



Item 9: NSW Local Infrastructure Fund

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Don't miss NSW's only Local Government focused tourism conference. The sixth annual LGSA Tourism Conference will be exploring The Business of Tourism.

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

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Item 4: Cultural Awards – take a look at previous entries

Many councils have begun to list their submissions on the Cultural Awards websites. Get inspired by looking at previous entries online.

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Councils are invited to attend the next Community Safety Network meeting. This meeting will focus on Crime Prevention Planning and Communication with Department of Justice and Attorney.

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The NSW Rural Fire Service Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER) Program can undertake hazard mitigation works at properties of aged and disabled people living on bush fire prone land.

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The Australian Government has released a guide supporting the implementation of water sensitive urban design (WSUD).

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This position has been re-advertised. The new closing date is COB, Monday 15 February 2010.

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Local Government Learning Solutions provides this free network, helping those responsible for training in councils to keep up their own professional development.

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A joint LGSA and Maddocks seminar will be held in Sydney for councillors and senior staff.

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Item 16: Draft Technical Standards for Private Bushfire Shelters

The Australian Building Codes Board is calling for public comment on the draft technical standards for private bushfire shelters.

Item 17: Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The Department of Planning has released draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines and a Policy Statement on Development Contributions for consultation.

Water

Item 18: 2010 LGSA Water Management Conference - Call for Papers

Councils and other stakeholders are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions to be considered for the conference program.

Item 19: Inquiry into Sustainable Water Management

The NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management is undertaking an Inquiry into Sustainable Water Management and is calling for submissions.

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Community

Item 3: 2010 Awards for Excellence in Aged Care

Nominations for the Aged and Community Services Association of NSW & ACT (ACS) 2010 Awards for Excellence in Aged Care are now open.

The awards promote and recognise excellence in a range of areas that contribute to the quality of life of older people, people with a disability and/or their carers. The Awards also acknowledge efforts to increase public confidence and community involvement in aged and community services.

Councils who are members of ACS may wish to nominate for the following State Award categories:

- Employee
- Volunteer
- Trainee
- Organisation
- Media
- Industry supporter

All State Award winners will be nominated for the national Awards in their relevant categories.

The Organisation Award recognises a provider organisation that demonstrates leadership, innovation and excellence in any of the following areas:

- People management
- Training
- Technology
- Customer service
- Stakeholder communications
- Environment

ACS is the leading peak organisation for aged care services, community care services and retirement villages in NSW and ACT. ACS represents over 300 organisations providing over 1,600 services to more than 100,000 people.

File Reference: R90/1195

Nominations close

1 April 2010

Online information

www.agedservices.asn.au, click on Conferences and Events

For further information

Aged & Community Services Association of NSW & ACT

Attention: 2010 Awards for Excellence, PO Box 3124, Rhodes NSW 2138, events@agedservices.asn.au, 02 8754 0400, 02 9743 4556

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Community

Item 4: Cultural Awards – take a look at previous entries

Many councils have begun to list their submissions on the Cultural Awards websites. Get inspired by looking at previous entries online.

The Cultural Awards highlight the level of professionalism offered by Local Government arts and cultural initiatives, and provide a platform to increase the visibility and recognition of your local arts and cultural achievements.

Last year's winners gained significant coverage in both online and print media.

To make your projects known in the broader arts industry and community, visit the Cultural Awards website and get started. Browse the 'Project' pages for inspiration and consider the value of your existing cultural work. Share stories of your cultural successes with us.

File Reference: R09/0016: AM

Awards ceremony

Thursday 29 April 2010.

Online information

www.CulturalAwards.lgsa.org.au

For further information

Policy Officer, Cultural
Development: 02 9242 4047,
alison.mclaren@lgsa.org.au or
christopher.hudson@lgsa.org.au.

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Community

Item 5: Community Safety Network

Councils are invited to attend the next Community Safety Network meeting. This meeting will focus on Crime Prevention Planning and Communication with Department of Justice and Attorney.

Topics to be covered include:

Department of Justice and Attorney – Alice Toby

- Determination of Crime Prevention priorities
- Funding of Crime Prevention strategies
- Evaluation
- Allocation

CHD Partners – Garner Clancey, Director

- Considerations for establishing a CCTV Network

The meeting will be held as a discussion session with Department of Justice and Attorney to provide some clarification of Crime Prevention Plans to be endorsed by The Attorney General Department NSW.

Meeting Date and Time

15 February, 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Venue

Landsdowne Room, Bankstown Town Hall, Corner Chapel and Richard Road

For further information

Margaret Southwell, Bankstown City Council: 02 9707 9471, Margaret.southwell@bankstown.nsw.gov.au

Rebecca Sinclair, Burwood Council: 02 9911 9905, rebecca.sinclair@burwood.nsw.gov.au

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Emergency Services

Item 6: NSW Rural Fire Service AIDER Program

The NSW Rural Fire Service Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER) Program can undertake hazard mitigation works at properties of aged and disabled people living on bush fire prone land.

AIDER provides eligible residents free assistance with things like clearing gutters, thinning vegetation, removing leaf and tree debris, trimming branches from around and overhanging the home, mowing or slashing long grass.

AIDER is a NSW Government initiative.

File Reference: R90/1033LG

Online information

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

For further information

NSW Rural Fire Service – AIDER
program: 02 8741 4955 or
aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au

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Environment

Item 7: National WSUD Guide

The Australian Government has released a guide supporting the implementation of water sensitive urban design (WSUD).

'Evaluating Options for Water Sensitive Urban Design – A National Guide' will help you meet urban water reform requirements under the National Water Initiative.

The guide will provide useful information for a range of urban professionals, particularly urban planners, development assessors, and water professionals.

The guide provides an overview of the technical options for achieving WSUD, and discusses best practice planning and management techniques for potable water demand reductions and options for stormwater management. It identifies risks and issues associated with WSUD, and discusses evaluation techniques. The guide also provides templates to help develop and evaluate WSUD.

R90/1056-12 SM

For further information

The guide is available at www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/urban/water-sensitive-design-national-guide.html

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Environment

Item 8: Position Vacant - Project Officer, Local Government Sustainable Procurement

This position has been re-advertised. The new closing date is COB, Monday 15 February 2010.

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW are seeking to appoint a highly motivated person to manage the Sustainable Choice Program for an initial period of 2.5 years to promote sustainable procurement in NSW local councils.

Sustainable Choice is an established, successful sustainable procurement program, working with and expanding a partnership of councils committed to implementing sustainable purchasing. The Project Officer will play a key role in providing member councils throughout NSW with the support, information and resources needed to develop and extend their sustainable procurement initiatives.

Applications close

COB, Monday 15 February 2010

Online information

<http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/956-sustainable-choice.asp>

For further information

For a full position description, please contact Robert Verhey, Strategy Manager – Environment: 02 9242 4080, Robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au

Selection Criteria

Essential

- Ability to motivate and enthuse people (to embrace and implement sustainable procurement initiatives)
- Understanding of or familiarity with operations of local government.
- Tertiary qualifications in a related discipline or equivalent professional experience and/or knowledge
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent consultation, negotiation and facilitation skills;
- Experience in establishing networks and stakeholder groups to deliver outcomes.
- Excellent computer skills
- Strong project management and organizational skills.
- Experience in delivering training or workshops
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team;
- Experience in developing and coordinating programs aimed at achieving behavioural change in identified groups.
- Understand and apply commitment to EEO, OH&S Policies and the Principles of Cultural Diversity.

Desirable

- Understanding of current issues and policies in relation to sustainable procurement and how these influence local government purchasing processes
- Understanding of environmental / sustainability issues;
- Understanding of supply chain management

This position is located at the LGSA offices, 28 Margaret St Sydney. The position is remunerated at the Associations' Senior Policy Officer rate. Salary on commencement will be \$80,945

File Reference: R06/0049 RV

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Finance

Item 9: NSW Local Infrastructure Fund

This week, the NSW Government announced \$179 million in interest free loans to help fund local infrastructure including – roads, sewage treatment works and water supply pipelines. Loans have been made to 33 councils for 37 projects.

The NSW Local Infrastructure Fund was introduced in the 2009-10 State Budget. It was established as an interest-free loan scheme to bring forward infrastructure projects which had been delayed due to a lack of funding and are essential to urban development.

The \$200m fund was originally announced as a one-off initiative. Projects had to meet specific funding criteria and it is expected that each project will be completed within 18 months of the loan being issued. The loans are to be repaid within ten years. The NSW Local Infrastructure Fund is a NSW Treasury Fund administered by the NSW Department of Planning.

The Associations supported the introduction of the fund and are pleased that a large number of councils have been able to utilise the fund given the relatively late notice of its establishment. The Associations had urged that the fund continue in future years should it prove to be successful. The high take-up rate demonstrates that there is demand from councils and a need to continue to make interest free loan funds available in future years. The fund is currently closed to applications. The Associations are calling on the NSW Government to make further funding available in the 2010-11 Budget.

R90/1270smcb

Online information

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Programsservices/FundingPrograms/NSWLocalInfrastructureFund/tabid/256/Default.aspx>

For further information

02 9228 6249,
nswlif@planning.nsw.gov.au.

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Infrastructure

Item 10: Satellite Service for Digital TV Blackspots

On 5 January 2010, Minister for Broadband, Communications and Digital Economy the Hon Stephen Conroy announced that a satellite service will be implemented to provide digital television to viewers in regional blackspot areas.

In May 2009 the Local Government & Shires Associations of NSW wrote to the Minister expressing serious concerns about the future availability of television transmission to blackspot areas when the analogue transmission is switched to purely to digital transmissions.

The new satellite service will ensure access to free-to-air digital channels to all Australians and provide regional viewers access to local news via a dedicated local news channel.

Over a 100 existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities will be upgraded to digital and any household not able to receive digital television from these upgraded sites will be served by a new satellite.

To access the satellite service households will need to install a satellite dish. The Federal Government will provide a subsidy to eligible households currently served by an analog 'self-help' transmission site which is not upgraded to digital to assist with the satellite dish installation.

File Reference: R90/0963-02LG

Online information

www.digitalready.gov.au

Further information

<http://www.digitalready.gov.au/satellite-tv.aspx>

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Learning

Item 11: The Councillor Weekend –Friday 12 March to Saturday 13 March 2010, Sydney

The Councillor weekends have been designed to provide councillors with a programme of accredited learning opportunities covering a range of topics. The program caters for both new and experienced councillors over the Friday/Saturday period.

It is recognised that many councillors face constraints in travelling long distances for one day training courses, but may be able to set aside time to do an accelerated learning program of mini skills courses over two days.

The Councillor Weekend will explore the principles of Strategic Planning and Asset Management for Councillors, Meeting and Chairing Skills for Councillors, and an Open Forum to discuss important issues and trends.

The facilitators are:

- Simon Jacobs, Principal, Corporate Planning and Development.
- David Clark, Consultant.
- Allen Mapstone, Consultant, Jeff Roorda & Associates.
- Darryl Rubiolo, Senior Learning and Development Consultant, Local Government Learning Solutions.
- Jennifer Dennis, Policy Officer, Planning, LGSA.

Date and Location

Friday 12 March to Saturday 13 March 2009, Sydney

Cost

\$880 inclusive of GST for workshops, manuals, refreshments and dinner on the Friday evening

Registrations

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

Further information:

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

R95/0084: RN

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Learning

Item 12: Councillor Professional Development Programs

A range of Councillor Professional Development programs have been scheduled from February to March 2010 in Sydney.

Workshop and date

- Good Governance, Saturday 13 February
- Effective Meeting Skills, Monday 15 February*
- Managing the Information Overload –Speed Reading, Thursday 18 February
- Planning Legislation Skills & Knowledge, Friday 26 February
- Initiating Change for Councillors, Thursday 4 March
- Media Fundamentals, Monday 8 March
- Councillor Weekend, Friday 12 March to Saturday 13 March
- Financial Skills for Councillors, Friday 19 March
- Connecting with the Community, Friday 26 March

*Evening module

File Reference: R95/0084:RN

Cost

Most modules are \$495 inclusive of GST per course. Media Fundamentals is \$594 inclusive of GST. Evening modules are \$330 inclusive of GST. The Councillor Weekend is \$880 inclusive of GST.

Registrations

Please fax a registration form to 02 9242 4188 or email learning@learning.org.au

Further information

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

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Learning

Item 13: Learning and Development Network Meeting

Local Government Learning Solutions provides this free network, helping those responsible for training in councils to keep up their own professional development.

The meeting agenda includes:

- The Bersin Report – what is the future of training?
- Emails, emails, emails – Greg Crowther and Professor Patricia Gillard (from the University of Newcastle) will assist you to understand and develop better communication plans across the council generations and lessen the evil of emails!
- Defibrillators in the workplace (to be confirmed) – a representative from the Royal Life Saving Society will present a practical demonstration of a life saving device that every trainer should, know about and know how to use!
- Council reports – hear what other councils are doing with their training budgets and calendars and share resources and ideas.
- Brainstorming on topics like retaining Gen X/Y, what induction training works and what doesn't, Year of Women in Local Government training ideas, how to help attendees retain and pass on knowledge after a course.

Date and Location

Monday 15 February, 9.30am – 3pm, Sydney

Registration

For catering purposes please RSVP by 8 February

Further information

Chrissie Gordon Wells, Learning Solutions on 02 92424081 or learning@lgsa.org.au

The Learning and Development Network Meeting will be followed by our Trainer's Showcase on Tuesday 16 February. Come along to both professional development activities.

File Reference: I98/0012:RN

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Learning

Item 14: Recent Land and Environment Court Decisions and the Implications for Local Government - Free Lunchtime Seminar

A joint LGSA and Maddocks seminar will be held in Sydney for councillors and senior staff.

The NSW Land and Environment Court (L&E Court) deals with land, planning and environment law matters relevant to Local Government practice. By providing an alternative vehicle for environmental protection, the L&E Court often produces landmark cases and cases establishing planning principles.

The seminar will address recent L&E Court decisions and the implications for Local Government, particularly exploring issues including:

- Retail centre decisions
- Climate change decisions
- Recent planning principles
- Section 34 conferences (mediation).

The presenters will be Stan Kondilios, Partner, Maddocks and Prue Burns, Partner, Maddocks.

Registrations are essential since numbers are limited. A confirmation letter will be faxed with details of the venue.

File Reference: I98/0012:RN

Date and Time

Friday 5 March 2010, 12-2pm

Location

Local Government Learning Centre, 28 Margaret Street, Sydney

Registrations

learning@lgsa.org.au

Further Information

Learning Solutions: 02 9242 4181 or learning@lgsa.org.au

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Planning

Item 15: BPB Accreditation Model on exhibition

The Building Professionals Board's draft accreditation model for council building certifiers is still on exhibition. Councils are encouraged to provide feedback to the Board on any issues of concern.

The current model on exhibition has a number of key changes from those previously placed on exhibition, and incorporates the feedback received during consultation.

Key elements of the model are:

- Existing accreditation categories A1, A2 and A3 will apply to council building surveyors and category A4 for building inspectors has been added.
- Council accreditation will only cover work undertaken on behalf of a council. Accredited council officers can carry out work on behalf of any council in NSW.
- Councils can consider an expanded range of qualifications and experience when it recommends a council officer for accreditation.
- Applications by individuals can only be made with the recommendation of a council.
- Initial accreditation is free and renewals to March 2013 cost \$250.00.
- A three year transitional period - from March 2010 to March 2013 - will provide time for council staff to become accredited. Councils have six months from March 2010 to ensure all work undertaken under A1 to A4 categories in their LGA is undertaken by accredited certifiers. Exemptions can be applied for.
- Council accredited certifiers will need to undertake a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program and will be subject to the Board's disciplinary procedures.
- Existing civil liability protections under the Local Government Act remain.
- Accredited council officers can undertake certification work on developments where they have been involved in the assessment or determination of a related DA or CDC.

The Board also sends out regular BPB Bulletins and has recently switched these bulletins to an online e-news format, to be delivered every month or so. To receive the latest news from the Building Professionals Board, email bpb@bpb.nsw.gov.au with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

File Reference: R90/0559

Submissions close

12 February 2010

Online information

Exhibition material and details on how to make a submission: www.bpb.nsw.gov.au under 'Events and News'

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Planning

Item 16: Draft Technical Standards for Private Bushfire Shelters

The Australian Building Codes Board is calling for public comment on the draft technical standards for private bushfire shelters.

In response to Victorian Bush Fires Royal Commission 2nd Interim Report recommendation, new building standards for private bushfire shelters have been developed under the Building Code of Australia (BCA). The draft standards are performance-based and deal with the design and construction of private bushfire shelters.

The draft technical standard contains five sections being; Design Standards (Section 1), Design Requirements (Section 2), Design Considerations (Section 3), Acceptable Metrics (Section 4) and Ancillary Information (Section 5).

A template to provide comments is available online (details above.)

Bushfire shelters and the Codes SEPP

In addition, the Associations appreciate feedback from councils on whether bushfire shelters should be included in the NSW Housing Code as exempt or complying development. Currently the Department of Planning is considering amendments to the Codes SEPP that may involve changes to the codes in relation to ancillary development in bushfire prone land. Please forward comments to Jenny Dennis before 5 February 2010 (details above.)

File Reference: R09/0014:LG

Key dates / Venues

Comments on the draft standards are to be submitted by Monday 8 February 2010.

Online Information

<http://www.abcb.gov.au/index.cfm?objectid=DCFC2A9C-0963-11DF-B1DD001143D4D594>

Further information

Jenny Dennis:
Jennifer.Dennis@lgsa.org.au or
02 9242 4094

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Planning

Item 17: Draft Local Development Contributions Guidelines

The Department of Planning has released draft **Local Development Contributions Guidelines and a Policy Statement on Development Contributions for consultation.**

The Associations will be preparing a submission on the draft Guidelines and Policy Statement. In order to effectively represent Local Government's views, the Associations appreciate receiving copies of councils' submissions and their comments on the draft documents.

Please send your comments – in draft or final form – to Judy Birrell (details right.)

File Reference: R90/0538

Key dates

Submissions on the draft Guidelines close 26 February 2010.

Draft Guidelines and Policy Statement

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PlanningSystem/DevelopmentContributionsSystem/DraftGuidelines/tabid/386/Default.aspx>

For further information

Judy Birrell, Senior Policy Officer
– Planning, 02 9242 4093 or
judy.birrell@lgsa.org.au, GPO
Box 7003, Sydney, NSW, 2001.

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Water

Item 18: 2010 LGSA Water Management Conference - Call for Papers

Councils and other stakeholders are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions to be considered for the conference program.

In particular, papers are invited on the main topics planned for the conference, including:

- Water conservation, demand management and alternative water supply options for towns.
Eg - the conference will showcase Orange City Council's Blackmans Swamp Stormwater Harvesting Scheme as a new and innovative approach to augmenting water supply through capturing urban stormwater flows. The scheme, which is capable of capturing approximately 2 GL/year, is the largest potable stormwater reuse system in Australia and has won several industry awards.
- Review of regulatory and institutional arrangement for local water utilities in regional NSW, particularly implementing regional water supply solutions to improve town water security. The conference will continue to discuss the outcomes on the NSW Government's Inquiry into Local Water Utilities.
- Increase water availability/security in inland NSW – potential for inter-catchment transfers and inland water diversion.

Papers/suggestions should include:

- A brief outline of the issue/main focus of your paper/suggestion;
- The preferred format for its inclusion in the program (conference paper, presentation, display, workshop topic);
- Possible presenter/s and a brief bio (50 words maximum); and
- The type of outcome that could be expected by conference delegates.

Please note that presentations that are solely commercial in nature will not be accepted.

The LGSA Water Management Conference is an annual event that provides Local Government with a broad range of information on water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities. The conference presents an opportunity for councillors, Local Government professionals, government representatives and the broader industry to tackle key water management issues and discuss emerging issues in the water portfolio from a Local Government perspective.

R900/0027: SM

Closing date for papers

16 April 2010

Email papers to

Sascha Moege (details below)

Conference date and venue

13-14 September 2010, Orange
(Evening welcome reception on Sunday, 12 September 2010)

Online information

www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au
Includes the latest information as well as the opportunity to subscribe to a conference email newsletter.

For further information

Sascha Moege, phone 02 9242 4045; email
sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au

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Water

Item 19: Inquiry into Sustainable Water Management

The NSW Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Natural Resource Management is undertaking an Inquiry into Sustainable Water Management and is calling for submissions.

The LGSA will make a submission to the inquiry and are looking for examples of best practice in water conservation and management in councils to include in their submission.

The inquiry pays particular attention to climate change impacts and, will report on the following terms of reference:

- The likely impact of climate change on the availability of water resources under different climatic scenarios;
- Approaches to the management of water resources by all water users including provision for environmental flows; and
- Best practice in water conservation and management.

The LGSA encourage councils to make a submission to the inquiry to showcase their achievements. Please forward any best practice examples to Sascha Moege (details above.)

R90/1056-12 SM

Submissions close

26 February 2010.

Online information

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/55C04217D56A1E48CA257680000FC774

Further information

Sascha Moege, Senior Policy Officer at sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au.

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Tourism

Item 20: 2010 LGSA Tourism Conference- Mayors and Elected Members urged to register

Don't miss NSW's only Local Government focused tourism conference. The sixth annual LGSA Tourism Conference will be exploring *The Business of Tourism*.

This conference creates a framework to help mayors, councillors, tourism staff and industry representatives strengthen their tourism strategy.

Program Sessions

- Funding - the big picture in funding tourism, TQUAL
- Tourism NSW session on funding including partnership, regional event and incentive funding
- Council Case Study Breakout Sessions: Barrington Tops Tourism Overview, Clarence River Tourism, Millthorpe Business Committee Business model, Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival
- Marketing Breakout Sessions: Marketing Models for VICs, Bankstown Bites Case Study, Destination Visitor Survey
- Sustainable Pathways Program
- Q Station Case Study
- Firing Up Cultural Tourism
- 2009 Update on Camping Issues
- Site inspection to the Cowra POW Campsite and Replica Guard Tower, VIC Centre Hologram and War Cemetery
- Workshop breakout sessions based on the Cowra POW site visit: Scenario 1 - Marketing strategy, collaboration, Scenario 2 - Funding and stakeholder partnerships, Scenario 3 - Community involvement and infrastructure

Optional Sessions

- Tourism Managers Exchange, 9.30 to 2pm Wednesday 10 March - free - please book during registration
- The Business of Events, 2.30pm to 5.30pm Wednesday 10 March - \$77 - please book during registration

Optional Activities

- Darby Falls Observatory, 8pm to 11pm Wednesday 10 March (after the Welcome Reception) - \$15.50
- Breakfast, Yoga and Swimming, 7.30am to 8.30am Friday 12 March - \$15.50
- Social Events
- Welcome Reception, 6pm to 8pm Wednesday 10 March - The Mill Cellar Door - included in full registration
- Conference Dinner, 7.30pm to 10.30pm Thursday 11 March - Cowra Japanese Garden - included in full registration

The 2010 NSW Tourism Conference is partnered by Tourism New South Wales and supported by the Tourism Industry Council. Sponsorship opportunities are still available at this time, please enquire with the LGSA.

R09/0005: MM

Register

www.TourismConference.lgsa.org.au

Registration closes

23 February 2010

Date

10-12 March 2010

Location and Host

Cowra Civic Centre, Cowra Shire Council

Further information

Karen Rolls:

events@lgsa.org.au, 02 9242 4050

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