Examples of such activities may include:

- Training, manuals and other tools to guide asset management and financial planning;
- Technical assistance, software and support;
- Employment of a project manager;
- Planning or establishment of joint service delivery across councils; or
- Promotion of best practice asset and financial management or collaboration activities.

Asset and financial management projects should also be complementary to any process for legislative changes, such as the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting Reform.

File Reference: R06/0023 SM

Key dates

Project proposals are to be submitted by the DLG by 30 November 2009.

Further information

<http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/local/25million.aspx> or the Australian Government infoline: 1800 005 494

Additional information, including the nationally consistent frameworks on asset and financial management, is available on the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council website at http://www.lgpmcouncil.gov.au/publications/sus_framework.aspx

LGSA: Shaun McBride, 02 9242 4072, shaun.mcbride@lgsa.org.au or Sascha Moege, 029242 4045, sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au

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In the News

Item 11: Media from the LGSA

Following is a list of the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Temora Shire and Tamworth Regional Council win A.R. Bluett Memorial Award

Sunday 25 October, 2009

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3141-25-october-2009-temora-and-tamworth-win-bluett-award.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Chairman of the A.R. Bluett Memorial Trust, John Flannery PSM, has announced that the A.R. Bluett Memorial Award for 2008/2009 has been awarded to:

Shires Association Section: Temora Shire Council

Local Government Association Section: Tamworth Regional Council

New Era for Local Government and Department of Planning

Tuesday 27 October, 2009

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3139-27-october-2009-new-era-for-local-government-and-department-of-planning.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Association and the Department of Planning have come together to formalize a closer relationship, signing a new consultation protocol agreement at the Local Government Conference in Tamworth.

E Planning Pilot Councils Announced

Tuesday 27 October, 2009

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3140-27-october-2009-e-planning-pilot-councils-announced.asp?intSiteID=1>

12 NSW Councils are set to work with Local and State Government authorities to work on an electronic Housing Code pilot project.

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In the News

Item 12: Local Government Media

Following is a list of the latest Local Government media articles. Most articles this week have been generated from the 2009 Local Government Association in Tamworth.

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[No such thing as a free picnic lunch](#)

[Illegal dumping](#)

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[National Planning scheme](#)

[Ban on Trans fats](#)

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[Modernisation of Local Government](#)

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[Shoalhaven wins bid to host 2011 LGA Conference](#)

[Opposition plans likely next](#)

[Maternity Leave provisions](#)

[Petch honoured for 23 years service](#)

[Population boom](#)

[Ferry Privatisation](#)

[Review of mining processes](#)

[O'Farrell: we'll work with you](#)

[Recycling pipe down the drain](#)

[Drought proofing](#)

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Cost Shifting

NSW Government cost shifting hits councils: survey

Newcastle Herald, Saturday 24 October

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/nsw-government-cost-shifting-hits-councils-survey/1657884.aspx>

HUNTER councils are bearing a \$31 million burden because of State Government cost shifting, a new survey shows. And ratepayers are suffering the consequences, mayors say. The Local Government and Shires Associations this week released a cost shifting survey.

'\$431m state imposition'

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 27 October

Link unavailable

NSW councils spent \$431 million in 2007-08 - or \$51 million more than two years earlier – on tasks imposed by the State Government.

2EC (Bega), Tuesday 27 October

A Local Govt and Shires Association report has found NSW Govt continues to shift cost and responsibilities onto local councils without any additional funding. Tony Allen, Bega Valley Shire Mayor, says rate payers are suffering.

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga), Tuesday 27 October

Interview with Bruce Miller, president, Shires Association. Miller talks about cost shift and local govt and a survey examining the 2007-2008 financial year to see where councils spent their money. Host says there was a \$431m cost shift for that year alone found in the survey. He talks about other findings in the survey. He notes that the Alan report found that 25% of councils across NSW were unsustainable if they continue as they are. He says cost shift is happening right across the board. He says councils have stabilised their infrastructure backlog thanks to the fed govt. He says local govts need to get a fair proportion of taxes from the fed govt and the NSW govt. He says the report will be taken to state govt and ministers.

Council cash grab costs us more

Daily Telegraph, Saturday 24 October

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sunday-telegraph/council-cash-grab-costs-us-more/story-e6frewt0-1225790919057>

SYDNEY councils are screwing millions out of homeowners by slugging ratepayers with an extra charge above regular rates. Under the guise of raising cash for essential upgrades to public buildings and local roads, a string of councils are imposing an "infrastructure levy".

State leaves Gosford with \$9.5m 'bill'

Central Coast Express-Advocate: Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

THE NSW Government has left Gosford Council with a \$9.5 million financial burden. In a process known as cost shifting, Gosford Council had to foot the bill for a range of costs during 2007-2008 which used to be carried by the State Government.

ABC Upper Hunter (Muswellbrook, Wednesday 28 October

New figures have revealed the cost of shouldering State and federal Govt responsibilities took over \$1m from the Upper Hunter Shire Council financial budget in the 07/08 financial year. Darryl Dutton, General Manager of the NSW Local Govt and Shires Association who carried out the report, said the added responsibilities of cost shifting impacts about 3% of Council's total income.

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Bluett Awards

Tamworth Regional Council is No 1

Northern Daily Leader, Sunday 25 October

<http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/news/local/news/general/tamworth-regional-council-is-no-1/1658601.aspx>

TAMWORTH Regional Council was announced as the winner of the prestigious AR Bluett Memorial Award for 2008/2009 at the opening of the Local Government Association Conference yesterday.

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga), Monday 26 October 2009

The Temora Shire Council has been named the winner of the annual AR Bluett Memorial award at the Local Govt Association conference. The awarded is given to a local council which has been deemed to have made the greatest progress. John Flannery, Chairperson, AR Bluett Memorial Trust when announcing the win said the council impressed the judges in the economic climate and the continuing drought.

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga), Monday 26 October 2009

Interview with Peter Spiers, mayor, Temora Shire Council. Talks about winning the AR Bluett Memorial Award in the Shires Section at the Local Govt Association Conference. He says he is happy to win the award. He says the judges noted that Temora Shire Council has done well during the global financial crisis. He talks about the success of the council and praises the councillors, council staff and the community for working well together.

Prime Tamworth (Tamworth), Monday 26 October

Tamworth Regional Council has been presented with the Bluett Award at the Local Govt Assoc conference. Cr James Treloar, Mayor won a mayor's award.

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Licence changes hit right note

Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 26 October 2009

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/licence-changes-hit-right-note-20091025-heol.html>

IN A move that will be music to some ears, restaurants, bars and cafes will no longer have to obtain a special licence to hold live performances.

No such thing as a free picnic lunch

Daily Telegraph, 26 October 2009

Link unavailable

IF you're planning a picnic this summer, get ready to pay for the privilege as the State Government rakes in millions of dollars in fees for prime pieces of parkland. The tradition of sending out a family picnic scout at dawn to reserve a barbecue shelter, and taking turns to guard it zealously until the rest of the party arrives, is all but gone. The Government and its relevant statutory authorities are the biggest beneficiaries when it comes to hiring public open spaces for private use.

2GB (Sydney), Monday 26 October 2009

Host says nothing shocks him when it comes to governments and councils gouging money from people to pay for basic services. Reads from the Telegraph which has taken aim at councils in Sydney who are charging you to have a picnic in public areas. Says it's worked fine, there are fees of up to \$2000 being charged for the use of public rotundas. Says Australia is an outdoor country and we already pay for the upkeep of parks. Says people should boycott the places that charge you for a picnic.

2UE (Sydney), Monday 26 October 2009

Host talks to Genia McCaffery about the issue. Says her council does not charge for parks but explains charges relate to exclusive usage and says that is not unreasonable. Says her rangers would not move people on if they just turned up for a barbecue. Explains that gazebos hired for weddings attract fees. Host notes Sydney City Council charges almost \$600 for Observatory Hill Park. McCaffery notes councils are required to put the fees on exhibition each year. Asked if people complain about a lack of park space, McCaffery says they no longer allow people to set up marquees due to complaints and she notes that park space in north Sydney is at a premium. McCaffery notes fees go into the maintenance of parks and she argues councils are not taking trips on the money but spending it on the community.

Illegal dumping

Dumpers on notice: Councils vow to make rubbish disposal fines hurt

Daily Telegraph, Saturday 24 October

Link unavailable

IT'S cheaper to get caught illegally dumping rubbish than to pay at the tip, thanks to "recycling" fees. Illegal dumping has increased 60 per cent in the past two years as the cost of using once-free tips skyrocketed to \$250 a tonne thanks to hefty recycling taxes that aren't even being spent on green projects. At this week's Local Government Association conference, councils will vote to end the scourge of illegal dumping by making the fines hurt.

2UE (Sydney), Monday 26 October 2009

Interview with Genia McCaffery. Host asks about illegal dumping. McCaffery explains the problem of dumping in north Sydney due to the dense population. Host notes Blacktown has problems. McCaffery explains she wants builders prevented from dumping and she also notes there can be asbestos-related problems. Webster notes it cost \$600,000 to clean up illegal dumping in Blacktown. McCaffery calls for witnesses to report illegal dumpers.

Planning

2UE (Sydney), Monday 26 October 2009

Interview with Genia McCaffery. Host asks about Kristina Keneally. McCaffery praises Keneally but says her policy on developments does not have the support of the councils or the community.

Host thinks the local Govt has a better idea about development than someone in Macquarie Street. McCaffery criticises the level of transparency at state. Says it is reasonable to allow lobbyists access if everyone has the same access, which they do not have. McCaffery says Keneally wants to take away the decision making powers of local govt and to put it in the hands of organisations like the Planning Assessment Commission

Prime Dubbo, Lismore, Monday 26 October 2009

The region's mayors have criticised the NSW Govt for stripping their councils of the power to approve large scale developments. The issue was raised as dozens of council representatives gathered for a Local Govt and Shires Association Conference in Tamworth. NSW Planning Minister Kristina Keneally, Oppn Leader Barry O'Farrell and former Premier Bob Carr spoke at the conference.

NBN Lismore, Tamworth, Gosford, Monday 26 October 2009

The State Govt is under fire over its planning guidelines with Councils lobbying to regain control over local decision-making. The issue is being debated at the NSW Local Govt Association meeting.

Planning Minister stirs pot

Northern Daily leader, Tuesday 27 October 2009

Link unavailable

FORMER NSW Premier Bob Carr may have been the keynote speaker but it was the words of Minister for Planning Kristina Keneally that dominated the conversation of delegates at the Local Government Association of NSW annual conference yesterday. Changes to planning legislation, the abolishment of Part 3a assessment and approval processes and the transparency of Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPP) were all hot topics of discussion during the first day's session at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre.

Prime Tamworth (Tamworth), Monday 26 October

Delegates to the Local Govt and Shires Assoc conference have accused NSW Planning Min Kristina Keneally of wasting their time. There was little to excite local councils expect the prospect of a change of govt. Bob Carr, former Premier, encouraged councils on health issues, issues affecting country areas received little attention.

WIN Dubbo, Albury, Tuesday 27 October

The NSW Govt is under attack over its planning guidelines, with local councils lobbying to regain control over decision making. It is one of the issues being debated at the NSW Local Govt Association Conference in Tamworth, bringing together six hundred delegates from across the state.

2GZ (Orange), Wednesday 28 October

The NSW Shires Association says a new protocol agreement with the Department of Planning will improve local govt's ability to provide feedback on changes that will impact the way councils operate.

STAR FM (Dubbo), Wednesday 28 October

The NSW Shires Association says a new protocol agreement with the Department of Planning will improve local govt's ability to provide feedback on changes that will impact the way councils operate.

2WG (Wagga Wagga), Wednesday 28 October

The Local Govt and Shires Association has signed a protocol agreement with the dept of Planning, to ensure councils have a greater say in policy and legislation. President of the Association Genia McCaffery said the new agreement is imperative if Govt is to represent the community.

Planning to cooperate

Goulburn Post, Friday 30 October

Link unavailable

LOCAL Government has taken steps toward a smoother relationship with State Planning. The Local Government and Shires Association and the Department of Planning signing a new consultation protocol agreement at this week's Local Government Conference in Tamworth.

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National Planning scheme

Rudd flags federal takeover of cities

Barrier Daily Truth, Wednesday 28 October

Australia's cities are the latest candidates for a federal government takeover Prime Minister Kevin Rudd wants to intervene in urban planning - usually the preserve of state and local governments - to make sure cities are well-run and climate change-proof He has told business leaders in Sydney that cities must be greener, and need better transport, water services and communications networks.

2SM (Sydney), Wednesday 28 October

PM Kevin Rudd wants to get greater control of urban planning by denying funding to states and councils if they don't agree to improve public transport and housing developments.

Want value for money? Go Local

Newcastle Herald, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

Prime Minister Rudd says the Commonwealth may take a role in the future planning of cities. This comes on top of the recent hijacking of local councils' planning authority by the State Government's implementation of joint regional planning panels, in which the state appoints a majority of members.

States to defend planning control

The Australian, Thursday 29 October

<http://wl.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26274741-5013871,00.html>

KEVIN Rudd's plan to seize greater control of urban planning policy has attracted a cool reception from states, with premiers warning they are unwilling to hand power to Canberra.

Rudd has plans for Western Sydney

Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday 29 October

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/rudd-has-designs-on-capital-cities-20091028-h111.html>

THE Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, has cited western Sydney as a region in need of better planning that would benefit from his Government taking the lead in shaping Australia's big cities

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Ban on Trans fats

Stop kids being 'poisoned' by bad fats, says former premier Bob Carr

Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 27 October 2009

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/lifestyle/stop-kids-being-poisoned-by-bad-fats-says-former-premier-bob-carr/story-e6frf00i-1225791470950>

FAST-FOOD outlets would not be allowed to open if they use some trans fats under a proposal mooted by former premier Bob Carr yesterday. Speaking at the Local Government Association

conference in Tamworth yesterday, Mr Carr called on the state's 152 councils to stop children being "poisoned" by trans fats, salt, and calorie-laden fast food.

Carr spitting chips over the use of 'killer' trans fats

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 27 October 2009

<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/wellbeing/carr-spitting-chips-over-the-use-of-killer-trans-fats-20091026-hgpf.html>

BOB CARR has declared war on killer cooking fat, and the former premier has his sights on fish and chip shops and charcoal chicken stores. Mr Carr said yesterday the use of cholesterol-rich trans fatty acids, or trans fats, in takeaway food had become a "matter of life and death" and immediate action was needed.

Triple M (Sydney), Tuesday 27 October 2009

Local Councils across NSW are set to use their powers to stop fast food outlets using dangerous fats in their foods. Kogarah Council is one that already uses its development powers to ban outlets using trans fats.

Channel 10 (Sydney), TEN News, Tuesday 27 October

Bob Carr, Former NSW Premier, has called on councils to ban fast food outlets from using dangerous trans fats. Dieticians have welcomed the plan. Gosford and Kogarah councils have already banned trans fats.

Normal people meat in a hypocritical health sandwich

Daily Telegraph, Wednesday 28 October

<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>

OUR supposedly classless society is showing signs of being divided into two camps, where people's choices as individuals and families are regulated according to affluence.

ABC 702 Sydney, Wednesday 28 October

Glover says Bob Carr has recommended all councils follow the lead of Kogarah Council and ban takeaway stores who use trans fats. Associate Professor Tim Gill is on the line to discuss fats. He says animal fats are more saturated and olive oil is unsaturated. He discusses the chemical composition of fats. Gill says trans fats can cause heart disease, liver dysfunction, increasing diabetes, cancers and Alzheimer's disease. Gill says trans fats are used in making some biscuits. Glover notes a book called In Defence of Food. He says Bob Carr has called for a ban. Gill says most health authorities agree. He is not sure if it is 'feasible' for local govts to make that decision. He says Food Standards Australia New Zealand are reluctant to ban trans fats. Gill says many fast food outlets have stopped using trans fats. Glover wonders if ice cream is ok. Gill says dairy products contain natural trans fats. Gill says 'good quality chocolate' is okay.

Carr declares war on killer fat

Northern Daily Leader, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

BOB Carr has declared war on killer cooking fat, and the former NSW premier has his sights on fish and chip shops and charcoal chicken stores. Mr Carr said in Tamworth on Monday the use of cholesterol-rich trans fatty acids, or trans fats, in takeaway food had become a "matter of life and death" and immediate action was needed.

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Coastal Erosion

Councils 'damned' on coastal plans

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 27 October 2009

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/councils-damned-on-coastal-plans-20091026-hgpx.html>

A LACK of appropriate laws regulating Australian coastal development in the climate change era has left councils legally exposed whether they approve or reject development applications, according to a landmark report.

Beachfront blitz to curb development

The Australian, Tuesday 27 October 2009

Link unavailable

THE federal government's National Sea Change Taskforce has flagged new powers that would allow Canberra to block what it sees as inappropriate beachfront developments. The taskforce's report, tabled yesterday in parliament, says national guidelines should be drawn up for development in sensitive coastal regions, and calls for local councils to operate within these guidelines.

Make evacuation plans: Climate change warnings Report calls for immediate action

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 27 October 2009

Link unavailable

URGENT action to cope with the impact of rising sea levels needs to start now, including improving evacuation routes for coastal communities during extreme storms and flooding. As well, a sweeping federal parliamentary report calls for an overhaul of the building code to make homes more resilient and for the legal liability for future property losses to be sorted out.

ABC Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour), Tuesday 27 October

Five years ago the National Seachange Taskforce was created as a way for coastal councils and communities to deal with the pressures of population growth, and ageing population, and climate change. Last night the report from the Fed Parliamentary Coastal Inquiry was released. Compere talks to Alan Stokes, Executive Director, National Seachange Taskforce. Stokes says the report involved public consultation, and the committee was bi-partisan. Stokes says the time to act is now, and there needs to be awareness that these issues are real. Stokes says 700,000 coastal properties around Aust are at threat from extreme weather events and coastal erosion. Stokes laments on the difficult decisions councils have to make on developments. Stokes says the Committee has said the Aust Law Reform Commission should conduct an inquiry into council liability issues. Compere says the NSW Dept Environment and Climate Change has introduced changes last week to target 19 hot spots, and introduce codes of practice and the creation of sea walls. Stokes says all levels of Govt need to work together on a uniform approach, which isn't happening now. Stokes says the committee has recommended a new coastal zone ministerial council to develop an inter-governmental agreement on the coastal zone which is endorsed through COAG. Stokes says at the moment the States and Commonwealth can't agree on where the coast line is. Stokes says there's a lack of clear guidelines. Stokes says the Rudd Opposition prior to the last election promised it would play a national leadership role in terms of coastal planning and management. Stokes says the Fed Govt needs to play a leadership role as only they can do.

ABC1 (Melbourne) Tuesday 27 October

There is a mounting argument that the dream of a beach front home should be entered into cautiously. A bipartisan federal parliamentary committee has suggested that development in low lying coastal areas vulnerable to sea level rises might need to be banned. Predicted rises in sea level due to climate change could see many of Queensland Gold Coast properties under threat. Gold Coast City Council has already done secret projections on the impact of storm surge on some of its most vulnerable areas, should the sea level rise. Parliamentary committee on climate change spokesperson Pennie George says extreme weather events compound the problem of rising sea levels. The Insurance Council estimates nearly 900,000 properties are at risk from rising sea levels. Sydney University Associate Professor of Geosciences Peter Cowell says the federal government needs to take ownership of the national problem. He says raw data is required to determine the scale of the problem. Sydney Coastal Councils Group have formulated a joint strategy to deal with climate change. Spokesperson Wendy McMurdo says the science

points to the problems of climate change increasing. Data from Macquarie University shows the devastating effects of sea level increases.

Coastal plan agreement Mistakes made in the past

Manly Daily, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

THE Federal Government's committee on climate change has handed down a plan of action on sea level rises, coastal erosion and heavier storms, echoing northern beaches council's submissions.

A shore-fire plan for development

The Australian, Thursday 29 October

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26273243-25658,00.html>

OF all the capital cities in Australia, landlocked Canberra with its only beaches the ones bordering Lake Burley Griffin is the one least likely to have any insight into what's happening on Australia's beachfronts.

Councils welcome joint effort

Central Coast Express Advocate, Friday 30 October

<http://express-advocate-wyong.whereilive.com.au/news/story/gosford-wyong-councils-welcome-joint-effort-on-sea-levels/>

GOSFORD and Wyong councils have welcomed a push for a three tier government approach to planning for rising sea levels.

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Asbestos removal

Asbestos risk in new code

Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 26 October 2009

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/asbestos-risk-in-new-code-20091025-heop.html>

A NEW code that scraps the need for council approval for construction for many renovations and new homes allows asbestos to be removed from building sites without the normal safeguards, a Sydney council has warned.

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney) Monday 26 October 2009

NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally says NSW Govt will conduct an urgent review of govt policy on removal of asbestos from demolition sites. She made the announcement at the LGA conference. Several councils voiced concerns that asbestos is not being properly disposed of.

Risky removal rules says mayor

Parramatta Sun, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

THE State Government has redrawn the rules on asbestos removal in a move that Holroyd Mayor John Perry says will increase health risks to residents.

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Opposition to CBD Metro

Councils demand scrapping of CBD Metro

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 27 October

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/councils-demand-scrapping-of-cbd-metro-20091026-hgpu.html>

MOST of the state's councils have demanded that the Government scrap the CBD Metro and revive the north and south-west rail links as Labor loses support among its own councillors for the line. Yesterday all but a handful of more than 500 councillors at the NSW Local Government Conference in Tamworth supported a motion by Leichhardt Council to oppose the metro.

2GB (Sydney) , Tuesday 27 October

Host talks about most NSW local councils calling for the NSW Govt to scrap the CBD Metro at the local govt conference in Tamworth.

2SM (Sydney) , Tuesday 27 October

The NSW Local Govt Conference in Tamworth has heard most local Sydney councils want the CBD Metro scrapped and replaced with heavy rail links to the North and South West © Media Monitors 2009

Vega 95.3FM (Sydney) , Tuesday 27 October

Local councils have voted to fight the Sydney CBD Metro project. The Local Govt Association said the money needs to be use to fund heavy rail projects in the west instead.

2GB (Sydney), Tuesday 27 October

Host reads a story from the Sydney Morning Herald about how most of NSW's councils have demanded that the NSW Govt scrap the CBD Metro and revive the north and southern west rail links. He says not one Labor councillor spoke against the motion to oppose the CBD Metro. Quotes Raymond Harty from The Hills Shire about how the northwest rail link is needed for people in the Hills area.

2SM (Sydney), Tuesday 26 October

Host reads reports of the NSW Local Govt conference supporting the Leichardt Council proposal to oppose the construction of the CBD Metro. He says the outer suburbs of Sydney have a 'desperate need' for transport infrastructure, and says with the failure of the NSW Govt to deliver on promises, no one wants to risk the Metro project. Delaney says Liberals will scrap the project 'when they come in' after the next election.

Metro opposition unanimous

Northern District Times, Parramatta Advertiser, Wednesday 28 October

<http://northern-district-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/metro-opposition-unanimous/>

DELEGATES at the Local Government Association conference in Tamworth voted unanimously to oppose the Sydney CBD Metro. And they have called on the State Government to begin construction of shovel-ready rail projects including the Parramatta to Epping rail link, Northwest rail link and Southwest rail link immediately.

Tamworth Conference backs loop

Inner West Weekly, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

LIGHT rail in the CBD loop and Lilyfield extension to Dulwich Hill should be immediately undertaken" by the State Government, the Local Government Association Conference in Tamworth has heard.

Delegates vote metro

Hornsby Advocate, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

DELEGATES at the Local Government Association conference in Tamworth voted unanimously to oppose the Sydney CBD Metro.

Mayors call for rail links

North Shore Times, Friday 30 October

Link unavailable

DELEGATES at the Local Government Association conference have called on the State Government to start construction of shovel-ready rail projects including the Parramatta to Epping, Northwest and Southwest rail links.

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LGA Conference - General

2BS (Bathurst), Friday 23 October 2009

Interview with Genia McCaffery. Talks about the conference. Says they will discuss the future of local govts and making sure change is directed by local govt rather than state. Says she is not keen on 'massive' councils and says small councils allow better representation and engagement.

NBN Tamworth, Sunday 25 October 2009

Representatives of 83 Councils arrived in Tamworth today for the NSW Local Govt conference; 160 motions will be discussed.

ABC Orange, Dubbo, Monday 26 October 2009

Concerns about the assessment and approval process of mines are being discussed at the LGA Conference. Orange is calling for a single fee for mayors and councillors, the Mid West wants NSW Govt support to help regional councils provide more affordable housing and a hardship policy has been flagged by the Goulburn-Mulwaree Council.

ABC Tamworth, Monday 26 October 2009

Speakers at the conference will include Bob Carr, Minister for Local Govt Barbara Perry and Planning Minister Kristina Keneally. Motions to be debated include calls for greater regulation of voluntary administrators and issues around the removal of local govt planning controls.

ABC Tamworth, Monday 26 October

New tendering guidelines for local govt will be announced today at the LGA conference. Perry says the changes will make the tendering process simpler and more transparent.

ABC Tamworth, Monday 26 October

Host plays an excerpt of interview with Genia McCaffery in which she claimed that things are extremely difficult for local govt at the moment. Barry O'Farrell discusses McCaffery's comments. States that local govt is financially challenged, but also faces 'a challenge in relation to a State Govt that has never respected the third tier of govt'. Says that Libs/Nats believe decisions made closest to the community are best. Host brings up Tamworth Mayor James Treloar's remarks that the JRPPs are 'disgraceful' and asks what the Coalition's policy is. O'Farrell says they are concerned about the entire planning system and claims they want scrap Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and review the Planning Act.

ABC Tamworth, Monday 26 October

Bob Carr, former NSW Premier, discusses LGA conference. He says his message will be that local govt has to be part of the problem solving process, working closely with State Govt. Says that local govt should also be consulted by the Fed Govt on issues such as immigration and population growth targets.

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga), Tuesday 27 October

Concerns about the assessment and approval processes for mines are being discussed at the Local Govt Association's annual conference in Tamworth this week. The association is worried current legislation does not adequately address mining's impact on ground water and the long term viability of agricultural land.

2BS (Bathurst), Tuesday 27 October

Water sharing, govt funding and the future of amalgamations are all set to feature prominently throughout this year's Local Shires Association conference currently being held in Tamworth.

Changes in the proposed maternity leave have created a backlash from the United Services Union.

2EC (Bega), Wednesday 28 October

The annual conference of the Local Govt Association of NSW winds up in Tamworth today. Bega Valley Shire Council sent no reps this year because of the cost.

ABC Broken Hill (Broken Hill), Wednesday 28 October

Frank Zaknich, general manager, Broken Hill City Council has said this year's Local Govt Association conference helped it strengthen ties with sister council, Bankstown Council.

City a win with mayors: Mayors Praise conference

Northern Daily Leader, Thursday 29 October

FABULOUSLY organised with great venues and entertainment was the verdict of this week's Local Government Association conference in Tamworth, the association's president Cr Genia McCaffery has said. "It was a really good conference and everyone was really impressed with what Tamworth had to offer," she said.

2DU (Dubbo), Thursday 29 October

Perno talks to Greg Matthews, Dubbo City Councillor, about some of the issues discussed at the Local Govt Association conference in Tamworth. Matthews talks about council superannuation. He mentions some of the issues which pricked his interest. He argues that the conference is always city-focused but says there were a few issues which applied statewide. He claims that the most interesting discussion was one about making the conference more pertinent to local govt.

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Electronic Housing Code Pilot

ABC New England North West (Tamworth), Monday 26 October

The NSW Govt has promoted the Electronic Housing Code Pilot Program, saying they will be more efficient and transparent. Tamworth, Lake Macquarie, Bankstown, and The Hills Shire Councils have been selected to participate in a trial of the Fed Govt-funded plan organised by the NSW Govt and the Local Govt Association.

Prime North Coast (Lismore), Tuesday 27 October

Tweed Shire and Port Macquarie-Hastings Councils will take part in a pilot project designed to speed up the approval process for development applications. The project puts the process online.

Planning Pilot

Newcastle Herald, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

LAKE Macquarie City Council will be among 12 NSW councils to trial a program to improve its planning system.

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One Association

ABC Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Orange, Bega, Tuesday 27 October

There is widespread support for a single group representing NSW Councils at the Local Government Association's conference in Tamworth. Members are supporting a proposal for a single body that will represent shires and city councils. According to Genia McCaffery it will not be straightforward due to the variation in populations and issues. An agreement has been reached by the Local Government and Shires Associations and the Department of Planning. The conference in 2011 will be held in Shoalhaven.

Prime Tamworth , North Coast, Wagga Wagga, Tuesday 27 October

Councils around the state will consider if the Shires and Local Govt Associations should merge. The proposal was put to a state conference in Tamworth today. Shoalhaven Council Deputy Mayor Gareth Ward supports the merger.

A merger will further councils

Northern Daily Leader, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

THE words "commonsense" and "government" are not often found in the same sentence, let alone the same post code. However, yesterday commonsense was to the fore when delegates at the Local Government Association conference voted unanimously to dissolve the two existing bodies the LGA and the Shires Association and work towards a convention midway through next year to develop a constitution for a single body.

Unanimous decision made to merge NSW lobby groups

Northern Daily Leader: Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

LOCAL government in NSW will merge its two lobby support bodies the Local Government Association and the Shires' Association after a unanimous vote at the LGA annual conference in Tamworth yesterday.

NBN Tamworth, Tuesday 27 October

Councils will have one voice when pressuring for change in govt reform, with delegates voting to merge the Local Govt Assoc and the Shires Assoc.

ABC Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour), Thursday 29 October

Work is set to begin to create a single body to represent NSW city councils and shires. The proposal won strong support at this week's Local Govt Assoc annual conference. Genia McCaffery, President, LGA, said she will now hold talks with Bruce Miller, President, Shires Assoc. McCaffery says it will be a huge challenge to meet the needs of both tiers of local govt.

ABC Central West NSW (Orange,) Thursday 29 October

Work has begun to set up a single body to represent NSW city councils and shires The idea was debated at the Local Govt Association conference this week. Genia McCaffery, President, Local Govt Association, said that she will speak with Bruce Miller from the Shires Association to identify draft guidelines on how to form the group.

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Modernisation of Local Government

Councils told of need to modernise

Central Coast Express-Advocate: Wednesday 28 October

CASH-STRAPPED and power-strapped councils face an uncertain future, Local Government Association president Genia McCaffery has warned. Cr McCaffery said she was dead against council amalgamations but hinted that they were an option.

Central Coast Express-Advocate: Wednesday 28 October

Super council

Link unavailable

THE prospect of a super council to run the Central Coast is back on the agenda. Council amalgamations are being discussed at week's local government conference at Tamworth.

2GO FM Gosford, Wednesday 28 October

Bob Graham, Mayor, Wyong has rejected a proposal to reduce the number of councils around greater Sydney. Graham says the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia proposes cutting the number of councils from 42 to 11 but that it just wouldn't work.

Big council, great saving

Newcastle Herald, Wednesday 28 October

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/big-newcastle-region-council-great-saving/1660892.aspx>

THE Lower Hunter's five councils should merge to form the "Greater Newcastle Regional Council", a national engineers group believes.

Quickview - amalgamations

Manly Daily

Link unavailable

SO, there is talk of combining the three northern beaches councils into one (Amalgamation poll proposal - MD Oct 27). Cool! We will only need one parking sticker to park at all the beaches and maybe Pittwater will get some water bubblers.

Councils turn to TV

Mosman Daily, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

THE relationship between ratepayers and their councils is about to be sexed up, with the Local Government Association considering using television to advertise its role in the community.

Savings in council mergers

Newcastle Herald, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

MERGING the Lower Hunter's five councils would prevent residents being hit with costly rate rises, a former senior council official said yesterday. East Maitland resident Robert Gulliver, who worked for councils for 38 years, said there were "many savings" to be made in such a merger.

Bigger not better when it comes to councils

Newcastle Herald, Friday 30 October

Link unavailable

THE global recession and widespread talk of a "financial crisis" has given local government the cover it needed to come up with some ideas which, while sounding reasonable, are just plain scary.

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Design key to housing issue: Carr

North Shore Times, Penrith Press, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

POPULATION explosions throughout the country would shift even more responsibility to the big five regional centres of North Sydney, Parramatta, Liverpool, Sydney and Penrith, former Premier Bob Carr told the Local Government Association conference in Tamworth.

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E-waste

No hi-tech waste for pick-ups

Daily Telegraph: Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

COMPUTERS, televisions, printers, VCRs and DVD players will be banned from council garbage collections to stop toxic waste leaking into groundwater. Councils will ban electronic waste pickups so companies have to deal with their own rubbish.

2GB (Sydney), Wednesday 28 October

Hadley says NSW Local Councils will ban electronic waste pickups to stop toxic waste leaking into ground water. He says lead, mercury, cadmium and PVC can leak into ground water supplies. Hadley says he imagines people will have to make alternative arrangements but he doesn't know what they would be.

2UE (Sydney) Wednesday 28 October

Wilton says he will shortly discuss how some NSW councils want to ban TVs, videos and DVDs from rubbish collections.

WIN Dubbo, Wednesday 28 October

Orange City Council is already tackling the issue of containing potentially harmful waste such as computers and televisions. The local govt association conference this week debated a ban on the council waste pickup of any high tech equipment.

2GB Sydney, Thursday 29 October

Jones says that electronic waste are soon to be banned from council clean-ups, to prevent toxic waste leaking into ground water, forcing the industry to pay for collection and recycling. Local Govt Association Conference was told that an alarming number of chemicals leak into the groundwater from these products.

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Wollongong Council investigation

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong), Tuesday 27 October

The Wollongong council has recently been sacked and is currently being run by administrators. Today saw the first appearance in court of several people who have been charged over the public inquiry at the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Former Councillors Kiril Jonovski, Frank Gigliotti, Zeki Esen are each charged with offences under the ICAC Act including furnishing false or misleading information and giving false or misleading evidence at a public inquiry. The DPP is yet to confirm whether charges will be laid against the other 8 people

WIN Wollongong (Wollongong), Tuesday 27 October

Defence counsel for Former Wollongong Councillor Frank Gigliotti has entered a not guilty plea over charges stemming from the Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiry. Former Deputy Mayor Kiril Jonovski and Zeki Esen also appeared in court today.

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Shoalhaven wins bid to host 2011 LGA Conference

WIN Wollongong (Wollongong), Wednesday 28 October

Shoalhaven City Council has won the right to host the Local Government Association of NSW Conference in 2011. The New South Wales has come under attack for planning processes and cost shifting, which strips Shoalhaven City Council \$7 million each year and Wollongong Council \$16m

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong), Wednesday 28 October

Gareth Ward, deputy mayor, Shoalhaven Council, says that the Govt and the Shires Association Conference will pump at least \$1m into the local economy after the Shoalhaven yesterday won a bid to host the conference in October 2011.

POWER FM Illawarra (Wollongong), Wednesday 28 October

Shoalhaven has won the right to host the 2011 NSW Local Govt Conference. Paul Green, mayor, Shoalhaven Shire Council, says that it is a great boost for the local area.

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Opposition plans likely next

Northern Daily Leader, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

THE NSW Coalition intends to keep its policy ammunition dry in regards to local government and will "possibly" announced its plans at next year's conference.

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Maternity Leave provisions

ABC New England North West (Tamworth), Wednesday 28 October

James Treloar, Tamworth Council Mayor, has spoken out about the introduction of 18 weeks paid maternity leave for council employees, saying it's unnecessary with the Federal Govt's paid maternity leave. The motion was voted in at last year's annual conference of Local Govt Association of NSW, but the LGA may scrap the plan this year.

ABC New England North West (Tamworth), Wednesday 28 October

The annual conference of the Local Govt Association of NSW has referred a decision on paid maternity leave to its executive. At last years conference in Broken Hill the LGA agreed to 18 weeks paid maternity leave for all council workers, but a motion to scrap the plan was put to this year's annual conference.

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga, Wednesday 28 October

The annual Local Govt Association NSW conference has referred a decision on the scrapping of paid maternity leave to its executive following the Fed Govt's announcement of a scheme.

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Petch honoured for 23 years service

Northern District Times, Wednesday 28 October

<http://northern-district-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/petch-honoured-for-23-years-service/>

IVAN Petch, who turned 70 in March and who has been a councillor in the City of Ryde since 1986, talked about the two loves of his life after being honoured by his peers at the annual Local Government Association conference in Tamworth on Sunday.

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Population boom

Population set to explode

Liverpool Leader, Wednesday 28 October

Link unavailable

POPULATION explosions throughout the country would shift even more responsibility to the big five regional centres of Liverpool, North Sydney, Parramatta, Sydney and Penrith, former NSW Premier Bob Carr has told the Local Government Association conference at Tamworth.

Growing population shifts responsibility

Northern District Times, Wednesday 28 October

<http://northern-district-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/growing-population-shifts-responsibility/>

POPULATION explosions throughout the country would shift even more responsibility to the big five regional centres of North Sydney, Parramatta, Liverpool, Sydney and Penrith, former NSW premier Bob Carr told the Local Government Association conference in Tamworth.

High density 'good' says Bob Carr

Mosman Daily, Thursday 29 October

<http://mosman-daily.whereilive.com.au/news/story/high-density-good-says-bob-carr/>

POPULATION explosions throughout the country would shift even more responsibility to the big five regional centres of North Sydney, Parramatta, Liverpool, Sydney and Penrith, former NSW Premier Bob Carr has told the Local Government Association conference in Tamworth.

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Ferry Privatisation

Privatisation will hurt disadvantaged

Mosman Daily, Thursday 29 October

Link unavailable

PRIVATISING Sydney Ferries would penalise the most disadvantaged, Leichhardt Deputy Mayor Michele McKenzie has told delegates at the Local Government Conference in Tamworth.

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Review of mining processes

ABC New England North West (Tamworth), Thursday 29 October

Local councils have unanimously backed a call for the State Govt to review its approval process for mines after the motion was debated at the Local Govt Association's annual conference in Tamworth. The association wants an independent inquiry into the industry's impacts on groundwater and the long-term viability of agriculture and the environment.

ABC Central West NSW (Orange), ABC Upper Hunter, ABC Newcastle, Thursday 29 October

Local councils have backed a call for the NSW Govt to review its approval process for mines. The motion was debated at the Local Govt Association conference in Tamworth.

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O'Farrell: we'll work with you

North Shore Times, Friday 30 October

Link unavailable

OPPOSITION Leader Barry O'Farrell has promised local government delegates a closer relationship in the lead-up to and following the 2011 state election.

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Recycling pipe down the drain

North Shore Times, Friday 30 October

<http://north-shore-times.whereilive.com.au/news/story/recycling-pipe-down-the-drain/>

WATER recycling pipe in the \$400 million Northside Stormwater Storage Tunnel from Cammeray to North Head has never been used. Willoughby councillor Adrian Cox told the Local Government Association Conference in Tamworth that because of deterioration and replacement costs, the pipe was not appropriate to repair or maintain and would never be used.

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Drought proofing

ABC Western Plains NSW (Dubbo), Friday 30 October

Dwindling water supplies in the western region could be replenished if the Fed Govt agrees to fund a drought proofing project. The CENTROC group of Councils has unanimously backed a proposal for a 700% increase in the capacity of Lake Roland's to service the Central West.

ABC Central West NSW (Orange), Friday 30 October

Central West councils will lobby the Fed Govt to fund their drought proofing plans when the ministers visit Bathurst next month. The CENTROC group of Councils has unanimously backed a proposal for a 700% increase in the capacity of Lake Roland's to service the Central West.

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Brothels

ABC South East NSW (Bega), Friday 30 October

A man given approval to operate a legal brothel in the Eurobodalla says local councils need to disassociate the sex industry with crime. The Eurobodalla Shire Council this week won support to have the NSW Govt form a regulatory body for the brothel industry.

ABC North Coast NSW (Lismore), Friday 30 October

According to Jenny Dowell, Mayor, Lismore City Council, she would like to see tighter controls on brothel owners. According to Dowell, police checks are one way to monitor any illegal activity.

2EC (Bega), Friday 30 October

Staff including the Mayor and General Manager from the Eurobodalla Shire Council have returned from the Local Govt and Shires Association Conference in Tamworth happy with the event. The council did get some motions approved, one in relation to brothel applications.

ABC South East NSW (Bega), Friday 30 October

Emily Laurence interview with Rob(*), who recently successfully applied to run a brothel in the Eurobodalla. Longden recalls speaking to the Mayor of the Eurobodalla, Fergus Thomson, about a motion passed at the Local Govt Association Conference that aims to give local govt more teeth when it comes to looking at development applications by brothel owners. Rob says he was looking to start a business and the Eurobodalla did not have a brothel in the area. Rob felt that he was quite scrutinised in getting the DA through by the council, WorkCover and police, and says there was a bit of a community uproar. Rob thinks some people do not see brothels as legitimate businesses because they don't understand them. He points out that women advertise their services in the local paper all the time, and at least brothels are regulated and safe. Rob does not think that a NSW Govt regulatory body for brothel owners is a bad idea. He is not interested in pursuing his brothel application any longer.

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Learning

Item 13: Council Safe Manual Handling Presentation (Webinar)

Due to the number of manual handling injuries that occur in Local Government, WorkCover NSW is holding a free online manual handling course.

The webinar is relevant to OHS representatives, HR personnel and those involved in manual handling tasks. This course will be hosted by WorkCover's Public Sector and Community Services Team, and is supported by the Associations and the Councilsafe Network Group.

The Webinar is accessible from the WorkCover website.

File Reference: 100/0001

Date

Thursday 26 November 2009

Duration

2hours

Registration

Online at WorkCover NSW –

Smartmove:

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

Further Information

Nicole Wedderburn, WorkCover: 02 9841 8524

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Learning

Item 14: Councillor Professional Development Program Public Workshops

Four key councillor workshops have been scheduled in November in Sydney.

Good Governance

This workshop examines how the processes, protocols, and conduct of governance contribute to council performance.

Community Leadership

The objectives are to:

- learn from innovative councils about their community involvement and leadership;
- evaluate your own leadership practices;
- identify key challenges to your role as councillor, and learn some key problem-solving and assertiveness techniques to help you address them; and
- learn five key leadership practices and identify how these can be applied.

Planning Legislation Skills and Knowledge

Participants will examine fundamental planning principles, statutory frameworks and the critical steps in the process.

Media Fundamentals

This practical workshop is designed to provide councillors with realistic techniques to enable them to be more comfortable, confident and effective in dealing with the media.

The objectives are to:

- learn how to promote yourself and your council by understanding media techniques, tricks and strategies;
- identify good news stories, angles and opportunities and how to exploit them;
- seize control of media interviews, turn negative stories into positives and put yourself in the dominant role over the journalist; and
- sharpen your media skills - interview techniques, presentation, and writing press releases.

File Reference: R95/0084:RN

Date and Course

Good Governance – Friday 20 November
Community leadership – Saturday 21 November
Planning Legislation - Friday 27 November
Media Fundamentals –Saturday 28 November

Cost

Sustainability - \$125 including GST (subsidised by USSA)

Media Fundamentals - \$594 incl GST

All other modules - \$495 inclusive of GST per course

Registration

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/151-courses-for-councillors.asp>

Further information

Ruth Niemczyk, Learning Solutions
ruth.niemczyk@lgsa.org.au

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Planning

Item 15: ePlanning role model councils announced

Twelve NSW councils are set to work with the Department of Planning and the Associations on an electronic Housing Code pilot project. The project is the first step in the establishment of an online system for lodging and processing complying development applications under the NSW Housing Code.

The councils were announced by the Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally, at the recent Local Government Association Annual Conference in Tamworth.

The \$5.9 million pilot project is a joint collaboration between the Department and the Local Government and Shires Associations, and is funded by the Federal Government from the Housing Affordability Fund. The funding targeted high growth councils.

All councils were invited to apply to participate in the pilot project. The 12 councils, chosen to represent a variety of councils across NSW, are:

Bankstown City Council

Blacktown City Council

Gosford City Council

Lake Macquarie City Council

Liverpool City Council

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Rockdale City Council

Shellharbour Council

Sutherland Shire Council

Tamworth Regional Council

The Hills Shire Council

Tweed Shire Council

The electronic Housing Code (eHC) project aims to make the development process more user-friendly, cut paperwork and help deliver speedier decisions on applications. The project will help identify issues in moving to an electronic system for complying development under the Housing Code. The group of Role Model councils will be the focus for fast-tracking eHC service delivery in priority areas, while developing leading practice models for all councils to follow over time.

File Reference: R09/0015

Online information

LGSA Presidents [media release](#)

For further information

Department of Planning website [E-Planning for NSW](#)

John Hudson, Director, Sustainable Systems, Department of Planning:
02 9228 6517;

john.hudson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Judy Birrell, Senior Policy Officer – Planning, LGSA: 02 9242 4093;
judy.birrell@lgsa.org.au

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Procurement

Item 16: LGP Conference – Early Bird rate extended

Local Government Procurement (LGP) is very proud to coordinate the third Annual Procurement Conference for the NSW Local Government sector. The Early Bird rate has been extended to Friday 6 November.

With a theme of Managing YOUR Future, the conference will bring together an array of speakers with hands on experience covering a variety of topics. The content of this conference will be relevant to the most experienced professional as well as those just commencing their procurement career.

We believe that Local Government staff at all levels will benefit from the varied content and networking opportunities that the conference will provide. Local Government professionals, particularly procurement staff, senior management and anyone involved in purchasing would benefit from attending.

Cost

Early Bird Registration - \$495 inc GST - register by Friday 6 November

Full Conference Fee - \$577.50 inc GST – register by 1 November.

R05/0057:SS

Key dates

Thu 26 - Fri 27 November 2009

Location

Sydney Masonic Centre, 66
Goulburn Street, Sydney

Registration form and draft program

www.lgp.org.au; or phone

Emma Murray:

emurray@lgp.org.au or 8270
8700.

Further information

Emma Murray, LGP (as above)

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Roads and Transport

Item 17: Safety alert - Water filled safety barriers

WorkCover NSW reminds controllers of road works that there are only two types of plastic contained water filled temporary safety barrier systems currently accepted by the RTA.

Occupational health and safety legislation defines working near traffic as a high-risk activity and requires employers to ensure that controls are implemented to eliminate or minimise the risk of vehicles colliding with persons.

Safety barriers are but one part of a total traffic control system. All safety barriers systems have design and operational requirements that must be met in order for them to perform as tested.

The RTA only accepts two types of plastic contained water filled temporary safety barrier systems.

Generally, water filled barriers have large dynamic deflections when impacted and other barrier types are available with much lower dynamic deflections and in addition may offer better containment. The risk assessment should take these matters into consideration as well as the risk should the following not occur:

- Regular inspections required to ensure that each unit remains ballasted with water to the specified level and
- Damaged units are promptly replaced.

Controllers are reminded that, as with all safety barrier products, the inter-connection of units, the minimum length of the system installed and the use of appropriate terminal treatments must comply with the acceptance conditions or in the absence of these, the manufacturer's drawings and specifications.

Isolated and incorrectly installed plastic contained water filled barriers units have not been demonstrated to contain a vehicle and if struck and displaced, the barrier and possibly the vehicle may strike any road workers in the vicinity of the unit.

File Reference: R90/1244

Further Information

RTA:
http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/doingbusinesswithus/downloads/contractor-ohs/safetyalerts_dl1.html, 13 22 13

WorkCover:
www.workcover.nsw.gov.au, 13 10 50

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