



Responses received to LGSA's 2011 Election Priorities

The LGSA have received an official response to their *NSW Election Priorities 2011* from several parties contesting the NSW Government Election.

LGSA Cultural Awards are due – Entries close soon

The 2011 Cultural Awards recognise the value of local culture through acknowledging councils amongst the broader arts industry and community. Councils are encouraged to enter.

IPART Info Sessions on Water Industry Competition Act

Following a session in Sydney, IPART will hold two half day information sessions in regional NSW locations on the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006* and the recent changes to the exemptions under this licensing regime.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

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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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The NSW Falls Prevention Network Forum 2011 will focus on Translating Research into Practice.

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Aged and community care providers in regional areas are invited to take part in a workshop regarding the transition of Home and Community Care aged care services to the Commonwealth.

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Council staff are invited to celebrate International Women's Day in crossing of the walkway of the Sydney Harbour Bridge lead by the beat of African Drums.

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Consultation on the proposed draft regulations for the National Early Childhood Education and Care Law will commence soon.

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Northside Community Forum is offering three courses which may interest councils offering Home and Community care (HACC) services.

Emergency Services

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Registrations are now open for the Australasian Community Engagement & Fire Awareness Conference, *Making Engagement Engaging in 2011*, proudly hosted by The NSW Rural Fire Service.

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DECCW and the LGSA have joined forces to hold three workshops around NSW to ensure more effective Local Government engagement in the process of developing the draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy.

Item 14: National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme Consultation Process Update and Workshops

Under the National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources, the Australian Government agreed to develop and enact national legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes.

Item 15: Workshop on NASA Satellite Data for Air Quality Applications

NASA, in cooperation with the Atmospheric Environment Research Centre of Griffith University, is holding a short training workshop to demonstrate using NASA Satellite Data for air quality applications.

Industrial Relations

Item 16: WorkCover NSW Public Forum and Webinar

Registrations are now open for the WorkCover NSW Public Forum and Webinar - Model Work Health and Safety Regulations.

Item 17: Worker Safety on or Near Public Roads Campaign

A national compliance and enforcement campaign will commence from March - May to increase awareness and measure compliance in respect of worker safety on or near public roads.

Learning

Item 18: In house Training Services to Enhance Performance

Learning Solutions offer a range of training workshops supplied in-house for councils to gain significant savings.

Item 19: Personal and Executive Assistants' Annual Conference

In recognition of all that PA/EAs have given to Councils, the theme of this year's conference is "Empowering PA/EAs in Local Government".

Item 20: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops

Learning Solutions is offering a range of staff programs and events scheduled for March and April in Sydney.

Item 21: Contaminated Site Short Courses

Registrations are open for a series of three day courses covering all aspects of contaminated site assessment, remediation and management.

Planning

Item 22: More changes to the Codes SEPP

The Department of planning has introduced minor changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) commencing immediately.

Item 23: Smoke Alarms required in Moveable Dwellings

Commencing on 25 February, the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2000 Clause 186AA requires owners of moveable dwellings to ensure smoke alarms are installed.

Item 24: Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments.

The Productivity Commission has undertaken a benchmarking study of the states and territories' planning and zoning systems as well as land development assessment processes. A draft research report has been released for further public consultation.

Procurement

Item 25: NSW Local Government Electricity and Natural Gas Tender

Based on a survey conducted by Local Government Procurement (LGP) in January 2011, NSW councils have demonstrated an overwhelming support for a new electricity tender process to commence immediately with an aim to be implemented by 30 June 2011.

Roads and Transport

Item 26: Draft Heavy Vehicle National Law & RIS released

The Federal Government through the National Transport Commission has released the draft Heavy Vehicle National Law and a draft Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) addressing the law for public consultation.

Water

Item 27: IPART Info Sessions on Water Industry Competition Act

Following a session in Sydney, IPART will hold two half day information sessions in regional NSW locations on the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006* and the recent changes to the exemptions under this licensing regime.

In the News

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Conferences and Events

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[View upcoming conference and events relevant to Local Government](#)

2011 LGSA Tourism Conference

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Falls Prevention Network meeting

The NSW Falls Prevention Network Forum 2011 will focus on Translating Research into Practice.

Community Engagement & Fire Awareness

Registrations are now open for the Australasian Community Engagement & Fire Awareness Conference, *Making Engagement Engaging in 2011*, proudly hosted by The NSW Rural Fire Service.

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General Interest

Item 3: Responses received to LGSA's 2011 Election Priorities

The LGSA have received an official response to their *NSW Election Priorities 2011* from several parties contesting the NSW Government Election.

Official responses to the Election Priorities have been received from the Coalition, Greens NSW, Family First and the Christian Democratic Party. The LGSA are yet to receive a response from the Labor Government.

The LGSA welcomes the recognition by the Coalition and the Greens of the importance of returning local planning decisions to local communities, however more details is still required on the full range of policies.

The LGSA are currently reviewing all the responses from each party in full, and will respond in writing to each party next week requesting a meeting to discuss the key areas of concern further, and for full details of their proposed policies.

The official responses and original documentation are available on the LGSA's website (see fact box).

Online information

www.lgsa.org.au/election2011

Media Release

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3742-3-march-2011-councils-welcome-coalitions-response-to-their-nsw-election-priorities--but-are-still.asp?intSiteID=1>

Policy Enquiries

02 9242 4014
policy@lgsa.org.au

Media enquiries

02 9242 4015
media@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0033 MG

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General Interest

Item 4: Sustainable Events Policy and International Standard

The LGSA is committed to holding environmentally sustainable events. A checklist for the LGSA's own events that councils may also wish to refer to has been developed. Planning for an International Standard for sustainable events is also now underway.

The Sustainable Events Policy checklist helps Local Government event planners and coordinators minimise the negative impacts on the environment. Councils are encouraged to download and apply this checklist to their own events.

The LGSA is currently also sitting on the Committee for the ISO 2012 International Standard in Event Sustainability, along with Standards Australia. The International Standard specifies the requirements of an event sustainability management system.

The result of this process will be a document (available in the next six months or so) which will become the standard around the world. The standard will not be legally binding, however it is highly likely that it will be appropriated into government tenders and become 'standard industry practice.'

This standard will apply to all organisations involved in designing and delivering events. It accommodates diverse geographical, cultural and social conditions. This system will challenge organisations to continually improve processes, while allowing the flexibility to be more creative about delivering activities related to the event, without compromising its aim.

Councils will be notified when the standard will be available, via the Local Government Weekly.

Checklist

http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/LGSA-event-sustainability-signed_0810101.pdf

Contact

Meg Fisher
Manager, Events and Protocol
events@lgsa.or.au

Ref: R09/0031 MF

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General Interest

Item 5: LGSA Cultural Awards – Entries close soon

The 2011 Cultural Awards recognise the value of local culture through acknowledging councils amongst the broader arts industry and community. Councils are encouraged to enter.

Councils will be awarded for the outstanding work they undertake in the areas of cultural policy, planning and programs.

Continuing in 2011 is the People's Choice Award and the Accessible Arts Award. The actual awards are unique hand made works of art, commissioned with the Society of Arts And Crafts of NSW.

The 2011 Cultural Awards will be presented at a prestigious event, proudly sponsored by Essential Energy.

Tickets can be booked online directly and we encourage you to book early. Nominated Artist Tickets are an opportunity for councils to invite one creative non-council person who played a key role in the project.

Cultural Awards

Friday 6 May
Strangers Dining Room,
Parliament House, Sydney

Entries close

Monday 14 March 2011

Bookings Available

Monday 14 March

Cost

\$120 per person
\$60 for invited artists

Online Information

www.culturalawards2011.lgsa.org.au

www.aarts.net.au

Contact

Emma Moxon
LGSA Office Coordinator
02 9242 4062
emma.moxon@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0008 JH

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General Interest

Item 6: 2011 LGSA Tourism Conference

Word of Mouse? Social Media – Is it right for you? How does it fit in and how do you implement it? Don't miss out on hearing from our keynote speaker Darren Keppie at the 2011 LGSA Tourism Conference.

Darren is Google's Industry Manager for the Government & Tourism sector in Australia and New Zealand. He works with a range of Government Departments, Tourism Boards and their agencies to tailor Google products and services specifically to their needs.

Darren has worked with Google for over four years and was the first "Googler" (employee of Google) in Singapore and instrumental in the launch of that office when it was opened in 2007.

Darren will cover if social media is right for you, what your expectations should be, and how to create a digital campaign.

Accommodation is limited, so please book now to avoid disappointment.



LGSA Tourism Conference
Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 March

Host
Sutherland Shire Council

Registrations
Late listing only - Monday 7
March
Shires Tourism
02 9710 0888

Cost
\$660

Website
[www.tourismconference.lgsa.org
.au](http://www.tourismconference.lgsa.org.au)

Contact
Karen Rolls
LGSA Events Assistant
02 9242 4050
events@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0002 JH

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Community

Item 7: Falls Prevention Network meeting

The NSW Falls Prevention Network Forum 2011 will focus on Translating Research into Practice.

The meeting will cover risk factors for falls in the cognitive impaired older person; update on falls prevention research, costing and evaluation of falls prevention; NSW Health Falls Prevention Plan 2011-2015 and implementation strategies; and a Consumer Perspective on falls and Translating Research into Practice Session.

Other sessions will focus on the following two areas:

- Exercise Programs and Falls Prevention.
- Falls Risk factors, Assessment and Interventions with time for broader discussion.

Speakers include:

- Professor Stephen Lord - Update on Falls Prevention research.
- A/Professor Jacqueline Close - Risk factors for falls in cognitive impairment.
- Dr Wendy Watson - Costing and Evaluation of Falls prevention.
- NSW Department of Health - New Falls Plan and Implementation Strategies.
- Professor Ian Cameron - Exercise and frailty.
- A/Professor Catherine Sherrington - Post-hospital exercise programs.
- A/Professor Cath Dean - Exercise Programs for Stroke.
- Dr Colleen Canning - Exercise Programs for Parkinson's Disease.
- Dr Anne Tiedemann - ED Screening Tool.
- Dr Kim Delbaere - Fear of Falling.
- Dr John Ward – Sarcopenia.
- Ms Robyn Speerin - Osteoporosis and fractures.

Date

Monday 7 May

Location

Wesley Conference Centre, 220 Pitt St, cost \$50

Online information

<http://www.eventoffice.com/FallsPrevention2011>

<http://fallsnetwork.neura.edu.au/>

Contact

Esther Vance
9399 1063

e.vance@neura.edu.au

Ref: R02/0046 MK

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Community

Item 8: Changes to Home and Community Care consultations

Aged and community care providers in regional areas are invited to take part in a workshop regarding the transition of Home and Community Care aged care services to the Commonwealth.

In late 2010, the Department of Health and Ageing held the first phase of consultations on aged care reforms in capital cities. The second phase has begun focusing on rural and regional centres.

HACC service providers, Local Government, peak bodies and the workforce will be asked to provide their thoughts and ideas on how the transition of HACC aged care services could affect the way services are delivered now and into the future.

For providers in the Newcastle region, consultations will also include information and discussion on the 'new front' for the aged care sector.

This initiative is part of the national Health and Hospitals reform agreed by COAG on 20 April 2010 and is part of the broader Australian Government Health reform process.

Newcastle

Monday 7 March

Wests Mayfield

RSVP:

agedcareconsultations@health.gov.au

Merimbula

Thursday 10 March

Coffs Harbour

Monday 14 March

Tamworth

Wednesday 16 March

Broken Hill

21 March

RSVP: HACC.Reform@health.gov.au

Online information

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-contacts-subscribe.htm>

Further information

Jen Scheele 6289 3977

Leisa Mitchell 6289 5158

Ref: R05/0058 MK

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Community

Item 9: International Women's Day 2011

Council staff are invited to celebrate International Women's Day in crossing of the walkway of the Sydney Harbour Bridge lead by the beat of African Drums.

Women for Women International are the organisers of a global "Join me on the Bridge" campaign in celebration of the 100th birthday of International Women's Day.

The special day unites and supports women all over the world in showing that women can build the bridges of peace and development for the future.

By joining this campaign you will be standing alongside women in the USA, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Sudan and the UK, in saying NO to war and YES to peace.

This year will be even bigger with local and international press, and Australia will be the first bridge crossed in this truly global event. Coinciding with this special procession, a Bridge climb of WFWI Ambassadors will be taking place.

Bring a symbol of peace, wear something white, bring a banner, be creative!

Date

Tuesday, 8 March

Time

7.30am

Location

3 Cumberland St, The Rocks, Sydney

Contact

Jenny Bassett

0409770577

info@bassettinternational.com

Ref: R92/8804 SE

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Community

Item 10: National Early Childhood Education and Care Law

Consultation on the proposed draft regulations for the National Early Childhood Education and Care Law will commence soon.

The new National Quality Framework will be underpinned by the National law and National Regulations. Together, they will set new National Quality Standards for long day care, family day care, preschool (kindergarten in some jurisdictions) and out of school hours care services in all states and territories.

The development of the Regulations has been a collaborative process drawing on the experiences and knowledge of all states and territories and the Australian Government. This work has also been informed by the National Stakeholder Reference Group and the feedback received at public forums. The resulting draft regulations are intended to reflect both a continuing focus on outcomes for children and minimising regulatory burden.

The exposure draft of the National Regulations is expected to be available from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations soon.

A national consultation process on the proposed draft regulations for the National Early Childhood Education and Care Law is scheduled to commence in March 2011. The consultation sessions aim to stimulate discussion and feedback on the draft regulations and the reforms more broadly to ensure the regulations work in a practical way. State and Territory representatives will attend each session to discuss jurisdictional specific issues.

Sessions are as follows:

Sydney CBD - Monday 14 March, 2pm - 4pm
SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Sydney CBD - Monday 14 March, 6.30pm – 8.30pm
SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Penrith - Tuesday 15 March, 12pm - 2pm
Penrith Panthers, Mulgoa Road, Penrith NSW 2750

Parramatta - Tuesday, 15 March, 7pm - 9pm
The Sebel Parramatta, 350 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Newcastle - Wednesday 16 March, 12.30pm – 2.30pm
The Sebel Newcastle Beach, 5 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2300

Wagga Wagga - Thursday 17 March, 12.30pm – 2.30pm
The Wagga Wagga Country Club, Plumpton Road, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Orange - Friday 18 March, 12.30pm – 2.30pm
Country Comfort Orange, 146 Bathurst Road, Orange NSW 2800

Those wishing to attend need to register through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website. The schedule may be updated or changed. Please check the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website prior to attending the forum to ensure that the details have not altered.

Feedback Due

Thursday 14 April

Comments to

ececquality@deewr.gov.au

Online information

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy_Agenda/Pages/DraftNQFRegDocs.aspx

Further information

Early Childhood Quality Group
Department of Education,
Employment and Workplace
Relations
Loc C17MR2
GPO Box 9879
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Ref: R99/0036 NB

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Community

Item 11: Training for HACC services

Northside Community Forum is offering three courses which may interest councils offering Home and Community care (HACC) services.

The courses cover abuse of older people, maintaining personal boundaries and assessing and addressing the needs of older people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The abuse of older people and consumer rights - Tuesday 15 March

Session 1 - Abuse of Older People

Jill McDonnell - Education Officer/Aged Care Advocate from The Aged Care Rights Service (TARS) and Older People's Legal Service (OPLS) will discuss:

- Abuse of Older People.
- Types of Abuse.
- Principles for Responding to Abuse.
- How to Respond – What to Do.

Session 2 - Consumer Rights of Older People

Tim Tunbridge, Solicitor will discuss:

- Consumer Rights.
- Reverse Mortgages & Granny Flats.
- Difference between Power of Attorney & Guardianship.
- Powers of Attorney – Enduring – Capacity.
- Guardianship Appointment – Functions – Capacity.
- Abuse of these appointments – examples.

Understanding and Maintaining Professional Boundaries - Tuesday 22 March

Objectives:

- Identify 'areas of concern' that often lead to boundary problems.
- Describe the effects boundary problems can have.
- Identify your underlying values relating to boundaries.
- Identify strategies to maintain boundaries in emotional work.
- Participate in a consultation process relating to boundaries.

Assessing and Addressing the Needs of Older People from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds - Thursday 24 March

This course provides an overview of the issues affecting older people from diverse cultural backgrounds, with an emphasis on issues that are unique to older migrants. It also provides an opportunity for participants to explore effective strategies to assess the needs of individual older person and innovative ways to address these needs.

Cost

HACC service workers & non-HACC volunteers - \$20
Non-HACC services workers - \$60

Location

Lvl 3, 1 Chandos St,
St Leonards NSW 2065

Online information

<http://www.nsforum.org.au/files/Training/Registration-Form.pdf>

Further information

Shirley Choi
HACC Administration Officer
Northside Community Forum Inc.
02 8405 4444
www.nsforum.org.au

Ref: R90/1195 MK

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Emergency Services

Item 12: Community Engagement & Fire Awareness

Registrations are now open for the Australasian Community Engagement & Fire Awareness Conference, *Making Engagement Engaging in 2011*, proudly hosted by The NSW Rural Fire Service.

Community resilience, social media, tools of engagement, innovation and technology and will be at the forefront of topics at this year's conference.

The aim of the conference is to:

- Share information on community engagement practices, techniques and projects.
- Share research findings on community needs, expectations and reactions.
- Share agency experiences on building community resilience.
- Foster opportunities to enhance engagement skills for those actively working to empower their communities.
- Provide an opportunity for interagency networking and information sharing.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from Fire and Emergency Service agencies from throughout Australia and New Zealand, Council Officers, Government agencies and other Community Engagement and Communications specialists.

Guest speaker, book author Allan Pease will be attending the conference to facilitate discussions on communication, body language, motivation, leadership and teamwork.

Registrations

Friday 11 March

Further information

Community Engagement Team

02 8741 5413

community.engagement@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R97/0088 SE

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Environment

Item 13: NSW Biodiversity Strategy Workshops

DECCW and the LGSA have joined forces to hold three workshops around NSW to ensure more effective Local Government engagement in the process of developing the draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy.

The NSW Government has prepared a draft state strategy for the management of biodiversity conservation over the next five years. This strategy intends to provide a strategic framework to guide investment by all partners in biodiversity conservation and includes a focus on identifying priority areas for conservation.

Submissions on the draft strategy have now closed and a copy of the Associations' submission is now available. Thanks to all those councils who contributed comments and provided copies of their draft submissions.

The workshops will outline the contents of the draft NSW Biodiversity Strategy 2010 – 2015 focusing on the aspects most relevant to Local Government, the issues that have been raised by councils during the exhibition period, and to discuss how these can be addressed in the development of a final Strategy.

Biodiversity managers and staff from councils are encouraged to attend and to share their expertise and experience in biodiversity management. There is no charge to attend, however registrations are essential. Each session will run from 10am – 2.30pm and include a light lunch.

Parramatta

Monday 21 March

<https://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/nsw-biodiversity-strategy-sydney-workshop/>

Queanbeyan

Wednesday 23 March

<https://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/nsw-biodiversity-strategy-queanbeyan-workshop/>

Tamworth

Tuesday 5 April

<https://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/nsw-biodiversity-strategy-tamworth-workshop/>

Contact

Kirsty McIntyre

02 9242 4055

kirsty.mcintyre@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R91/0146 KM

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Environment

Item 14: National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme Consultation Process - Update and Workshops

Under the National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources, the Australian Government agreed to develop and enact national legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes.

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is preparing to draft regulations to underpin industry arrangements for collecting and recycling televisions and computers under the new National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme (the Scheme).

A consultation paper on the legislative requirements which will underpin the Scheme is expected to be released by the department in early March 2011 for a public consultation period of approximately five weeks. During this period, written submissions will be invited and public meetings held on the consultation paper.

The objectives of the Scheme consultation process are to:

- Ensure the government has a comprehensive understanding of potential impacts and implications associated with the proposed regulations.
- Gather and use stakeholder feedback to ensure the design and operation of the proposed regulations is appropriate.
- Improve awareness and expectations among stakeholders of the Scheme, especially for those who will have obligations under the proposed regulations.

In addition, the public meetings aim to provide an opportunity for a broad range of stakeholders to seek clarification on the proposed design of the regulations which will underpin the Scheme, to better inform their formal submissions and how they might participate in the Scheme.

Public meetings will be held in the following capital cities and regional areas. Venues are TBA.

Brisbane, QLD

Tuesday 15 March, 8.30am – 10.30am.

Sydney, NSW

Wednesday 16 March, 8.30am – 10.30am.

Melbourne, VIC

Thursday 17 March, 8.30am – 10.30am.

Bendigo, VIC

Fri 18 March, 9.30am – 11.30am.

Canberra, ACT

Monday 21 March, 9.30am – 11.30am.

Hobart, TAS

Friday 25 March, 9.30am – 11.30am.

Ballina, NSW

Friday 25 March, 9.30am – 11.30am.

Bunbury, WA

Tuesday 29 March, 9.30am – 11.30am.

Perth, WA

Wednesday 30 March, 8.30am – 10.30am.

Adelaide SA

Wednesday 30 March, 8.30am – 10.30am.

Mt Gambier, SA

Thursday 31 March, 9.30am – 11.30am.

Darwin, NT

Friday 1 April, 9.30am – 11.30am.

There is also an opportunity for face-to-face discussions with Australian Government officials in a set number of meetings for individuals or organisations who have a substantial interest in the development of the Scheme regulations. Please note that these meetings are limited to half hour sessions and pre-registration of your interest is essential. We regret that we may not be able to accommodate all requests.

For planning purposes it is requested that you pre-register your attendance at the public meetings or the bilateral meetings as soon as possible at least three days before the scheduled date (See fact box).

Registrations

wastepolicy@environment.gov.au

Online information

<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/consultation/index.html>

Contact

02 6275 9738
wastepolicy@environment.gov.au

Ref: R90/0568 RV

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Environment

Item 15: Workshop on NASA Satellite Data for Air Quality Applications

NASA, in cooperation with the Atmospheric Environment Research Centre of Griffith University, is holding a short training workshop to demonstrate using NASA Satellite Data for air quality applications.

Information available at the workshop may be of interest to councils grappling with air quality issues, and in need of better data to assist them in determining management actions.

The course, presented by Richard Kleidman of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre, will cover the following:

- Basics of Remote Sensing including instruments, orbits, data formats & products.
- Principles of Remote Sensing including retrieval characteristics, critical use of data, Remote Sensing capabilities for air quality.
- Visualization Tools including RapidFire, LAADS L2/L3 Browser, Giovanni, AERONET, Google Earth.
- Data Reliability & Applicability.
- Making Ground-level Assessments includes applying satellite data and understanding of vertical distribution of aerosols & gases to real-world problems.
- Hands-on Case Studies such as haze, dust, smoke events and long-range transport of air pollutants.

Applications

Monday 4 – Thursday
7th April
Griffith University,
Gold Coast Campus

Cost

Students - \$350
General registrations -
\$450

Registrations

jo.smith@griffith.edu.au

Online information

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/atmospheric-environment-research-centre/events>

Ref: R92/0037 KM

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Industrial Relations

Item 16: WorkCover NSW Public Forum and Webinar

Registrations are now open for the WorkCover NSW Public Forum and Webinar - Model Work Health and Safety Regulations.

The Public Forum and the Webinar will provide an explanation on the content of the draft regulations, potential impacts for NSW employers and workers and how public comment can be made.

Registration for both of these public events is essential as places are limited.

Forum

Thursday 10 March
9am - 12.30pm

Webinar

Friday 11 March
10am - 11.30am

Registrations

http://m1.workcover.nsw.gov.au/mk/get/REG_E05472

Comments Due

Tuesday 4 April

Online information

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/forms/Pages/EventsSearch-DetailPage.aspx?Suburb=Parramatta&EventTypeDetailId=21&ReturnURL=%2fforms%2fPages%2fEventsSearch.aspx>

Contact

WorkCover Authority of NSW
13 10 50

Ref: I11/0005 PB

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Industrial Relations

Item 17: Worker Safety on or Near Public Roads Campaign

A national compliance and enforcement campaign will commence from March - May to increase awareness and measure compliance in respect of worker safety on or near public roads.

This Campaign has emerged in light of a number of reported incidents across Australia where workers have died or suffered serious injuries from being struck by motor vehicles and/or moving plant while working on or near public roads performing construction or road work activities.

WorkCover Safety Inspectors will visit traffic control companies, road works and construction sites to ensure safe work procedures are in place to address the risks associated with road work activities. Inspectors will also assist industry at the visits by providing advice to help increase their capability to identify, assess and control the risks of working on or near public roads.

Online Information

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

Contact

Darren Hayden

Project Coordinator

02 9841 8571

darren.hayden@workcover.nsw.gov.au

Ref: I90/0049-04 PB

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Learning

Item 18: In house Training Services to Enhance Performance

Learning Solutions offer a range of training workshops supplied in-house for councils to gain significant savings.

The following one-day skills programs are available in-house:

Handling Difficult People – Staff who need to be more assertive with aggressive clients or colleagues, to improve their communication, and to know a process to diffuse anger should attend this workshop.

Time Management – There is an old saying “I was given a book on time management but didn’t have time to read it.” If this is you, then consider this highly interactive workshop. All of the examples are relevant to our industry.

Managing Information Overload: Speed Reading – We all have the potential to at least double or triple our reading speed and improve our comprehension. Depending on our motivation, we can read at thousands of words per minute. Enhance your performance by learning this new skill.

Finance for Non Finance Managers – If you struggle with understanding the monthly budget and writing variations and explaining items then you really should attend this workshop.

Making Minutes Matter – This program will help you to prepare effective minutes of meetings.

Further information

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

Contact

Darryl Rubiolo
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4182
learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 19: Personal and Executive Assistants' Annual Conference

In recognition of all that PA/EAs have given to Councils, the theme of this year's conference is "Empowering PA/EAs in Local Government".

This annual event provides the opportunity to enhance the professionalism and strategic awareness of PA/EAs. Participants will enjoy the chance to share experiences with others in a stimulating environment where networking with other NSW councils is encouraged.

Key themes

- Being Proactive and Innovative.
- Personal Drive and Motivation.
- Influencing, building rapport and investing in relationships.
- Empowering yourself to be healthy.

Keynote speakers

- Sam Cawthorn, dinner guest speaker.
- Norm Turkington, Norman Turkington & Associates Pty Ltd.
- Colleen Wilson-Lord OAM, Healthy Lifestyle Health Promotion Services.
- A choice of two out of four interactive workshops will be a feature of the program.

We encourage senior staff to support their EA/PAs and other interested administrative staff to attend this important professional development activity.

Conference
Friday 10 June

Location
Amora Hotel,
Jamison Street, Sydney

Cost
\$550 inc. GST

Registrations
learning@lgsa.org.au

Contact
Chrissie Gordon-Wells
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4081
learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 20: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops

Learning Solutions is offering a range of staff programs and events scheduled for March and April in Sydney.

Privacy Act

Monday 14 March, Wagga Wagga

Managing Information Overload – Speed Reading

Tuesday 15 March

Selection Skills for Local Government Managers

Thursday 17 March, Ballina

Mentoring Skills for Managers

Tuesday 22 March

Dynamic Presentation Skills

Tuesday 22 March, Tamworth

Revisiting Leadership

Wednesday 23 March, Tamworth

EEO Contact Officer Training

Wednesday 23 March

IAP2 Module 1 – Planning for Effective Public Participation

Thursday 24 – Friday 25 March

Connect – Communication Skills for Young Leaders

Tuesday 29 March

Mediation Training for HR Managers

Wednesday 30 – Thursday 31 March

Youth Leadership Workshop for Youth and Community Leaders

Friday 1 April

Coaching Council Leaders

Tuesday 5 April, Murwillumbah

Time Management

Wednesday 6 April, Murwillumbah

Writing PR and Promotional Copy

Thursday 28 April

Development Approvals – The Heritage Perspective

Friday 29 April

Registrations

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

Ref: R98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 21: Contaminated Site Short Courses

Registrations are open for a series of three day courses covering all aspects of contaminated site assessment, remediation and management.

The University of Technology, Sydney has developed six stand alone short courses with the support of the NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water.

Course Features:

- Presenters include contaminated site practitioners, regulators and academic specialists.
- Site visits, case study analysis and workshop sessions ensure the courses remain practical, relevant and up to date.
- Courses recognized for continuing professional development by EIANZ, Engineers Australia and EHA.
- Courses can contribute to UTS Master of Science program.

Module B: Effective Contaminated Site Assessment

This addresses the purposes and drivers of the stages of effective site assessment and considers the importance of appropriate sampling design and acquisition of quality data. Council officers involved in contaminated land management will gain a thorough understanding of the stages of site assessment and the investigative approach taken which will prove invaluable when assessing consultant and auditor reports.

Courses are restricted to 25 participants.

Registrations

Wednesday, 9 march

Cost

Early bird - \$950 inc. GST

Online information

www.science.uts.edu.au/courses/csarm.html

Further information

<https://shortcourses-bookings.uts.edu.au/ClientView/DefaultSearch.aspx?SearchType=GroupSearch&CourseGroupID=16>

Contact

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02 9514 1766

Marea.Martlew@uts.edu.au

Ref: R90/0897 RV

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Planning

Item 22: More changes to the Codes SEPP

The Department of planning has introduced minor changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) commencing immediately.

The Codes SEPP has been progressively developed, changed and expanded since its introduction at the end of 2008. On the 25 February 2011, the latest set of significant changes were commenced that have expanded the codes to now incorporate:

- General Housing Code – that applies to sites as small as 200m².
- Rural Code.
- Internal Alterations Code - all size lots.
- Demolition Code.
- Exempt Code.

The recent Planning Circular PS 11-010, dated 25 February 2011, adds a few minor amendments to the Codes SEPP to correct minor mistakes and introduce small variations to be introduced on the same day as the main body of changes announced at the end of 2010.

The latest Circular

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=69APIOTLHwg%3d&tabid=81&language=en-AU>

Ref: R09/0014 JD

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Planning

Item 23: Smoke Alarms required in Moveable Dwellings

Commencing on 25 February, the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2000 Clause 186AA requires owners of moveable dwellings to ensure smoke alarms are installed.

Clause 186AA of the EP&A Regulation requires that a smoke alarm must be provided in new and existing moveable dwellings where people sleep. The regulation provides a 6 month grace period after the 25 February to comply.

A 'moveable dwelling' is defined to include a campervan, caravan, holiday van, park van, (rigid) annexe, associated structure and any other type of van or portable device used for human habitation.

The owner of the moveable dwelling (not the owner of the land on which the moveable dwelling stands) is responsible for ensuring a functioning smoke alarm is always installed in a moveable dwelling in which a person sleeps.

This requirement applies irrespective of whether the moveable dwelling is capable of being registered under the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Act 1997*. It also applies regardless of where the moveable dwelling stands in NSW when being used for sleeping – for example, in a caravan park, on private property, on Crown land or on the side of a road, and to moveable dwellings travelling through NSW from other States and Territories.

Enforcement and penalties

The Department of Planning and Fire and Rescue NSW will primarily be relying on public education, awareness and co-operation to highlight the responsibility of moveable dwelling owners to install and maintain the smoke alarms, rather than enforcement and inspections.

The Amending Regulation does not contain any additional powers for councils to investigate whether a moveable dwelling complies with the new requirements. Under the current legislation, council employed or other authorised persons may only enter moveable dwellings to specifically check for smoke alarms:

- after a search warrant has been granted; or
- when permission has been given by the occupier of the moveable dwelling.

The Amending Regulation includes provisions for on-the-spot fines of \$200 (or fines of up to \$550 if a legal challenge is upheld in court) to be issued for:

- failing to have functioning smoke alarms installed from 25 August 2011 – that is, following the six month grace period; and
- interfering with the operation of a smoke alarm, or removing an existing smoke alarm unless it is to repair, maintain or replace the alarm. Note: these are recognised as offences from 25 February 2011 as no grace period applies.

Councils are encouraged to further circulate information about the new requirement for smoke alarms in moveable dwellings through their caravan parks, community service networks, and any other means.

Online information

<http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=948>

Further information

Fire & Rescue NSW
1800 151 614

Ref: R04/0066 LG

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Planning

Item 24: Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments

The Productivity Commission has undertaken a benchmarking study of the states and territories' planning and zoning systems as well as land development assessment processes. A draft research report has been released for further public consultation.

The benchmarking study arose from a request by the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in 2010. The Commission has invited written submissions on the draft report and is looking to present its final report to the Australian Government by the end of April 2011.

Key points identified by the report include:

- All three levels of government are involved in planning, zoning and development assessment systems. Planning varies greatly between the states and territories — but all suffer from 'objectives overload' and those objectives have been growing.
- Local council success in delivering timely and consistent decisions depends on the resources available for planning functions as well as the efficiency of processes (such as implementation of risk-based and electronic development assessments).
- Effectiveness of local councils is also significantly influenced by the regulatory environment established by state governments, in particular the clarity of both strategic plans and the coherence of the suite of planning laws and regulations.
- De facto and ad hoc policy-making tends to occur at the council level when city strategic plans have not resolved conflicting policy objectives.
- Significant differences in state and territory planning systems include: how protected lands, urban boundaries, and activity centres are defined and planned; the degree of detail of infrastructure plans and how well these are linked with other land use plans.
- Significant differences in planning approaches in the states and territories also impact on: land supply; business costs and the charges to developers for infrastructure; competition and both the perceptions and outcomes for accountability, transparency and governance.
- Leading practices to improve planning, zoning and assessment include: early resolution of land use and coordination issues using strategic plans; engaging the community fully and early; broader and simplified zones; rational and transparent allocation; rules for infrastructure costs; improving development assessment criteria and processes; tighter disciplines on timeframes; and better transparency and accountability.

Submissions Close

Thursday 31 March

Full report

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/regulationbenchmarking/planning/draft>

Ref: R93/0128 JB

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Procurement

Item 25: NSW Local Government Electricity and Natural Gas Tender

Based on a survey conducted by Local Government Procurement (LGP) in January 2011, NSW councils have demonstrated an overwhelming support for a new electricity tender process to commence immediately with an aim to be implemented by 30 June 2011.

All council General Managers were recently sent a letter seeking their interest and commitment to join this tender process. Due to the prescribed status of LGP, the approval process can be fast tracked, enabling suppliers to provide a pricing model that is anticipated to be most competitive, when compared to other pricing models available. There will be no direct costs to councils to participate in this tender, in fact, it is LGP's intention to share any rebate it may receive through this tender process.

During 2010, LGP conducted a very successful similar electricity tender for 31 councils in NSW. The tender covered Street Lighting, Large Sites and Green Energy. The savings achieved were exceptional and considered to average 22% pricing reductions with some councils exceeding 43% savings on the electricity c/kWh charge.

Local Government Procurement Pty Ltd (LGP) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA).

Due Date

Friday, 11 March

Contact

Bob Lewis
LGP

02 8270 8707

blewis@lgp.org.au

Ref: R05/0057 SS

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Roads and Transport

Item 26: Draft Heavy Vehicle National Law & RIS released

The Federal Government, through the National Transport Commission, has released the draft Heavy Vehicle National Law and a draft Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) addressing the law for public consultation.

The proposed law seeks to eliminate the many inconsistencies which currently exist between state and territory jurisdictions in relation to heavy vehicle regulation. The law will also establish the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) which will administer the national law from 1 January 2013.

The NTC and NHVR Project Office will also soon embark on a series of public consultation forums throughout Australia including regional cities and towns during March and April.

Consultations Due

Friday 6 May

Registrations

www.emgevents.com/event/ntc/

1800 404 400

Media release

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsId=335>

Draft Law and RIS

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCList.aspx?Mode=2004&>

Ref: R90/0551 RC

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Water

Item 27: IPART Info Sessions on Water Industry Competition Act

Following a session in Sydney, IPART will hold two half day information sessions in regional NSW locations on 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 license 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 license?

Information Sessions

Friday 18 March
11am – 2pm
Hunter Water, Honeysuckle
Drive, Newcastle

Friday 1 April
11.30am – 3pm
Lismore City Council
Chambers

Due Date

Thursday 17 March

Registrations to

Emma Smith
02 9290-8472
emma_smith@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Contacts

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Ref: R90/1056-12 SM

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In the News

Item 28: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Councils want State to clean up waste funding

4 March, 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3743-4-march-2011-councils-want-state-to-clean-up-waste-funding.asp?intSiteID=1>

NSW councils have conditionally welcomed the Reducing Waste: Implementation Strategy 2011-2015, released yesterday by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Frank Sartor, but say they are concerned about potential further cost-shifting on to Local Government.

Councils welcome Coalition's response to their NSW Election Priorities - but are still waiting to hear from the Labor Government

3 March, 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3742-3-march-2011-councils-welcome-coalitions-response-to-their-nsw-election-priorities--but-are-still.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Association of NSW (LGSA) have received an official response to their NSW Election Priorities 2011 from several parties, including the Coalition and the Greens. They are, however, yet to hear a response from the Labor Government.

Linking town and country essential, say councils

3 March, 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3741-3-march-2011-linking-town-and-country-essential-says-councils.asp?intSiteID=1>

Support for the Bells Line Expressway and a full investigation into high-speed rail at the Daily Telegraph's People's Parliament has been welcomed by the Shires Association of NSW, who say improving transport between country and metropolitan areas across NSW is essential.

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