



Item 4: Inquiry into the 2008 Local Government elections

The Associations have received correspondence from the Joint Standing Committee (the Committee) on Electoral Matters, regarding the Inquiry into the 2008 Local Government elections.

Item 21: LGP Purchasing Network

Local Government Procurement (LGP) will now be hosting regular Purchasing Network meeting for purchasing staff.

Item 22: Survey - Ministerial Taskforce on Tourism and Local Government

A reminder that the Ministerial Taskforce on Tourism and Local Government is seeking council views about key areas of tourism activity and management throughout NSW.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

tel: 02 9242 4000
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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 Rural Fire Service's AIDER Program (Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) is designed to reduce bush fire hazards on bush fire prone properties.

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Important changes to the Retirement Villages Act and Regulation came into effect on 1 March 2010.

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Learn about sustainable food practices, sustainable environmental practices and Home and Community Care (HACC) services at the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECC) Seniors Week event on 23 March.

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Outlining how the NSW Government will reduce red tape, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) report, NGO Red Tape Reduction was released by the Hon Linda Burney MP on 8 March 2010.

Item 15: Bold Ideas Better Lives Challenge

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Nominations for these awards are now open.

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Do you want to go beyond the 'usual suspects' and involve your broader community in a collaborative approach to decision making on climate change and other sustainability issues?

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Council representatives are invited to attend a free interactive public seminar on the findings of the Who Cares about the Environment in 2009? social research. These seminars are being held around NSW by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW in March and April 2010.

Industrial Relations

Item 19: Additional Public Holidays

The NSW Government has gazetted two additional public holidays for 2010 and 2011.

Procurement

Item 20: New contracts at LGP

Local Government Procurement (LGP) is pleased to announce two new contracts for councils - LGP1208 Engineering, Planning and Development and Community Professional Consulting Services and LGP1008 Provision of Information Technology & Communication Professional Services.

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General Interest

Item 4: Inquiry into the 2008 Local Government elections

The Associations have received correspondence from the Joint Standing Committee (the Committee) on Electoral Matters, regarding the Inquiry into the 2008 Local Government elections.

The Committee was asked to report on the outcome of the Inquiry within 12 months of the date of the referral, being 2 March 2010.

The Committee has advised that the report will not be available by the original reporting date, and has sought and been granted an extension until 1 June 2010 (at the latest).

The committee ensured us it will endeavour to complete the Inquiry as soon as possible, and that the Committee website will be updated as the Inquiry progresses.

Report Available

1 June 2010

Online information

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/electoral matters>

For further information

Skye Smith: 02 9242 4052,
skye.smith@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 5: 2010 Shires Association of NSW Annual Conference

**This year's theme is Building a Brighter Future.
Motions are due by Thursday 1 April.**

A draft business paper will be available on the Shires Association Conference website for viewing and comment from 12-19 April.

Business papers will be distributed to councils from 27 April. Councils will receive four printed copies of the business paper. Papers can also be printed from the Association's website.

All conference details including registration, program, voting and motions will be available late March on the conference website.

R09/0003:MF

Motions due by

Thu 1 April

Conference dates

Mon 31 May – Wed 2 Jun

Further information

Motions: Peter Coulton, 02 9242 4030

General details: Michelle Muller,
events@lgsa.org.au, 02 9242 4031.

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General Interest

Item 6: Local Government Event Coordinators Network Meeting

Using Technology to Enhance the Event Experience will be the focus our next meeting.

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

Good events offer meaningful and memorable experiences. They engage people physically, intellectually and emotionally.

For the attendee, the experience begins from the very first time they hear about the event and ends well after they leave. Event organisers need to continually find new ways to engage their audience to enhance the overall event experience.

The evolution of the internet has brought with it many tools an event organiser can use to their advantage. In this session, we'll find out what's happening in the web world and how event organisers can make use of this technology to promote events and engage communities.

Presentations

The program includes presentations on:

- How social media is changing the way we engage on the web.
- Events in 2088: a view from Mosman.
- Social Events: 10 things event management taught me about social media.
- Creating Personas Workshop: user-centred design concept.
- Tweeps at the Web Directions Conference.

The LGSA conducts three Event Coordinators' Network Meetings per year. Please contact the LGSA for a full program.

Join the network

Local Government professionals working in events, marketing, public relations, or a similar field are encouraged to join the Event Coordinators Network, which facilitates the exchange of information, education and networking amongst professionals. Please email Michelle Muller (details above) for more information.

R00/0012: MM

Key Dates

Mon 22 Mar 2010

Website

www.lgsa.org.au/EventsNetwork

Venue

Fairfax Media office, Sydney

Further information

Michelle Muller, Events
Coordinator, LGSA:

02 9242 4031,

michelle.muller@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 7: Communities in Control 2010 – 31 May to 1 June 2010

Power Up! Who has it, how to get it and how communities can use it; and a Post-Conference Skills Day on 2 June - Fundraising and Marketing in Tough Times.

Community groups of every size and scope at every level need to learn how to seek power, grasp it, and wield it to bring about their goals.

You need to understand how the machinations work, so you can ensure your members, stakeholders, clients – anyone who has been excluded, or could be excluded – can get their fair share too.

Communities in Control 2010 will look at issues of power – who has it; who needs it; how to get it; and how to use it to create change for equality, inclusion and justice.

There are many kinds of power, at many levels, coming from many sources. There are many ways to gain power. There are many ways to use power. Knowledge is power. Come along to Communities in Control and find out what's what.

Key dates /

Early Bird Offer closes 19 Mar
Event: 31 May – 1 Jun 2010

Early Bird offer

10% discount off full price.
Registrations of 5 or more can receive additional discounts. For further information, please contact Alan Matic on 03 9320 6805

Venue

Moonee Valley Racing Club,
Members Gate 1, McPherson St,
Moonee Ponds, Melbourne VIC

Online information

www.ourcommunity.com.au/2010

For further information

Our Community: 03 9320 6800.

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General Interest

Item 8: Information Management Best Practice Breakfast

A must see free event for C-Level executives – HP TUF23 Executive Breakfast

The City of Ryde is a world leader in the implementation of Information Management (IM). They are currently finalist for the 2010 Computerworld Honors Program which is a prestigious, global award recognizing organizations who use IT to benefit society. It has adopted best practices in Information and Records Management that are best-of-breed in meeting corporate governance and citizen expectations of an open and transparent government.

Coupled with this the DLG (Division of Local Government) Promoting Better Practice Program has identified that the City of Ryde is a leader in IM among councils in NSW and have made some outstanding achievements.

Come along and hear from two of the City of Ryde's executives on the importance of IM within the enterprise and how their IM framework and the utilization of Information and Records management solutions is enabling them to get closer to the 'holy grail' of information asset management.

Key dates / Venues

Thu 25 Mar 2010, 7-8:45am
The Hilton Hotel, Level 4 Room 2,
Sydney

For further information/ Registration

jane.gibson@hp.com or
0409 656 473.

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Community

Item 9: Individual Planning Policy Released for Consultation

Consultation is now underway on the reviewed 2005 Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) Individual Planning Policy and Procedures. It has been released for consultation as the draft 2010 Lifestyle Planning Policy and Practice Guidelines. The consultation ends on 16 April 2010.

The 2005 Individual Planning Policy and Procedures (IP Policy) is a core client support policy for people with a disability. It provides the framework for many of ADHC's other policies and practice requirements in funded and operated accommodation support services, including those covering health care, risk management and behaviour support.

Regional focus groups

A series of Regional focus groups comprising ADHC frontline staff and management were held in July and August 2008, and were followed up in February and March 2009, to explore the difficulties staff were experiencing in implementing the IP Policy. The aim of this policy review was to:

- introduce a person centred approach to the way planning is done with individuals in ADHC operated and funded services, and how they are supported to develop and maintain skills and capacities, and a lifestyle that reflects their goals and is valued in the community
- simplify the procedural and documentation requirements of the policy
- embed policy implementation in the ADHC continuous quality improvement processes.

Changes

The format of the draft Lifestyle Planning Policy differs from the current policy in its layout and approach. An 'Introduction to a Consultation for the draft Lifestyle Planning Policy', has been prepared to explain the differences between the two policies and the benefits they provide. The proposed approach will be more meaningful if this document is read before the draft policy.

Feedback and comments

ADHC is seeking feedback and comments on the draft Policy before it is released for implementation in ADHC operated and funded non-government accommodation support services. The policy, accompanying documents and feedback form are attached and are also accessible from the ADHC website <http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/DADHC.htm> under 'News and Events'.

File Reference: R90/0058

Key dates / Venues

Consultation closes 16 April

Online information

<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/NR/onlyres/A4C4F942-D83D-442E-8800-A55A7937CDF9/5096/LifestylePlanningPolicyDRAFT.pdf>

For further information

Sue Doyle at ADHC: Level 5, 83 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000; clientsupportpolicyfeedback@dadhc.nsw.gov.au

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Community

Item 10: Ethical Dilemmas in the delivery of HACC Services

The Northern Sydney HACC Regional Forum is holding this seminar on Home and Community Care services.

Speakers include:

Professor Wendy Rogers - Professor of Clinical Ethics Philosophy Department & Australian School of Advanced Medicine Macquarie University.

- What are the ethical tensions and dilemmas in HACC?
- How can we think about them in philosophical terms?
- A framework for ethical decision-making.

Christine Regan - Senior Policy Officer, National Council of Social Services NCOSS.

- Do providing HACC services build people into a lifetime of dependency?
- For carers – do we build them into a lifetime of support they haven't decided to do?
- Maintaining a degree discretionary decision making or prescribed guidelines.

Pauline Armour - Community Care Development Manager UnitingCare Ageing NSW.ACT

Pauline will discuss balanced decision making for client safety and quality of life as well as carer needs and resource management. This will include a discussion on some of the issues service providers may face in supporting client self determination and choice, realistically addressing issues of client capacity, while working collaboratively with family members and carers within HACC program parameters.

Carolyn Hodge - Policy Officer Council on the Aging (NSW) Inc

Within the context of the Home Modifications, Carolyn will discuss a range of ethical dilemmas such as the inability to modify homes due to maintenance and structural issue problems; OH&S issues including using private dwellings as a work place and a safe home; financial abuse; and capacity and decision making – how do we advise and how do we ensure the best interests of the stakeholders are achieved?

The conference will also feature a panel discussion comprising some of the conference speakers. Please think about any questions or scenarios you might like to raise.

File Reference: R90/1195

Forum details

14 Apr, 9am–12.30pm, Dee Why RSL Club 932 Pittwater Rd

Cost

Free. Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

Registration

http://www.nsforum.org.au/files/HACC-Misc/HACC-Resources/HACC_RegionalMeetingRegoForm.pdf. Registration is essential.

Contact

Tim McGovern, HACC Development Office: 02 8405 4444, 0407463953, timm@nsforum.org.au

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Community

Item 11: Program to help older people in bushfire prone areas

The NSW Rural Fire Service's AIDER Program (Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) is designed to reduce bush fire hazards on bush fire prone properties.

For further information
AIDER Program Coordinator: 02
8741 4955.

The program is a one off free service designed to support residents to live confidently on their bush fire prone properties. Residents can receive assistance with many services, including:

- Clearing gutters;
- Thinning vegetation;
- Removing leaf or tree debris; and
- Trimming branches and Mowing long grass.

Free assessment of hazards on individual properties is also available.
File Reference: R90/1195

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Community

Item 12: Reforms to retirement villages laws

Important changes to the Retirement Villages Act and Regulation came into effect on 1 March 2010.

A retirement village is any residential complex predominantly occupied by retired persons who are aged over 55 years who have entered into some form of contractual arrangement with the owner or operator of the village. There are approximately 591 retirement villages across NSW, accommodating more than 36,000 residents.

Changes

The changes to the Act include:

- Annual management meetings between operators and residents.
- Annual safety inspections.
- A settling-in period for new residents.
- Reducing the recurrent charges payable by a former occupant after vacating.
- Encouraging operators to keep recurrent charge increases at or below the rate of inflation.
- Increasing operators' accountability for budget deficits.
- Ensuring urgent repairs are carried out quickly.
- Cutting red tape for smaller village operators.
- Improving the way residents committees operate and making it easier for more residents to be involved.
- Giving residents the right to make reasonable alterations to their dwelling.
- Better protection of refund entitlements for residents who do not have a registered interest in their dwelling.

NSW Fair Trading and the Land and Property Management Authority are also developing a register of all retirement villages in NSW. The register will enable Fair Trading to easily distribute important information about changes to the law or other matters to all villages.

Operators of existing villages must notify the Land and Property Management Authority that their land is being used as a retirement village by 1 June 2010. For new villages, notification must be given before entering into any village contracts with residents. Registration is a once-only process.

Village operators need to complete a request form available from the Land and Property Management Authority website (details above)

On the Request form, the operator only needs to identify the land (or the relevant part of the land) that is being used as a retirement village and the name of the retirement village.

File Reference: R90/1195

Request form

http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/122055/11RT_IntAct.pdf

Online information

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/Tenants_and_home_owners/Retirement_villages.html

For further information

Fair Trading Specialist Support
Unit: 02 9895 0297; toll free
1800 625 963.

Seminars

The Retirement Village Residents Association is holding seminars to provide information to residents: 1300 787 213.

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Community

Item 13: Ethnic Communities Seniors Week event

Learn about sustainable food practices, sustainable environmental practices and Home and Community Care (HACC) services at the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECC) Seniors Week event on 23 March.

The event will focus on:

- Sharing stories about sustainable food practices (experience in gardening or food preparation not necessary).
- Conversation with ECC's Environmental Project Officer about sustainable environmental practices.
- Learning about home and community services (HACC) through ECC's HACC Officer.
- Opportunity to meet ECC management committee to raise issues that impact on ethnic communities.

Key dates / Venues

RSVP: 15 Mar 2010

Event: 11am-2pm, 23 Mar
Redfern Oval Community Room,
Redfern (cnr Redfern & Elizabeth
St)

Participants are encouraged to make a gold coin donation toward costs.

For further information

Mark Franklin, Executive Officer or
Caroline Rome, HACC Project
Officer: 02 9319 0288;
hacc@eccnsw.org.au;
Fax: 9319 4229

Attendees

Councils are encouraged to promote this event to older people in the community from CALD backgrounds. Attendees must be:

- 60 years and older or could be younger if he/she has a lifelong disability
- Members of an ethnic community or representatives (e.g. community leaders, community workers).
- Available to travel to the city
- Interested in sharing knowledge about environmental practices

File Reference: R90/0123

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Community

Item 14: Red Tape reduction report

Outlining how the NSW Government will reduce red tape, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) report, NGO Red Tape Reduction was released by the Hon Linda Burney MP on 8 March 2010.

In this report, NGO is taken to cover Local Government to the extent that it provides services funded by the NSW Government.

The Report

The recommendations in this report will be jointly implemented by agencies that make up the Department of Human Services, particularly Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC), and Community Services, who together provide more than 80% of the State Government's total funding to the sector.

The State Plan commits the NSW Government to helping to build a more effective NGO sector by reducing unnecessary administrative red tape and building on existing NGO skills.

This report is one of a number of activities aimed at improving the capacity of the NGO sector to deliver on key NSW Government commitments to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. These strategies will support improvements in the efficiency of the sector, including opportunities to reduce administrative overheads in the face of increasing cost pressures.

Completed review

The DPC has completed a review on opportunities that human service agencies can implement to reduce red tape. These opportunities have been tested and developed in consultation through the mechanism of the Working Together for NSW Agreement, with key peaks and a sample of direct service providers.

ADHC is coordinating this work across the Department of Human Services agencies and in consultation with NSW Health to put in place the short-term strategies which focus on aligning service acquisition and contract management by July 2010.

Further review

To achieve further red tape reductions, additional areas will be examined for opportunities for reform during 2010, including: implementing mutual recognition of other agencies monitoring activities; introducing more quantitative performance monitoring; considering a single consolidated financial audit to be shared between funding agencies; and developing a standard funding agreement for the Department.

File Reference: R90/0126

Online information

A copy of the report can be found at:

<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Doing+business+with+us/Non-Government+Organisation+Red+Tape+Reduction+Report.htm>

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Do you have a great idea for creating better lives for people in Australia? Want access to amazing mentors and a funding of up to \$1million to get your idea off the ground? The Australian Centre for Social Innovation is giving you the chance to turn your big idea into big impact.

The Centre will support up to 10 projects that show the best and brightest ideas in social innovation across Australia. Your idea could deal with anything from healthcare to education, climate change to the internet as long as it addresses a social need faced by communities in Australia.

Application close

23 Apr 2010

Further information/apply online

<http://www.tacsi.org.au/challenge>

Contact

Erin Green, TACSI:

challenge@tacsi.org.au

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Community

Item 16: 2010 Volunteer Awards - Regional Arts Australia

Nominations for these awards are now open.

The Regional Arts Australia Volunteer Awards recognise, reward and encourage regionally-based artists and cultural volunteers who have made a substantial contribution to the arts in regional communities in Australia.

The Awards Program is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

Nominations for Young people are particularly encouraged.

File Reference: R10/0010

Key dates / Venues

Nominations close 26 Mar 2010

Awards presentation

National conference 'Junction 2010 - Connecting the future,'
Launceston, Tasmania, 26-29
Aug 2010.

Online information

[http://www.regionalarts.com.au/
raa1/volunteer-awards-.asp](http://www.regionalarts.com.au/raa1/volunteer-awards-.asp)

Contact

Jo McDonald: 08 8444 0428,
joanne.mcdonald@countryarts.org.au

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Environment

Item 17: Final deliberative democracy workshop

Do you want to go beyond the 'usual suspects' and involve your broader community in a collaborative approach to decision making on climate change and other sustainability issues?

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) invite you to attend the final two day training workshop – 'Beyond the 'usual suspects': involving your community in decision making through deliberative democracy.'

Complex challenges such as sustainability and climate change demand new forms of community involvement in a collaborative approach to planning and policy development.

The workshop

At this hands on and interactive workshop you will:

- Learn the tools and techniques of 'deliberative democracy' and how to more effectively involve a broad cross section of citizens in your community in climate change and other sustainability issues;
- Develop the skills to design, convene, facilitate and evaluate a deliberative process in your local community to inform policy and program development.

The workshop will provide the information and decision making tools to support the development of local climate change adaptation and mitigation plans.

It has been designed for council and government agency decision makers and practitioners, particularly those involved in climate change policy, program development and facilitation.

File Reference: R06/0041: DA

Key dates / Venues

Mon 29 and Tue 30 Mar 2010,
Wollongong City Council, 41
Burelli Street, Wollongong

Cost

Community organisations and
practitioners - \$90 + GST
Government and agency staff -
\$120 + GST

Online information

http://nccnsw.org.au/images/stories/nsw_climate_summit/Beyond%20The%20Usual%20Suspects%20Workshop%20flier.pdf

For further information

Rachel Mimmo, Nature
Conservation Council of NSW:
02 9279 2633,
rmimmo@nccnsw.org.au

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Environment

Item 18: *Who Cares about the Environment in 2009?* research seminar series

Council representatives are invited to attend a free interactive public seminar on the findings of the *Who Cares about the Environment in 2009?* social research. These seminars are being held around NSW by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW in March and April 2010.

Who Cares? measures and tracks the environmental knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of the people of NSW. It has been tracking changes and trends in environmental views, priorities and actions every three years since 1994.

The 2009 research considers questions such as:

- What are the most important environmental issues in NSW today and how have these changed?
- How important is environment compared to other issues, now and in the future?
- What are people thinking about climate change?
- Which information sources do people trust?
- What are people doing to protect the environment and why?

...and much more.

Councils are invited to attend and find out how *Who Cares?* can inform their work. Seminars will present the research findings and consider their relevance to a range of sectors including community, business and government.

Copies of the report will be available at the seminars.

Region	Date and time	Location
Queanbeyan	Fri 19 Mar 9.15am for 9.30am start - 11.30am# Followed by launch of the Sustaining our Towns project	Exhibition Space, Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan
Sydney CBD (Local Gov)	Mon 22 Mar 2.15pm for 2.30pm start - 5pm*	Mary Jane Barker B Room, The Y Hotel, 5-11 Wentworth Ave, Sydney (nr Hyde Park)
Sydney CBD (General)	Tue 23 Mar 1.15pm for 1.30pm start - 4pm*	Mary Jane Barker B Room, The Y Hotel, 5-11 Wentworth Ave, Sydney (nr Hyde Park)
Hunter	Wed 24 Mar 9.45am for 10.00am start - 1pm#	Toohey Room, The Monte Pio, Cnr New England Hwy & Dwyer Sts, Maitland
Coffs Harbour	Thu 25 Mar 10.45am for 11.00am start - 2pm#	Northside Room, Coffs Ex-Services Memorial & Sporting Club, Cnr Pacific Hwy and Vernon Streets, Coffs Harbour
Lismore	Fri 26 Mar 9.45am for 10.00am	Goonellabah Community Centre, 27

Online Registration

<http://app1.mailout.com/click.app?transid=1JOx57068WWDA&eid=1JOx4WWDA&lid=1JOx409WWDA&to=https://www.livingthing.net.au/fs4/fs-Seminar2010.aspx>
Register online or call Khiem Forbutt on 02 8837 6000.

Online information

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/community/whocares.htm

For further information

Susan Byrne: 02 8837 6000;
sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au

	start - 1pm#	Oliver Ave, Lismore
Parramatta	Tue 30 Mar 9.15am for 9.30am start - 12noon*	Wentworth Room, Parramatta Leagues Club, 13-15 O'Connell Street, Parramatta (on free Loop bus route from station)
Illawarra	Wed 31 Mar 9.45am for 10.00am start - 1pm#	Port Kembla Golf Club, Golf Place, Primbee (off Windang Road/Primbee Bypass)
Sydney(Business Briefing)	Thu 15 April 7.30am for 8.00am start - 9.30am*	Dixson Room, State Library of NSW, (enter from) Macquarie Street, Sydney
Orange	Mon 19 April 10.15am for 10.30am start - 1.30pm#	Orchard Room 2, Country Comfort Motel, 146 Bathurst Rd, Orange
Wagga Wagga	Wed 21 April 10.45am for 11.00am start - 2pm#	Bowls Meeting Room, Wagga RSL Club, Dobbs St (cnr Kincaid St), Wagga Wagga
Armidale	Thu 22 April 10.45am for 11.00am start - 2pm#	Conference Room, Quality Hotel Powerhouse Armidale, 31 Marsh Street, Armidale

While some Sydney seminars will focus discussion on issues relevant to different sectors as noted in the schedule, all are welcome to attend any seminar.

* Morning or afternoon tea will be provided.

Seminar program includes lunch.

File R90/1138: RV

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Industrial Relations

Item 19: Additional Public Holidays

The NSW Government has gazetted two additional public holidays for 2010 and 2011.

The additional public holidays will be on Tuesday 28 December 2010 and Monday, 3 January 2011 (see table below).

These public holidays are in addition to those published in Item 12 of Local Government Weekly Issue 39/09 (2/10/2009).

Employees required to work on public holidays are entitled to be paid according to Clause 18A, Holidays, of the Local Government (State) Award 2007.

For further information

Industrial Officer, LGSA
Workplace Solutions: 02 9242
4142, wps@lgsa.org.au

	2009	2010	2011
New Year's Day		Friday, 1 January	Saturday, 1 January
Additional Holiday			Monday, 3 January
Australia Day		Tuesday, 26 January	Wednesday, 26 January
Good Friday		Friday, 2 April	Friday, 22 April
Easter Saturday		Saturday, 3 April	Saturday, 23 April
Easter Monday		Monday, 5 April	Monday, 25 April
Anzac Day		Monday, 26 April	#Monday, 25 April
Queen's Birthday		Monday, 14 June	* Monday, 13 June
Labour Day	Monday, 5 October	Monday, 4 October	* Monday, 3 October
Christmas Day	Friday, 25 December	Saturday, 25 December	Monday, 26 December
Additional Holiday		Tuesday, 28 December	
Boxing Day	Monday, 28 December	Monday, 27 December	Tuesday, 27 December

* Yet to be proclaimed

Possible substitute holiday to be considered by Government

File Reference: I90/0110:NS

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Procurement

Item 20: New contracts at LGP

Local Government Procurement (LGP) is pleased to announce two new contracts for councils - LGP1208 Engineering, Planning and Development and Community Professional Consulting Services and LGP1008 Provision of Information Technology & Communication Professional Services.

Engineering, Planning and Development and Community Professional Consulting Services

The Scope of services includes:

Engineering Services

- Traffic management and road infrastructure.

Planning and Development

- Planning and development services for urban and rural communities.
- Residential, commercial and industrial structural design development and management.
- Water and waste water management.
- Environmental management.
- Waste management.

Community Services

- Recreational facilities design development and management.
- Community consultation.

Other Deliverables

- Other deliverables related to the above professional consulting services may be required dependent on the customer's project.

Contracted suppliers

360 degrees	City Plan Strategy and Development Pty Ltd	EC Sustainable Environment Consultants
ADW Johnson		
Aesop Consulting Pty Ltd t/as Alan L Wright & Associates	CLOUSTON Associates Pty Ltd	Ecosite Solutions Pty Ltd
APC Environmental Management	Coffey Environments Pty Ltd	Elton Consulting
AWT Australia Pty Ltd	Collaborative Planning and Engineering Associates Pty Ltd	Evolve Facilitation and Coaching
Wakefield Planning	Complete Urban Pty Ltd	Fairfield Consulting Services
Bangalay Botanical Surveys Pty Ltd	Constructive Solutions Pty Ltd	Farinna Pty Ltd
Barker Ryan Stewart	Context Landscape Design Pty Ltd	Fugro PMS
Bitzios Consulting	Currie & Brown	Golder Associates Pty Ltd
BMD Consulting	Dialtone Traffic Control	GTA Consultants
Bewsher Consulting	E3 Consult	GTK Consulting
CGI Consulting Pty Ltd		Hughes Trueman
		HydroScience Consulting
		Hydrosphere Consulting

Online information

www.lgp.org.au

Further information

LGP1208

Bob Lewis, LGP:
blewis@lgp.org.au, 02 8270 8707.

LGP1008

Margret Gregory, LGP:
mgregory@lgp.org.au, 02 8270 8704.

Innovative Construction Engineering Solutions Pty Ltd	MWH Australia Pty Ltd	SJ and MS Rice Pty Ltd ATF SJ and MS Rice Family Trust
ITC Group Pty Ltd JBA Urban Planning Consultants	Neilly Davies & Partners	SJB Planning (NSW) Pty Ltd
John Holland Landscape Architecture	Neville Brown & Associates Pty Ltd	Spinifex Project Services Pty Ltd
Kinsley & Associates Pty Ltd	Opus International Consultants	Straight Talk
LandTeam	Pentagon Management Pty Ltd	Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects Pty Limited
Lennon Salvestro Planning Pty Ltd	Phillips Marler	Taylor Thomson Whitting (NSW) Pty Ltd
Local Gov Engineering Services Pty Ltd	Pod Landscape Architecture	Umbaco Landscape Architects
Low Energy Supplies and Services Pty Ltd	PTV Asia-Pacific	Vantage Environmental Management
MacDonald International	PTW Architects	Water Conservation Group
Micris Management Services	R. Bird and Associates	Woolacotts
MJM Solutions	Regional Engineering Services Pty Ltd	Xeros Kendall Consulting Engineers
Molino Stewart Pty Ltd	RoadNet Pty Ltd	Yeats Consulting Engineer
Morrison Low Consultants	SafeWay Traffic Management Solutions	
	SEMF Pty Ltd	

The new arrangement can be accessed immediately and conclude 14 February 2013, with optional 2 x 12 month extensions. A Buyer's Guide will be available shortly.

LGP1008 Provision of Information Technology & Communication Professional Services

The main categories or services include:

- Data/Access Management.
- Integration.
- Network/Infrastructure/Systems.
- Software Applications (Does not include core software applications).
- Security & Protection Management & Services.
- Training.
- Remote, Wireless& Web Services.
- Telephony Services (audio/visual).
- ICT Consulting and Professional Services.
- Call Centre Services.

There are over 600 sub-categories within the 10 main categories above.

Contracted suppliers

AB Industries Pty Ltd	Allcom Networks Pty Ltd	CallTime Solutions
Absolute Testing Services Pty Ltd	ASI Solutions	Chameleon Technology Pty Ltd
Accuteque Pty Ltd	Busicom Solutions Pty Ltd	Commulynx Pty Ltd
	Caimes Pty Ltd	

Communications Design &
Management Pty Limited
Computer Systems
Australia Pty Ltd
Content Security Pty Ltd
Corporate Express Australia
Limited
CSG Solutions Pty Ltd
Dataflex Pty Ltd
Sterling IT (Information
Technology) (D-Link
Australia)
Global Sapphire IT
(Australia)

Hitech Support Pty. Ltd.
ICON Strategic
Solutions Pty Ltd
Intelledox Pty Ltd
iPlatinum Pty Limited
Jasco Consulting Pty Ltd
KLIKON Solutions PTY LTD
MARM UPS Pty Ltd
Multibase WebAustralis Pty
Ltd
Object Consulting Pty Ltd
OSS Infotech Pty Ltd
PlanDev Business Solutions
Pty Ltd
PM Partners Group

Regal Information
Technology Pty Ltd.
Shearwater Solutions Pty
Ltd
Stamford Interactive Pty.
Ltd.
Stratsec.Net Pty Ltd
SureBridge Pty Ltd
Thomas Duryea Consulting
Pty Ltd
Tripoint Corporation Pty Ltd
Uplinx Pty Ltd
Wave1 Pty Ltd
Wizard Corporate Training
Pty Ltd.

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Procurement

Item 21: LGP Purchasing Network

Local Government Procurement (LGP) will now be hosting regular Purchasing Network meeting for purchasing staff.

At last year's Local Government Procurement Conference it was suggested these network meetings be held.

This is a free event hosted by LGP and a light lunch will be provided.

To register your interest or suggest topics contact LGP on info@lgp.org.au

R05/0057:EM

Meeting details

Wed 21 Apr, 1pm-4pm, TBA
Sydney CBD location.

Contact

Emma Murray, LGP:
emurray@lgp.org.au,
02 8270 8700.

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Tourism

Item 22: Survey - Ministerial Taskforce on Tourism and Local Government

The Ministerial Taskforce on Tourism and Local Government is seeking council views about key areas of tourism activity and management throughout NSW.

Councils are strongly encouraged to participate in this online survey, created in conjunction with the Local Government and Shires Associations.

Tourism is a major contributor to the State economy and as a result, NSW Tourism Strategy was released in November 2008.

In responding to the Strategy, the Government established four Taskforces to address specific issues.

One is focused on Tourism and Local Government and has been jointly convened by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Barbara Perry MP and the Minister for Tourism, the Hon Jodi McKay MP. The Ministerial Taskforce is scheduled to report by June 2010. The Taskforce is Chaired by Garry Payne, former Director General of the Department of Local Government. The Associations are represented on the Taskforce.

Local Government in New South Wales has a significant investment in tourism infrastructure, provides a wide range of essential visitor services and also operates a number of tourism businesses in the State.

With an increasing reliance on tourism, it is important for councils to incorporate tourism development into economic development plans and strategies, and other mechanisms which set the current and future priorities of their council. The new Planning and Reporting Framework provides a context for considering these tourism opportunities for local and regional economies.

A number of questions addressing the major issues now being considered by the Taskforce are included in the electronic survey. The survey is not intended to be a comprehensive review of Local Government tourism activity, but to provide a broad overview of current activity and issues. This will greatly assist the Taskforce in its deliberations and subsequent recommendations to the Ministers.

The survey has been designed to minimise your time in responding, but to provide enough information to help us make informed recommendations.

It would be appreciated if councils could assist the Taskforce and respond to the questions by Wednesday 24 March 2010.

R91/0109.smcb

Survey link

<https://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/local-government-tourism-survey/>

Survey due

24 Mar 2010

For further information

LGSA contact: Richard Connors,
Senior Policy Officer: 02 9242
4073,
richard.connors@lgsa.org.au

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In the News

Item 23: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA.

Bigger councils not automatically better

Wednesday 10 March, 2010

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3226-10-march-2010-bigger-councils-not-automatically-better.asp?intSiteID=1>

NSW councils reject the NSW Business Chamber calls for 10 metropolitan sydney super councils, with its underlying implication that “bigger is automatically better”. But they do support calls from the Chamber to give councils more powers, better financing and paid full-time councillors.

Councils get down to the Business of Tourism

Thursday 11 March, 2010

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3227-11-march-2010-councils-get-down-to-the-business-of-tourism.asp?intSiteID=1>

More than 200 delegates from across NSW gathered in Cowra today for the sixth annual Local Government Tourism Conference. President of the Shires Association Cr Bruce Miller officially opened the Conference, outlining the importance of tourism for Local Government.

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In the News

Item 24: Local Government Media

View the latest Local Government media articles

[Police shortage](#)

[Sydney water usage](#)

[Council expenditure](#)

[Sea Level rise](#)

[Burwood Council investigation](#)

[Waste Levy](#)

[Accreditation scheme](#)

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[Section 94 funds](#)

[Disabled parking permits](#)

[Reinvigorating NSW](#)

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Police shortage – Councils resort to hiring security guards

Hole in thin blue line

Sunday Telegraph, Sunday 7 March

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/hole-in-thin-blue-line-security-guards-replace-police/story-e6freuy9-1225837726617>

SECURITY guards are being hired by councils across the State to act as surrogate police because of a shortage of real officers to patrol the streets.

2UE (Sydney), Sunday 7 March

Sydney councils have claimed that they have been forced into hiring security guards to make up for a lack of police on the street. Shoalhaven council has said that they have had to pay \$26,000 for security measures including housing for police officers. Councils say they have to provide funding a resources as the NSW govt does not.

2CC (Canberra), Sunday 7 March

NSW Councils claim they are being forced to hire security guards to make up for a lack of police on our streets. Some areas suffering from a shortage of police are also rolling out extensive CCTV networks to improve security.

2UE (Sydney), Sunday 7 March

It is claimed a shortfall in NSW Police officers is forcing councils to pay for their own private security guards to protect the community.

Security guards replace police: report

AAP Newswire, Sunday 7 March

Link unavailable

Councils across New South Wales are hiring security guards .. reportedly due to a shortage of police officers to patrol the streets.

2GZ (Orange), Monday 8 March

Councils across NSW are hiring security guards reportedly due to a shortage of police officers to patrol the streets. Councils are also spending thousands installing extensive CCTV networks to improve security and police resources.

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Sydney water usage

Woollahra awash in tap water

Sunday Telegraph, Sunday 7 March

Link unavailable

THEY claim they don't take longer showers than the rest of Sydney, so it must be their thirsty gardens. Whatever the reason, Woollahra residents still top the list of water wasters issued each year by Sydney Water.

Taps stay turned off

Daily Telegraph, Monday 8 March

Link unavailable

HOMEOWNERS are thinking twice before turning on the tap, with household water use falling across the state. Figures released by the State Government show residents in the local council areas of Kiama, Leichhardt, Blue Mountains, Sydney and Wollongong are among the most frugal water users in the state.

A gold star performance on water use

Illawarra Mercury, Monday 8 March

Link unavailable

ENDURING drought and dam levels at far from comfortable levels have given people living in the heavily populated greater Sydney basin a renewed appreciation of the importance of conserving drinking water.

Water use down

Daily Examiner, Monday 8 March

Link unavailable

Water use down NSW residents are thinking twice before turning on the tap, with household water use falling across the State. Figures released by the State Government show residents in the local council areas of Kiama, Leichhardt, Blue Mountains, Sydney and Wollongong are among the most frugal water users in NSW.

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Council expenditure

Rates being wasted

Sunday Telegraph, Sunday 7 March

Link unavailable

LOCAL Government Minister Barbara Perry has demanded that councils stop wasting money on public art, lavish buildings and overseas trips and instead to focus on their basic responsibilities.

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Sea Level rise

Illawarra Mercury, Saturday 6 March

Government urged to endorse coastal strategy

Link unavailable

COASTAL councils have urged the Federal Government to urgently implement recommendations of the coastal inquiry led by Throsby MP Jennie George.

SBS (Sydney)

Insight, Tuesday 9 March

Councils around Australia are becoming nervous about predicted sea level rises, and that means new laws for coastal development.. Panel discusses how reliable the predictions are and how the changes are already affecting people. Bill Symington, Councillor, Wyong Shire, NSW, says the council was informed of the possibility of future increases in the required height level. He says the council based the policy on NSW Government guidelines.

Macleay Argus, Tuesday 9 March

New Saltwater alert looks to rise in sea level

Link unavailable

NEW concerns about the Saltwater development site in South West Rocks are crystallising around projected rises in sea level and flooding of the area, which was approved for residential development last year.

2SM (Sydney), Tuesday 9 March

Alan Stokes, Executive Director, National Sea Change Taskforce, joins host, following calls at the Australian Councils Conference for the Rudd Govt to implement recommendations of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts coastal inquiry. He there is no doubt about the impact of climate change and rising sea levels for coastal councils, given the development consequences. Stokes mentions a ruling by the South Australian Supreme Court which set a legal precedent on the matter, adding that it puts councils in "a diabolical position" with possible future extreme weather events and a council's liability

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Burwood Council investigation

Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 8 March

ICAC ready to investigate Burwood council

Link unavailable

BURWOOD Council is bracing itself for potentially embarrassing revelations as the Independent Commission Against Corruption prepares to hold a two-week public hearing into allegations of corruption.

Inner West Courier, Wednesday 10 March

Link unavailable

Inquiry to hear council claims

BURWOOD Council's general manager Pat Romano will be the focus of a two-week corruption inquiry following almost a year of investigations.

Government News, Wednesday 10 March

ICAC to investigate Burwood Council general manager

<http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2010/03/10/article/ICAC-to-investigate-Burwood-Council-general-manager/DESPIFAETE.html>

A council in inner-west Sydney has ordered its general manager to step-down from his duties pending the outcome of an ICAC investigation.

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Waste Levy

ABC Broken Hill (Broken Hill), Sunday 8 March

The NSW Opposition says it supports the Shoalhaven Council's efforts on behalf of all councils to axe the govt's Environmental Waste Levy. Mike Baird, NSW Shadow Treasurer says there is no transparency on how the levy is being spent.

ABC Broken Hill (Broken Hill), Sunday 8 March

Mike Baird, NSW Shadow Treasurer says councils will know exactly how an environmental waste levy under a Coalition Govt. Currently, all NSW Councils pay the levy for each tonne of waste dumped in land fill, with the profits used to fund environmental projects. He says the money is supposed to be spent on recycling projects but local govts don't know where their money is going.

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Accreditation scheme

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 9 March

Council surveyors face accreditation scheme

Link unavailable

COUNCILS have been given until September to have at least one building surveyor accredited by the Building Professionals Board to undertake building certification work such as inspections and issuing construction and occupation certificates.

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Future Plus

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 9 March

Super fund executive safe after councillor switches vote

Link unavailable

A LOCAL Government Association appointee to the board of superannuation arm FuturePlus, Beverley Giegerl, has switched sides to save the job of its chief executive, Richard Powis.

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Super suing S&P

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 9 March

TOXIC ASSETS Super investor sues S&P over bond rating

Link unavailable

THE credibility of the ratings agency Standard & Poor's has come under legal attack in a \$40 million action by a local government superannuation investor over a triple-A rated debt investment that subsequently turned toxic in the global financial crisis.

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WSN to be sold

The Australian, Tuesday 9 March

Waste privatisation cleared

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/waste-privatisation-cleared/story-e6frg6nf-1225838454628>

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal's privatisation drive is gathering pace, with the state owned waste management service the next asset to go on the auction block. State cabinet's budget committee yesterday gave Mr Roozendaal the go-ahead to sell WSN Environmental Solutions, The Australian learned last night.

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NESAC

ABC New England North West (Tamworth), Monday 8 March

Independent Member for the Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay has criticised the former New England District Strategic Alliance for Councils for failing to agree on their future. Guyra Shire, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Walcha Shire Councils are the subjects of a State Govt review into their services.

ABC New England North West (Tamworth), Monday 8 March

The Uralla Shire Council is currently putting together a submission to prove it is financially viable as a standalone council. The State Govt has ordered an inquiry into the services provided by the former New England Strategic Alliance of Councils. Guyra, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Walcha Shire Councils face possible amalgamation, and Uralla's general manager Tom O'Connor said the submission is taking time away from more important things.

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Rate Pegging

ABC Riverina (Wagga Wagga), Monday 8 March

Barbara Perry, NSW Minister for Local Government says she doesn't accept Griffith City Council will be in difficulty because of this year's rate pegging limit. The limit, for the next financial year will be 2.6%, down from 3.5% now. The General Manager of Griffith City Council says that limit may mean reduced services because of budget pressures. Other councils have hinted that will occur with them also. Perry says the rate is set using a formula which takes councils' costs into account.

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Mining royalties

ABC Central West NSW (Orange), Monday 8 March

There's a push for Central West councils to get a direct share of the royalties paid by mining companies to the NSW Govt. Blayney Shire councillors last night voted to put a motion to this month's E Division Shires Association meeting, supporting the Association of Mining Related Councils which wants a system like that in WA. Bruce Kingham, Blayney Mayor, says while the shire will share \$8m as part of development of the Cadia East mine, that won't go far.

Prime Orange (Orange), Monday 8 March

Sydney mining company Paradigm claims it has found more gold deposits near Blayney. Most of the royalties would usually go to the state gov't, but local councils want to change that practice. Blayney, Cabonne and Orange Councils will share in \$8m in contributions from the Cadia East expansion.

ABC Central West NSW (Orange), Monday 8 March

The Blayney Shire Council has announced it is keen to receive a share of mining royalties that currently go into the NSW Gov't's coffers after deciding last night to support a push by the Association of Mining Related Councils for regional local Gov't's to receive 25% of the royalties.

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DA decisions

Sothern Courier, Tuesday 8 March

Link unavailable

No apologies for slow DA decisions COUNCILS that are slow to decide on development applications have been criticised for driving investment away from NSW. The latest Local Government Association performance monitoring report said Botany Bay Council was the fourth slowest council in Sydney to determine development applications (DA5), taking an average of 129 days.

Noxious Weeds

Maitland Mercury, Wednesday 9 March

Plan to rid Hunter of weed steps up

A plan to eradicate a weed that is crowding out native plant species across the Hunter Valley is gaining momentum. The African olive tree, which is classified as an "environmental" weed in the region, was introduced to Australia from Africa for use as a hedging plant.

Payment for councillors

Northern News, Tuesday 9 March

Love, not money, should be sufficient motivation - councillors PAYING full-time councillors would spell disaster for local government. That was the response by The Hills and Blacktown councillors to a recent proposal by Local Government Association president Gina McCaffery that their positions should become fulltime jobs.

Amalgamations

Maitland Mercury, Monday 8 March

Amalgamation makes sense

Link unavailable

I read with interest Mayor Blakemore's comments about little support among councils for amalgamation. He also suggested not ruling out the possibility of boundary adjustments as a means of improving efficiencies and better use of resources.

Local Government Tourism Conference

Cowra Guardian, Monday 8 March

Tourism conference starts Wednesday

Link unavailable

Tourism conference starts Wednesday The Local Government and Shires Associations' (LGSA) Tourism Conference for 2010 opens in Cowra next Wednesday, bringing one hundred and seventy people to town.

2BS (Bathurst), Monday 8 March

Interview with Lauren Magid, from Cowra Shire Council who discusses the Local Govt tourism conference starting tomorrow. Magid notes there will be a variety of sessions taking place. She also discusses the upcoming Cowra festival of International Understanding.

Prime Orange (Orange), Thursday 11 March

More than 200 local govt representatives are in Cowra to discuss ways to capitalise on the billion tourist industry. Mt Panorama, the Parkes Elvis Festival and Dubbo's Taronga Zoo currently attract visitors to the central west. Bill West, mayor, Cowra Shire Council, says the CENTROC group suggests there could be up to 30% worth of the region attributed to tourism. Ken Keith, Mayor, Parkes Shire Council, says there is a feeling there is a cost shifting from the NSW Govt to local govt for the tourism industry.

Cost Shifting

Northern Daily Leader, Wednesday 10 March

Action needed to arrest cost shifting

Link unavailable

CALCULATIONS by the NSW Local Government and Shires' Association indicate the impact of cost shifting enforced by the NSW Government robs ratepayers \$431 million or six per cent of annual income.

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Water Licences

Northern Daily Leader, Wednesday 10 March

Bureaucrats no help to Peel water group

Link unavailable

WATER Minister Phillip Costa has indicated a willingness to meet with disgruntled members of the Peel Advisory Group. Following a heated meeting last week, group chairman and Member for Tamworth Peter Draper sought an immediate face-to-face opportunity for members with the Minister.

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Super Councils

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney), Tuesday 9 March

The NSW Business Chamber's policy document, Ten Big Ideas to Grow NSW recommends ten super councils created to help fix the state. It also wants the appointment of a transport tsar, given the power to rule all of NSW's transport and road agencies, and supports a Commonwealth takeover of the health system.

Coffs Coast Advocate, Wednesday 10 March

Super councils back on top ten agenda

<http://www.coffscoastadvocate.com.au/story/2010/03/10/super-councils-back-on-top-ten-agenda/>

THE setting up of super councils is just one idea in a top 10 list of big ticket items to invigorate NSW.

The NSW Business Chamber has compiled the list after policy symposiums with 500 business brains, community leaders, academics and government representatives. NSW Premier Kristina Kene ally and Opposition leader Barry O'Farrell will be guest speakers at the launch of the list, at the Sydney Mint Museum today.

Australian Financial Review

State of Taxation, Wednesday 10 March

Link unavailable

The New South Wales Business Chamber will today release a wish list of reforms that includes a comprehensive government audit, the setting up of a state infrastructure body to assess major projects, and a cut in payroll tax to 4.95 percent by 2015.

Newcastle Herald, Wednesday 10 March 2010

Big ideas for bigger councils

Link unavailable

A TRANSPORT tsar, 10 super councils and support for the Federal Government's proposed hospitals takeover are on a top 10 list of big ideas to invigorate NSW. The NSW Business Chamber compiled the list after policy symposiums with 500 business brains, community leaders, academics and government representatives.

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney), Tuesday 9 March

Continued discussion with Kristina Keneally. Host says the NSW Business Chamber are releasing its 10 Big Ideas today, including the idea of a single transport 'Tsar' to oversee all aspects of transport. He says people have often found it an anachronism to have a Transport Minister, Roads Ministers, and various other Ministers, all feeding into that broad policy area. Keneally says the single Minister of Transport and Roads is David Campbell, which was one of the changes she made when she became Premier. She says the Metropolitan Transport Plan delivered two weeks ago is the State's first integrated land use and transport plan.

2SM (Sydney), Tuesday 9 March

A transport overhaul, ten super councils and the Fed. Govts. proposed hospital reform is part of a top ten list of ideas to improve NSW. Premier Kristina Kenneally and Opp. Leader Barry O'Farrell will be the guest speakers at the launch at Sydney Museum today.

AAP Newswire, Wednesday 10 March

NSW: Transport tsar and super councils on 10 big ideas list

A transport tsar, 10 super councils and support for the federal government's proposed hospitals takeover are on a top 10 list of big ideas to invigorate NSW. The NSW Business Chamber compiled the list after policy symposiums with 500 business brains, community leaders, academics and government representatives.

Border Mail, Wednesday 10 March

Chamber has top ideas for state

A transport tsar, 10 super councils and support for the federal government's proposed hospitals takeover are on a top 10 list of big ideas to invigorate NSW. The NSW Business Chamber compiled the list after policy symposiums with 500 business brains, community leaders, academics and government representatives.

Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 10 March

Big ideas to boost the state

Big ideas to boost the state

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/big-ideas-to-boost-the-state-20100309-pvum.html>

SWEEPING local government mergers to create 10 super councils, and a trial of staggered starting times for schools as a means of easing peak-hour traffic congestion feature in a package of 10 big ideas to get NSW moving again. They will be launched by the NSW Business Chamber today.

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Sydney Development

Australian Financial Review, Wednesday 10 March

Sydney told to get houses in order

Link unavailable

Former prime minister Paul Keating has told the Urban Development Institute of Australia's National Congress that Australian cities are making major mistakes in urban planning and high-density residential developments.

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Section 94 funds

2SM (Sydney), Monday 8 March

Caller Norman says we don't want imported beef here. he says his local council has lost \$12m in sub prime though they deny it and haven't written it off. He says we have \$45m locked up for infrastructure programs but under Section 94 we can't get the interest on it. He says that earns \$2.7m per year and it's just at his local council. he says in Sydney there is \$363m locked up for

the infrastructure program so the interest on that could fund loads of things. He says the govt keeps coming back to the ratepayers and rates are always rising and it's not right. He says we not be paying for future infrastructure because of the modelling, which is some idiot putting figures into a computer.

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Disabled parking permits

2UE (Sydney), Wednesday 10 March

Interview with Paul Gerrard, Parramatta Lord Mayor, about the black market in disability parking stickers. Gerrard says he didn't see a Channel Nine program about the issue. He says rorts within the system are a govt problem as councils do not distribute the permits. While councils determining parking zones, the system is undermined by an army of people illegally using the permits. He suggests audits and safe guards need to be put in place. Stanley spoke to Minister for Disabilities Bill Shorten who is continuing a review which is "taking a hell of a long time". David Borger NSW Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads, suggests that Gerrard should do something about the problem but he says he cannot do anything about the problem as he is not in the NSW Govt or Fed Govt. Gerrard says council community safety officers are not NSW Police and cannot demand identity from people displaying permits.

2UE (Sydney), Thursday 11 March

Host says Channel 9 ran a story last night exposing the misuse of disability parking permits. Host says they busted dozens of people who parked illegally. Wilton says it seems there is a black market for stickers, and there is a suggestion that some doctors are getting a kickback to sign off on the application. John Moxon, Chairman, Parramatta Access Advisory Committee, Parramatta City Council, joins the program. Moxon says he sees it happening every day.

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Reinvigorating NSW

LGSA rejects super council plan, Wednesday 10 March

<http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2010/03/10/article/LGSA-rejects-super-council-plan/QYURELYFOF.html>

A plan to create 10 super councils in NSW won't address funding issues and infrastructure backlogs, the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) has said.

Border Mail, Thursday 11 March

If only NSW kept up with Victoria, says O'Farrell

Link unavailable

NSW has much to be proud of Premier Kristina Keneally says, but Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell believes it's time to play catch-up with Victoria. Addressing the NSW Business Chamber's launch of its 10 Big Ideas to Grow NSW, the two leaders' views on the state differed.

AAP Newswire, Wednesday 10 March

NSW: Keneally and O'Farrell go head to head at ideas summit

Link unavailable

NSW has much to be proud of, Premier Kristina Keneally says, but Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell believes it's time to play catch up with Victoria.

Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday 11 March

Think, revive and thrive: a state vision

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/think-revive-and-thrive-a-state-vision-20100310-pzei.html>

THE Opposition Leader, Barry O'Farrell, has pledged to put economic growth at the centre of a Coalition government plan to get NSW moving again.

ABC Newcastle (Newcastle), Wednesday 10 March

Bevan says that The NSW Business Chamber has announced its Ten Big Ideas for NSW. Bevan speaks to Paul Ritchie, Public Affairs Manager, NSW Business Chamber about the ideas. Ritchie introduces the ideas which including a complete audit of the NSW Govt which might include an investigation of taxation and hospitals. Other ideas include, cutting pay role tax and bringing employment tax in line with Vic, revising NSW's GST formula, passing on hospital funding to the Fed Govt, amalgamating business bodies in the creation of a NSW Department of Business Growth. Other ideas included are, the creation of a competitive fund to encourage businesses and Govt agencies to move to regional NSW, integration of transport systems, develop Infrastructure NSW, decrease the amount of local councils in Sydney, adjust the HSC to make it more flexible for those who do not attend university.

Manly Daily, Friday 12 March

Mayors split on super councils

<http://manly-daily.whereilive.com.au/news/story/mayors-split-on-super-councils/>

THE Local Government Association has rejected the NSW Business Council's suggestion that Sydney's 41 councils should be merged to form 10 super councils, saying bigger doesn't always mean better.

Maitland Mercury, Friday 12 March

Time to get rid of parish pump

Link unavailable

The media has reported that the chief executive officer of the NSW Business Chamber Stephen Cartwright has stated that "the State should follow the example set by Victoria and Queensland and trim back council numbers".

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JRPPs

Maitland Mercury, Thursday 11 March

City pays for state planning

<http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/city-pays-for-state-planning/1773317.aspx>

Ratepayers will foot the bill for legal challenges arising from decisions of the State Government's Joint Regional Planning Panels.

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Planning Powers

Sydney Morning Herald, Friday 12 March

Private land to be seized for housing

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/private-land-to-be-seized-for-housing-20100311-q1l0.html>

THE state government is rushing to prepare laws to create a development authority with sweeping powers to compulsorily acquire and rezone privately owned land for resale to developers

The Australian, Friday 12 March

Housing plan ire may evict McKew

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/housing-plan-ire-may-evict-mckew-in-bennelong/story-e6frg6nf-1225839773800>

COMMUNITY anger over the rushed delivery of social housing projects under the Rudd government's nation-building stimulus package is threatening the political fortunes of Labor's star recruit at the 2007 federal election, Maxine McKew.

The Australian, Friday 12 March

State seeks to extend special powers to speed up projects

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/nsw-seeks-to-extend-powers-to-speed-up-construction-projects/story-e6frg6nf-1225839769334>

NSW is looking to extend its special powers to speed up construction projects, including approvals for social housing schemes under the Rudd government's \$42 billion economic stimulus package.

2UE (Sydney), Friday 12 March

Host says one of the big challenges for the NSW State Govt is to build enough dwellings for our growing population. She says there simply aren't enough houses being built and adds the Keneally Govt has reportedly come up with a solution to the problem. She says given what's happened with the school stimulus package and the social housing package, where essentially Local Councils have given up their powers to approve developments; they're going to set up a new development authority, which would have the power to compulsorily acquire and re-zone privately owned properties around railway and bus interchanges. The simple question is whether or not this authority would have the power to seize a family home if it were near a railway station.

2UE (Sydney), Friday 12 March

The Telegraph - Host says the Telegraph are reporting more than half of NSW schools are unhappy with the projects built under the Federal Govt's building revolution.

The Herald – Host says they're reporting on the front page that the State Govt is looking at setting up a development authority with sweeping new powers to re-zone private land for sale to developers. He says this follows on persistent reports that the NSW Premier is impressed with how easily a lot of this social housing and school building has been happening without the councils getting involved.

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