



Correction: Variation to Local Government (Electricians) State Award

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Don't let this be the one that got away! Last chance to hook the early bird price for the 2011 LGSA Tourism Conference: Gone Fishing. Back Soon...

Changes to s 149 certificates related to coastal matters

The Department of Planning has notified coastal councils that changes will be required to be made to planning certificates for certain coastal properties based on new provisions of the Coastal Protection Act.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

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funding arrangements have been streamlined and will also cover the Productivity Places Program (PPP).

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The NSW Government released a report last week on how CountryLink Trains and Coaches could improve services across NSW, and also released their formal response to that report.

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Councils are encouraged to register their interest with IPART to hold half day information sessions in their area regarding the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006* and the recent changes to the exemptions under this licensing regime.

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New Vocational Training Program

The Department of Education and Training has changed its funding of vocational training in NSW to better meet industry needs.

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General Interest

Item 4: Early Bird closes this Monday - LGSA Tourism Conference

Don't let this be the one that got away! Last chance to hook the early bird price for the 2011 LGSA Tourism Conference: Gone Fishing. Back Soon...

Get ready to tackle the big tourism issues at the 7th annual LGSA Tourism Conference. The program is bursting at the seams with over 40 speakers ready to inspire you with case studies, report findings and information on what's happening on the cutting edge of tourism.

The LGSA has been lucky to have Rachel Botsman as a Keynote Speaker for the conference – a social innovator who writes, consults and speaks on the power of collaboration and how it will transform business, consumerism and the way we live.

The conference includes sessions and social events around The Shire, including the Royal National Park, Elouera Beach, Cronulla Beach, Hazelhurst Art Gallery and Symbio Wildlife Park.

Pre-conference sessions include the Tourism Managers Exchange, run by the Tourism Industry Council and the Building Better Communities with Tourism Seminar for Councillors, General Managers and Economic Development Managers.

Building Better Communities with Tourism Seminar for Councillors and General Managers

Optional session on Wednesday, 9 March, 2pm to 5pm

The Presidents and steering committee of the LGSA Tourism Conference feel that it is vital for Local Government leaders to understand the importance of tourism in their communities and integrate it into their strategic planning.

- Seminar only - \$55
- Seminar and Welcome Package - \$110. This is a special offer aimed at mayors, councillors, general managers and economic development managers. It includes the seminar, welcome reception and bus transfers.

The logo for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2011. It features the text 'LGSA TOURISM CONFERENCE' in white, uppercase letters on a dark red background. Below this, the year '2011' is written in a large, green, sans-serif font.

LGSA Tourism Conference

Wednesday, 9 – Friday, 11
March

Host

Sutherland Shire Council

Registrations

Early Bird by 31 January: \$550
Register by 28 February: \$660

Website

www.tourismconference.lgsa.org.au

Further Information

Michelle Muller
LGSA Events Coordinator
02 9242 4031
events@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0002 MM

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Community

Item 5: Local Government Cultural Awards

Entries for the 2011 awards are now open, and councils are encouraged to apply.

The awards recognise the value of local culture through acknowledging councils amongst the broader arts industry and community.

The Awards provides councils with an opportunity to showcase the value of their local culture in attracting new opportunities and resources. Culture is not static - it is constantly changing, so the Awards give councils the chance to be open about new creative experiences and achievements year after year.

Winners will be actively promoted through a range of mediums including coverage on the homepage of the Cultural Awards website and in publications such as the Local Agenda and Local Government Weekly.

Entries close

Monday, 14 March

Website

www.culturalawards.lgsa.org.au

Further information

Emma Moxon

LGSA Office Coordinator

02 9242 4062

emma.moxon@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0008 MM

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Category - Community

Item 6: Public Art Forum

As part of the Arts Forums for Councils series, Holroyd City Council is presenting Public Art – An Artist’s Perspective.

Hear from Public artists and developers in a discussion on Public Art from the other side of the looking glass. Learn what artists are doing, how developers work and ways to move towards stronger outcomes for Public Art in the Community.

Presenters include:

Emrah Baki Ulas - Steensen Varming

Currently a senior lighting designer at Steensen Varming, Sydney and co-leading the Lighting Design Masters Studio at UTS. Emrah has participated in various international lighting events and claimed CIBSE’s Young Lighter of the Year Award in 2008.

Marla Guppy - Guppy & Associates

Marla is a cultural planner and public art strategist with twenty years experience working on projects that explore social environments and identity. She has a particular interest in fostering creative involvement in the design of public space and community facilities.

Graham Chalcraft – Vertebrae

Graham has an MA in Public Art and Design, Chelsea’ School of Art, UK, specialising in Public artworks and ephemeral installations to map and interpret unique sites of social, cultural, and ecological resonance.

Forum

Wednesday, 9 February
9.30pm – 3.30pm
The Holroyd Centre
Miller Street, Merrylands
Free, bookings essential

Contact

Todd Williams
Cultural Officer
02 9840 9997
todd.williams@holroyd.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R07/0014 MK

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Community

Item 7: Future housing for older people - Symposium

The Australian Housing Urban Research Institute and The Benevolent Society are co-hosting this important symposium to generate real discussion on innovative housing projects for older Australians.

This event will challenge current barriers to innovation through a combination of context-setting presentations and case studies highlighting innovative solutions and interactive workshops.

It will address the lack of choice and proper planning for the provision of suitable and affordable accommodation for Australia's growing ageing population, and seek to identify positive and practical outcomes.

Workshops will cover:

- Planning — What changes in the planning process are needed to support innovation?
- Funding models — What are the necessary incentives and processes to encourage innovation?
- Sector coordination — How can better coordination be achieved between the housing, aged and health sectors?
- Taxation — How will the recommendations from the Henry Taxation Review impact on appropriate and affordable housing?

Symposium

Friday, 25 February
9am - 5pm
Sydney

Online information

www.ahuri.edu.au/futurehousing

Ref: R10/0026

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Community

Item 8: Older People and the Social Inclusion Agenda

The Australian Association of Gerontology is holding a seminar which considers whether the social inclusion approach can provide the right principles of social justice.

Titled Missing in Action, Older People and the Social Inclusion Agenda, the seminar will address the threats of disadvantage that older people face.

Older Australians are not currently identified as a target group in the Australian Social Inclusion Agenda. Older people who are excluded from employment face potential isolation, poverty, ill-health and marginalisation

Guest speaker is Professor Chris Phillipson, from Keele University, UK.

Aged care workers, social administrators, policy makers and researchers are encouraged to attend.

Details

Friday, 11 February
9.30am - 12 pm
Mitchell Theatre
Sydney Mechanics' School
280 Pitt St, Sydney

Cost

\$50 non-members

Further information

Janet Gilchrist
02 9767 7158
Janet.gilchrist@sydney.edu.au

Ref: R09/0029 MK

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Community

Item 9: Template for assessing home design accessibility

The Home Modifications Clearinghouse at UNSW has developed a template that can be used by council officers to assess housing plans in terms of accessibility for people with disability.

The Home Modification Information Clearinghouse has created a template that includes the A90 wheelchair (denotes Australian Standards 90% of wheeled mobility users), bathing trolley and an ambulance trolley in both 1:20 and 1:50 ratio formats.

The turning circles of these items will be useful for planning environments to enable and include those with a range of functional impairments, as well as accommodate the need for access by paramedics.

The template was originally conceived as a one-off tool to promote better design. The templates also come with a leaflet of information, which is available to download for free.

Template cost
\$8.50

Online information
<http://www.homemods.info/>

Further information
<http://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/bookweb/details?ITEMNO=999000160525>

Ref: R10/0026 MK

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Environment

Item 10: Myrtle Rust – Plant disease outbreak in NSW

Myrtle Rust is a recently established plant disease that has the potential to significantly impact many native plant species in NSW. A number of Local Government Areas have been quarantined, and many other councils are undertaking inspection and containment activities in an attempt to contain the spread of this disease.

Online information

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust

Ref: R90/1211 GH

Background

Myrtle Rust is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Uredo rangелиi*. It is a serious pathogen which affects plants belonging to the Myrtaceae family, including many iconic Australian natives such as bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp) and gum trees (*Eucalyptus* spp). Myrtle Rust produces masses of powdery bright yellow or orange spores on infected plants. The rust was first detected on the Central Coast of NSW in April 2010. How the rust fungus entered Australia is unknown.

Current situation

Myrtle rust has now been confirmed on 140 properties from the mid south coast to the north coast of NSW. More than 1100 properties, including residential, bushland and roadside verges have been inspected. There are 29 known susceptible host plant species and this number is expected to rise. The rust has been confirmed in 25 bushland sites and adjoining residential properties with several large tracts of bushland infected on the Central Coast.

In an effort to control the fungus, a Quarantine Area was declared in the Gosford and Wyong Local Government Areas from July 2010. This means that the movement out of the Quarantine Area of (a) any host plant material, and (b) anything (covering, packaging, machinery, etc) which has been used in the culture, harvesting, or packing of host plant material, is prohibited (subject to conditions).

Reporting Myrtle rust

Myrtle Rust has been made a **notifiable pest**, which means that by law, people are required to report Myrtle Rust within 24 hours after first discovering or becoming aware of its appearance. The NSW Government has also asked councils, industry and the public to learn how to recognise the fungus and report any suspected cases early, as well as practise good hygiene methods to restrict the spread of the fungus.

The fungus has the potential to have significant impact on both NSW horticultural industries and the health of native vegetation in NSW public parks and bushland reserves. Many councils are undertaking activities to minimise the risk of potential impacts including changed procedures in activities such as bush regeneration, parks and gardens maintenance, bushfire hazard reduction, and roadside vegetation management.

Unfortunately, based on the current knowledge and distribution of the disease, the National Myrtle Rust Management Group has agreed that it is not technically feasible to eradicate the disease.

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Industrial Relations

Item 11: New Vocational Training Program

The Department of Education and Training has changed its funding of vocational training in NSW to better meet industry needs.

From 1 January 2011, Strategic Skills Program (SSP) funding arrangements have been streamlined and will also cover the Productivity Places Program (PPP).

This will provide the opportunity for more Registered Training Organisations to provide a wider range of training opportunities to individuals, and more appropriate training for businesses. Management of the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Training Program (ATTP) is largely unchanged.

The major features of the revised funding arrangements for SSP are:

- Greater industry focus – on skills needs: current, emerging and for the future.
- More targeted assistance for job seekers and existing workers, with extra support for those with special needs.
- Funding for part qualifications and under specific circumstances, full qualifications.
- Flexible funding for full qualifications, available under specific circumstances.
- Set allocations for full qualifications replaced by submissions from contracted registered training organisations (RTOs).

PPP training approved prior to 1 January 2011 will continue under the former funding arrangements.

Management of the ATTP had two significant changes:

- RTOs have a greater responsibility and involvement in the carriage of the Training Plan.
- Funding for certificate II courses (aka entry level training) is limited to people aged 15-24 years.

Registered training organisations must have a contract with the Department of Education & Training to attract funding (i.e., they must be on the Approved Providers List). The current tender closed in 2010 and registered training organisations have until 31 January 2011 to return their contract.

More details on the SSP arrangements will become available on 1 February 2011.

Online information

https://www.training.nsw.gov.au/new/s/sp_ppp_changes.html

Ref: I96/0012 MA

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Industrial Relations

Item 12: Correction: Variation to *Local Government (Electricians) State Award*

Please note that page 25 of the LG Weekly edition 01/11 contained an error in the following article. The amount for Clause 25 Travelling Allowance for 30-40kms is \$14.30 per day, not \$11.10 as published.

The correct article is reproduced below:

Adult minimum rates of pay and work related allowances provided by the Local Government (Electricians) State Award increased by 4.25 percent on 16 December 2010 by General Order of the Full Bench of the Industrial Relations Commission of NSW in State Wage Case 2010.

Table 1: New Rates and Allowances

Clause 6 Wage Rates	
Technical/Trades Band Level 1	\$721.00
Technical/Trades Band Level 2	\$793.00
Technical/Trades Band Level 3	\$907.30
Professional Band Level 1	\$793.00
Professional Band Level 2	\$907.30
Professional Band Level 3	\$1017.10
Professional Band Level 4	\$1188.60
Apprentice 1st Year	\$399.10
Apprentice 2nd Year	\$471.40
Apprentice 3rd Year	\$541.50
Apprentice 4th Year	\$609.70
Clause 8 Special Allowances	
(a) Dirty work	30 cents per hour
(b) Wet places	35 cents per hour
(c) Confined spaces	35 cents per hour
(d) Working underground	30 cents per hour
(e) Working with raw sewerage	\$6.72 per day
Clause 9 Tool Allowance	
(i) Electrical Tradesperson	\$27.90 per week
(iv)(b) Amount payable by employee for each claim for compensation of loss of tools	\$70.50
Clause 15 On Call	
(iii) On call allowance	\$91.80
Clause 16 Meal Allowance	
(i) Meal allowance	\$12.70
(ii)(a) Meal allowance	\$12.70
(ii)(b) Meal allowance working 4 hours over time	\$9.70

Clause 25 Travelling Allowance	
Where the employee works at a distance from the depot greater than:	
(ii) 3-10 kms	\$4.40 per day
10-20 kms	\$7.80 per day
20-30 kms	\$11.10 per day
30-40 kms	\$14.30 per day
40-50 kms	\$17.70 per day
For each additional kilometre	34 cents
Clause 28 Driving of Motor Vehicles	
(ii)(a) Use of private vehicle (cents) per kilometre	
Under 2.5 litres	64 cents
2.5 litres and over	73 cents
(b) Minimum yearly allowance	\$6984.00
Clause 29 Industry Allowance	
Industry Allowance	\$46.20 per week
Clause 32 Miscellaneous	
(ii)(a) West of the line allowance	\$1.03 per day
(iii) First aid allowance	\$2.68 per day

NB:

Variation of expense related allowances (including meal allowances and vehicle allowances) require a separate application and are expected to be varied in the near future.

For further information please contact an Industrial Officer of the Workplace Solutions Division on (02) 9242 4142 or wps@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I10/0014: PB

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Learning

Item 13: In house Training Services – Leadership programs

Local Government Learning Solutions has a range of leadership and performance enhancing programs that will develop your leadership skills.

Effective leadership is a key motivator to people staying with an organisation. "When the best leader's work is done, the people say: 'We did it ourselves'". - Lao Tzu

Leadership skills programs which could be conducted on your premises:

- **MasterClass – Executive Development Program** – This two day development program is designed specifically for General Manager, Directors and Senior Managers, and will expose you to concepts which will help you meet the challenges facing the industry today.
- **Revisiting Change Management** – Middle and Senior Managers will not only explore nine change management models but will also find ways to handle overt and covert resistance.
- **Revisiting Leadership** – Middle and Senior Managers will revisit many models of leadership and will be introduced to some new ones that can be applied immediately.
- **Leading and Managing Effectively** – This four day program (delivered in modules of two days) is aimed at middle to lower level managers and covers issues such as handling difficult staff, motivation, coaching, delegating and managing priorities.
- **Developing High Performance Teams** – This practical workshop can be a team leader's only program, an employees' program, or aimed at a particular team which may not be productive.
- **The Manager as Coach** – A key leadership skill is coaching, and it's important for leaders to develop their skills in this area.
- **Outdoor Leadership** – A highly practical one or two day program to introduce outdoor gangers and team leaders to their leadership responsibilities.
- **Pathways to Leadership** – If you have identified some up and coming leaders amongst your employees, or some newly appointed leaders, then this one or two day program will assist them to understand the concepts of leadership that will ease their step up into a higher role.
- **Performance Management** – This practical one day workshop will introduce leaders to the major concepts of managing performance.
- **The Supervisor Series** - Module topics include understanding the supervisor's roles, delegation, understanding team roles, giving feedback, and maintaining performance.

Councils can gain significant savings by having public training workshops customised to their individual needs and supplied "in house". Not only can we tailor the content of each individual workshop for you, we can also mix and match topics from different workshops, or design new topic content to meet your specific requirements.

Further information

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

Contact

Judy Archer
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4182
learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 14: Springboard workshops – Personal development for women

Registrations are now open for the Springboard program helping women in non-management positions develop skills and knowledge to reach greater career goals.

In four workshops over four months, Springboard will empower women to:

- Set and achieve personal goals.
- Establish what you want from life.
- Focus on your priorities.
- Acquire ideas, skills and confidence needed to reach your potential and goals.
- Position yourself to make positive decisions about work and personal options.
- Take action.

The course includes sessions on time management, assertiveness, dealing with change, conflict resolution, problem solving, goal setting, stress management, networking, communication and action planning.

Each workshop has a high profile woman as a guest speaker. Local Government Learning Solutions coordinates a mentoring strategy in conjunction with the program and delivers a half-day program for mentors. The participants also network with women from other councils.

Program dates

Participants attend all four workshops over four months and their mentors attend the half-day workshop:

- Wednesday, 16 March, Mentors.
- Tuesday, 15 March, Day One.
- Wednesday, 6 April, Day Two.
- Wednesday, 4 May, Day Three.
- Wednesday, 25 May, Day Four.

Cost

\$1,100 (inc. GST)

Participants: Four workshops

Tuesday, 15 March

Mentors: Half-day workshop

Wednesday, 16 March

Registrations

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/152-courses-for-staff.asp>

Contact

Jennifer Fanning

Learning Solutions

02 9242 4181

learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 RN

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Learning

Item 15: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops – February 2011

Registrations are now open for a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for February in Sydney.

Preventing Bullying and Harassment for Managers

8 February

Revisiting Change

9 February

Finance for Non-Finance Managers

10 February

Learning and Development Network Meeting

14 February

Trainer's Showcase

15 February

Personal Organisation and Time Management

16 February

Award History

17 February

Introduction to Local Government

18 February

Writing Effective Minutes

22 February

Assertive Skills

23 February

OHS/RTW for Supervisors

25 February

Time Management

28 February

Contact

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

Ref: R98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 16: Learning Activities for Women's Day and National Youth Week

Learning Solutions has a range of in house professional development workshops suitable for International Women's Day and National Youth Week.

Our courses specifically designed for women include:

- Springboard – This four day workshop, held over four months, helps women in non-management positions develop skills and knowledge to empower them to reach greater career goals.
- Leadership Skills for Aspiring Women - This one or two day program is designed for women who want to progress to a supervisory role. The program is presented in a non threatening environment in which to explore issues that may be of concern or holding them back from aspiring to greater achievements.
- Fine Tuning the Balance for Women in Local Government - This professional development program covers managing stress and time; developing resilience with healthy lifestyle choices; becoming more flexible in home and work; and understanding career choices.

Professional development programs for youth and people who work with youth include:

- Youth Leadership Workshop – This workshop provides Youth Development Officers with leadership activities to be used in the workplace when developing skills and capabilities of young people. It will also help them understand what a high performance consists of, and their role in it. The program will concentrate on developing the attendees' knowledge of leadership through practical activities to foster their experience. This program is also suitable for local upper teen Youth groups which may be working on a council sustainability project or a youth committee advising council on youth development needs.
- We also have programs on Personal Organisation and Time Management for Youth, Communication Skills for Young Leaders, Mediation Skills for Youth Leaders and How to Manage Different Generations.

International Women's Day

Tuesday, 8 March

National Youth Week

Friday, 1 – Sunday, 10 April

Contact

Darryl Rubiolo
Learning Solutions
02 92424182
darryl.rubiolo@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Planning

Item 17: Changes to s 149 certificates related to coastal matters

The Department of Planning has notified coastal councils that changes to planning certificates for certain coastal properties will be required.

The changes are based on new provisions of the Coastal Protection Act, and will need to be implemented by 25 February 2011.

The Department of Planning issued a Planning Circular PS-11-001 on 24 January 2011 outlining the changes required to planning certificates for coastal properties.

Legislation

www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

Online information

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yDoJR8cQ4Bs%3d&tabid=81&language=en-AU>

Ref: R09/0014 AL

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Roads and Transport

Item 18: CountryLink Report and NSW Government Response

The NSW Government has released a report about how CountryLink Trains and Coaches could improve services across NSW. The Government also released their formal response to that report.

Released last week, the CountryLinkUp report was undertaken by a panel, chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Penny Sharpe MLC, aiming to improve CountryLink services and involved extensive community consultation across the state.

The NSW Government will accept 49 of the 62 recommendations including:

- Trialling free children's activity bags.
- Investigating the installation of entertainment units similar to those found on planes.
- Investigating the installation of wireless internet access and battery charging facilities.
- Improving food and drink options for passengers with new quality coffee and tea on all services.
- Introducing an extra CountryLink morning coach service from Lismore to the Gold Coast starting in February 2011.
- Adding an extra stop for all CountryLink coach services going through Lismore starting from February 2011.

The Government has also agreed to investigate the provision of additional services, including:

- CountryLink coach services to Griffith, Mildura, Bathurst, Dubbo, Condobolin, Canberra and Tumbarumba.
- A two day per week service that links Temora, Young, Boorowa, Yass and Canberra.
- A bus connection between Port Macquarie and Wauchope station for all XPT services.
- A CountryLink coach connection from Ballina via Iluka, Wombat and Maclean to Grafton station for the XPT service.

Media Release

http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/releases/110120_countrylink_report_-_penny_sharpe.pdf

Full Report and Government response

www.transport.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0552 RC

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Water

Item 19: Water Industry Competition Act - IPART Information sessions

Councils are encouraged to register with IPART to hold half day information sessions regarding the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006* and the recent changes to the exemptions under this licensing regime.

In August 2008, a new licensing and access regime for private sector entrants into the NSW water supply and wastewater industry commenced with the enactment of the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006* (WICA) and its regulations. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) is the regulator responsible for administering the licensing and access regime.

IPART's information sessions will focus on:

- What is the Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006? What is a licence under the act?
- The three stages of the licensing process.
- Lessons learnt from two years of implementation.
- Who was exempt from licensing, and who is now? Why did it change?
- What is required following the granting of a licence?

Further sessions are planned for Sydney and regional NSW during March, depending on interest and response to the first session, and will be advised separately. IPART asks councils to register their interest for further sessions in their area. IPART advises that early registration is strongly recommended as places were limited. Places are limited to two individuals per organisation for the first session.

Due Date

Wednesday, 9 February

Registrations

Emma Smith

02 9290 8472

emma_smith@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Information Session

Wednesday, 23 February

9am – 1pm

Wesley Conference Centre

220 Pitt St Sydney

Contacts

Carly Price

02 9113 7732

carly_price@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Narelle Berry

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In the News

Item 12: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

NSW communities welcome 3,200 new citizens

25 January 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3681-25-january-2011-nsw-communities-welcome-3200-new-citizens-.asp?intSiteID=1>

More than 3,000 people from around the world will celebrate Australia Day by taking their citizenship pledge at one of over 100 ceremonies hosted by NSW councils tomorrow.

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