



Update on s94 levies campaign

The Associations are continuing the campaign against the State Government's decision to cap s94 levies at \$20,000 and to narrow the range of projects that can be funded by levies to 'essential' infrastructure. All councils are potentially affected by the changes.

Capital funding for HACCC services available

Grants are now available from the NSW Public Works for the second round of the Home and Community Care (HACC) capital strategy.

Inquiry into Ageing, Disability and Home Care Services

Councils are encouraged to place submissions into the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues inquiry into the quality, effectiveness and delivery of services provided or funded by the Department of ADHC.

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Registration details, a draft program and an information booklet regarding voting and submitting motions will be available online.

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A services directory and translated health information for Multicultural Health Week (MCHW) will soon be available for councils online.

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Interested in finding out how your council can help people with Parkinson's disease? Parkinson's NSW can help.

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The *National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design - Strategic Plan* has been released. The plan helps make houses safer and easier to live in for young families, people with injuries, senior Australians and people with a disability.

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The Department of Lands Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU) has developed an improved Spatial Information Management System toolkit called SIMS 2010. Free training for SIMS 2010 is now available.

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Expressions of interest for energy efficiency projects focusing on existing non-residential buildings are now being sought by the Australian Carbon Trust.

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Regional profiles are now available to councils to adopt a more localised climate change scenario for their climate change risk assessments and adaptation planning.

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The Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General has commenced an inquiry into the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1916. Councils are encouraged to put forward a submission.

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WorkCover NSW is inviting written comments and submissions on the *Draft Workers Compensation Regulation 2010* and Regulatory Impact Statement.

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Join Wyong Shire Council in meeting the challenges of developing, designing and managing new arts facilities.

Learning

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This one day workshop is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in Local Government.

Item 21: Local Government Human Resources Conference

A range of community, corporate and industry speakers have been assembled for our best ever human resources conference this year.

Item 22: Planning for Effective Public Participation

Interested in completing your Certificate for Public Participation? Register for the first module which will be delivered by The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).

Item 23: Year of the Women in Local Government and Professional Development for Women

Help female staff reach their career goals in 2010! A range of programs are now available for women interested in developing skills and knowledge to empower them in their career.

Planning

Item 24: Draft Codes SEPP to apply to small lots - now on exhibition

The LGSA is seeking feedback on the Department of Planning's proposed changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 – the Codes SEPP, that will apply to small lots. The proposed changes went on public exhibition Monday, 5 July.

Item 25: Electronic Housing Code Project

The Electronic Housing Code pilot project seeks to develop and demonstrate a shared, integrated platform for end-to-end processing of complying development applications under the NSW Housing Code. A series of Information Sheets on key aspects of the project have been developed to help you understand the project.

Item 26: Update on s94 levies campaign

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Roads and Transport

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The Australian Human Rights Commission has placed the final draft of the proposed guideline on accessible bus stops on their website. Councils are encouraged to provide comments to the Commission.

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Awards

Item 1: Award opportunities

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Conferences and Events

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Grants & Funding

Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

Capital funding for HACC services available

Grants are now available from the NSW Public Works for the second round of the Home and Community Care (HACC) capital strategy.

Financial support for energy efficiency projects

Expressions of interest for energy efficiency projects focusing on existing non-residential buildings are now being sought by the Australian Carbon Trust.

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General Interest

Item 4: Book your LG Week Awards Dinner tickets!

If your council has entered into any of this year's awards, secure your ticket to the Local Government Week Awards Presentation Dinner now.

This prestigious event will take place in the beautiful surroundings of The Tea Rooms in the Queen Victoria Building. The themed evening is the signature event of LG Week and includes a three course dinner and great entertainment. Awards will be presented by State Government Ministers including Hon Barbara Perry MP and Hon Peter Primrose MP, amongst other special guests.

Featuring: NSW Local Government Youth Week Awards

Youth Week in NSW recognises the role played by councils in helping young people to plan and coordinate programs and activities for National Youth Week. To acknowledge their considerable commitment, the NSW Government presents awards to various councils at the annual Local Government Week Awards evening.

The four awards presented are:

- Best local Youth Week program.
- Best on-going commitment to local Youth Week programs.
- Most innovative Youth Week program.
- Most outstanding Youth Week program (small councils only).

The finalists and winners are chosen by youth on the NSW Youth Week Young People's Advisory Committee (YPAC). These are selected based on the information provided in the council's evaluation. All councils were considered for nomination this year. For more information, visit <http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au/>

The other awards given on the night are:

RH Dougherty Awards

Awarded by the LGSA

Cancer Council Local Government Partnership Awards

Awarded by the Cancer Council NSW

Heart Foundation Local Government Awards

Awarded by the Heart Foundation

The Awards Evening is hosted by the City of Sydney and sponsored by Country Energy.



Local Government Week 2010

Awards Dinner
4 August, 6.30pm
Tea Rooms, QVB, Sydney

Cost
\$120 each OR
\$1150 for table of 10

Purchase Awards Tickets
www.lgweek.lgsa.org.au
Tickets close Wed 28 July

LG Week
2 to 8 August 2010
www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au

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

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General Interest

Item 5: LG Week: Showcasing Newcastle City Council

Discover Newcastle during Local Government Week with one of their many free Discovery Tours!

See rare books, learn how lifeguards do their rescues, hear about the historic Garside Garden and marvel at the history of the iconic City Hall.

- **Discover the library** – Monday 2 August - Tour Newcastle Region Library's basement, see rare books and visit the local studies section.
- **Discover Nobbys Surf Club** – Tuesday 3 August - Tour the lifeguard facility, check out the jet ski and learn about rescues.
- **Discover the Civic Theatre** – Wednesday 4 August - A behind the scenes tour of the Civic Theatre, including ghosts!
- **Discover the Bathers Way** - Thursday 5 August – Meander through King Edward Park, stop off at Shepherds Hill Cottage and view the gunneries
- **Discover the cultural precinct** – Thursday 5 August – Learn about the interesting commercial, industrial, local government and cultural history of the civic precinct over the past 200 years
- **Discover the Art Gallery** – Saturday 7 August - Be introduced to two stunning exhibitions now on display.



Local Government Week 2010

LG Week
2-8 August 2010
www.lgweek.lgsa.org.au

Further Information
Michelle Muller, 02 9242 4031
michelle.muller@lgsa.org.au

Become a showcased Council for Local Government Week

Each week, the LG Week website will be showcasing one council's plans for the 2010 Local Government Week. Fill in the form and let us know what you're planning. See the website for hints, suggested activities and what other councils have planned!

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General Interest

Item 6: Registrations now open - One Association Convention

Both Associations have resolved to progress the formation of One Association by establishing the One Association Taskforce.

The Convention

All mayors, councillors and general managers are invited to participate in the formation of One Association to represent Local Government in NSW.

Voting

Each member council will be permitted one vote for the purposes of the Convention. However, councils are encouraged to send as many non-voting delegates as possible. Non-voting delegates may still participate in the discussions and debate. The majority vote will be represented by 66% of delegates present. Please note that any decisions from the Convention will not be binding on either Association, but will signify a way forward for the Taskforce and the respective Associations to vote on at their respective Conferences.

Discussion Paper

Councils will have received four printed copies of the One Association Taskforce Discussion Paper, which is now available on the website.

Online registration now available

This includes discussion papers, proceedings of the Convention, morning and afternoon teas and lunches on two days and administrative support. The fee does not cover accommodation or any other events held in conjunction with the Convention.

Accommodation

Specially discounted rates have been arranged with the Convention venue, Star City Sydney. These rooms are offered on a first come first serve basis and should be booked by delegates directly. When booking at Star City Sydney, please quote accommodation code: LOC060710.

Key dates

Convention: 16 & 17 August,
Star City Sydney

Registration deadline: 2 August

Cost

\$297 (\$267.30 ex GST)

Registration Deadline

2 August 2010

One Association Paper

www.lgsa.org.au/oneassociation

For further information

www.lgsa.org/oneassociation

Registration & the event:

Karen Rolls: 02 9242 4050;

karen.rolls@lgsa.org.au

All other matters:

Skye Smith: 02 9242 4052;

skye.smith@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 7: Local Government Web Network Conference – Early Bird Registrations close this Tuesday

Secure your tickets to this year's web conference, which will include presentations and workshop sessions from some of the leading experts in Australia, as well as government case studies.

Participants will come away from the conference feeling part of the Local Government web community, having had the opportunity to contribute to discussion and debate, as well as networking with other professionals.

Program and topics

The conference will have some split streams to allow you to pick sessions that are best suited to you, as well as some exciting key note speakers, and case studies from Leeton Shire Council, Tamworth Regional Council, Pittwater Council and Mosman Municipal Council.

Other topics include:

- *How to measure social media effectiveness*
Mandi Bateson.
- Workshops including how to create a digital strategy for your council.
- *How to manage the impact of the GIPA Act on your website*
Shirley Southgate of the Office of the Information Commissioner.
- *How to create a social media policy for your organisation*
Craig Thomler.

There will be many introductory topics that do not require technical knowledge, as well higher level sessions covering strategy management issues and a broad look at the direction the web is heading and what that means for government. There are also technical sessions for developers and project managers who are involved in building and extending their websites and online applications.

Conference

19-20 August, 2010
Sydney

Early Bird Registration

Closes July 20

Book on the website below.

Full conference pass for both days includes dinner and choice of two workshops
\$577.50 (inc.GST)

One day conference pass, includes dinner

\$357.50 (inc. GST).

Website

<http://lgwebnetwork.org/Conferences/2010>

Contact

Reem Abdelaty

02 9242 4000

lgwebnetwork@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 8: 2010 Local Government Association Annual Conference

Registration details, a draft program and an information booklet regarding voting and submitting motions will be available online.

Key Dates

9 August

Deadline for motions for inclusion in the business paper. Motions should be set out in the form as per the template which can be found on the Conference website and should be emailed to lgaconference@lgsa.org.au. Please request a read receipt for confirmation that your motion was received.

30 August

Draft business paper containing all motions received before 9 August 2010 will be available on the Association's website for viewing and comment.

13 September

Final business paper available on the Association's website.

11 October

Deadline to advise the Association's of the names of Council's voting delegates.

Conference

Sunday 24 - Wednesday 27
October
Albury Entertainment Centre

Registration

www.LGAConference.lgsa.org.au

Further information

Motions: Peter Coulton
02 9242 4030

Program, Accommodation,
Sponsorship: Michelle Muller
events@lgsa.org.au
02 9242 4031.

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Community

Item 9: Capital funding for HACC services available

Grants are now available from the NSW Public Works for the second round of the Home and Community Care (HACC) capital strategy.

Ranging from \$77,000 to \$495,000 (inc. GST), the grants are available to fund the upgrading of facilities used for HACC services.

Each of ADHC's 16 local planning areas will be allocated project funding of at least \$275,000 (inc. GST). This includes Central West, Far West, Hunter, Illawarra, Mid North Coast, Murray, Murrumbidgee, Northern, North Western, Richmond Tweed, South Eastern, Sydney.

Funds remaining after the initial allocation to projects in each LPA, will be prioritised and allocated on a state-wide basis determined by need and value for money. To be eligible for funding proposals must relate to:

- Upgrading or expansion of existing facilities used for the delivery of HACC services; or
- Acquisition of new HACC facilities, including land and buildings, where this process can be completed within a timeframe compatible with the constraints of the funding program.

Proposals will only be accepted from a single lead organisation that is either a currently funded HACC service provider or that represents a consortium that includes a currently funded HACC service provider partner organisation(s).

Applications close

10 August 2010

Tenders

Must be submitted electronically to <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au>

Further information

<https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/nsw/?event=public.RFT.list&keyword=hacc&submitButton-1=Search>

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Community

Item 10: Website for Multicultural Health Week launches this Tuesday!

A services directory and translated health information for Multicultural Health Week (MCHW) will soon be available for councils online.

If you want to use MCHW to kick-start more sustainable strategic partnerships and initiatives, you can contact the Associations, your Multicultural Health Unit and/or local NGOs that work to address health needs in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Invitations to the launch of Multicultural Health Week will be going out to all mayors and general managers of councils, as well as Divisions of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council.

President of the Local Government Association, Cr Genia McCaffery, will deliver a keynote address about the key role councils play in promoting health and well-being in CALD communities.

Multicultural Health Week

26 July–1 August

Website Launch

20 July

www.multiculturalhealthweek.com

Launch

26 July, SBS Offices, Artarmon

For resources

Angharad White, MHCS

02 9816 0226

angharad.white@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

For other enquiries

Helen Johnson, LGSA

02 9242 4028

helen.johnson@lgsa.org.au

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Community

Item 11: Inquiry into Ageing, Disability and Home Care Services

Councils are encouraged to place submissions into the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues inquiry into the quality, effectiveness and delivery of services provided or funded by the Department of ADHC.

The inquiry considers:

- The historical and current level of funding and extent of unmet need.
- Variations in service delivery, waiting lists and program quality between:
 - services provided or funded by ADHC
 - ADHC Regional Areas
- Flexibility in client funding arrangements and client focused service delivery.
- Compliance with Disability Service Standards.
- Adequacy of complaint handling, grievance mechanisms and ADHC funded advocacy services.
- Internal and external program evaluation including program auditing and achievement of program performance indicators review.

If councils have issues relating to quality, effectiveness and delivery of services provided or funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care which they believe strongly the Associations ought to be aware of, these can be raised with Margaret Kay (details above.)

Submissions close

6 August, 2010

Committee Meeting

30 September 2010

Online information

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/socialissues

Further information

Rachel Simpson, Director
Social Issues, Legislative Council

02 9230 2898

socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Margaret Kay Senior Policy officer,
LGSA Ageing and Disability
9242 4982,

Margaret.kay@lgsa.org.au

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Community

Item 12: Parkinson's NSW

Interested in finding out how your council can help people with Parkinson's disease? Parkinson's NSW can help.

The Associations encourage its members to liaise directly with Parkinson's NSW to understand how they may be able to support the organisation and residents of their local communities who suffer from Parkinson's disease.

Over 80,000 Australians are affected by Parkinson's disease - a chronic, progressive, incurable, complex and disabling neurological condition.

Parkinson's NSW provides valuable information, counselling and support to people living with the disease. They also provide training and education for health professionals and make a positive contribution to the provision of treatment and professional support services.

Parkinson's NSW Incorporated is a non-profit, community based organisation which provides information, counselling and support to people living with Parkinson's disease, their partners, carers and families.

Parkinsons NSW

02 8875 8900

InfoLine: 1800 644 189

pnsw@parkinsonsnsw.org.au

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Community

Item 13: Strategic Plan for Universal Housing Design

The *National Dialogue on Universal Housing Design - Strategic Plan* has been released. The plan helps make houses safer and easier to live in for young families, people with injuries, senior Australians and people with a disability.

Further information

<http://www.hreoc.gov.au/>

The plan was released by Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, with members of the National Dialogue.

National Dialogue Members (which includes leaders from key organisations from the disability and ageing sectors, housing and property industry, government and community) have agreed to work together to promote the benefits of universal house design.

The partnership agreement sets out a plan of action with the goal that all new housing will include a number of basic design features by 2020 that will make them safer and easier to move around in. Some examples are step-less entries and wider doorways.

Participants will develop education and training resources, releasing technical guidelines to assist the housing industry and identifying possible incentives for encouraging industry and owners to adopt the use of the technical guidelines to change the way we design and build our homes.

The plan also calls on governments to take the lead by ensuring all new housing that receives government funding incorporates the new design features.

The group first met nine months ago in 2009, at the invitation of Parliamentary Secretary, Bill Shorten, and Therese Rein.

National Dialogue members

Australian Human Rights Commission

Australian Institute of Architects

Australian Local Government Association

Australian Network for Universal Housing Design

COTA Australia

Grocon

Housing Industry Association

Lend Lease Primelife

Master Builders Australia

National People with Disabilities and Carers Council

Office of the Disability Council of NSW

Property Council of Australia

Real Estate Institute of Australia

Stockland

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Emergency Services

Item 14: New 'Spatial Information Management System' Training

The Department of Lands Emergency Information Coordination Unit (EICU) has developed an improved Spatial Information Management System toolkit called SIMS 2010. Free training for SIMS 2010 is now available.

Further information

Contact your DEMO or the EICU eicu@lpma.nsw.gov.au

The Spatial Information Management System (SIMS) is designed to support all stages of Emergency Management and in particular support multiagency Emergency Operation Centres.

It provides the ability to access a rich collection of map based information at district and state levels. Mapped information includes emergency facilities, electricity and water supply networks and is collected from authoritative sources.

SIMS 2010 offers new opportunities to bring geospatial technology to emergency managers rather than just GIS professionals. The SIMS 2010 information can be analysed by non-GIS users to determine for example, all the at-risk facilities within a given area. Users can also easily plot and manage information such as the locations and status of evacuation centres, road closures or incident details, and share this information between Emergency Operation Centres and agencies easily.

The training has been rewritten to accommodate the new toolkit and is now only one day rather than two. SIMS 2010 leverages new technology and can be distributed free with no requirement to have specialised GIS software, training or skilled resources.

Free training is available, and Local Emergency Management Officers, Local Emergency Management Committee Chairs, and GIS staff is encouraged to attend.

Training Dates for GIS Workshop and SIMS Training

Yass 15 July GIS, 16 July SIMS
Narrandera 19 July GIS, 20 July SIMS
Deniliquin - 22 July GIS, 23 July SIMS
Wentworth – 26 July GIS, 27 July SIMS
Broken Hill – 29 July GIS, 30 July SIMS
Bourke – 2 August GIS, 3 August SIMS
Dubbo – 5 August GIS, 6 August SIMS
Sydney – 12 & 19 August SIMS
Eurobodalla – Late August SIMS
Cooma – Late August SIMS
Muswellbrook – 2 Sept GIS, 3 Sept SIMS
Tamworth – 6 Sept GIS, 7 Sept SIMS
Moree – 9 Sept GIS, 10 Sept SIMS
Lismore – 13 Sept GIS, 14 Sept SIMS
Port Macquarie – 16 Sept GIS, 17 Sept SIMS
Sydney – 23 Sept SIMS
Bathurst – Mid Oct SIMS
Shoalhaven – Late Oct SIMS

Greater Metropolitan training will be planned for October-December in Sydney, Newcastle, Central Coast and Wollongong.

All courses are open to participants state-wide so if you not available for your local course feel free nominate for an alternate venue.

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Environment

Item 15: Financial support for energy efficiency projects

Expressions of interest for energy efficiency projects focusing on existing non-residential buildings are now being sought by the Australian Carbon Trust.

The Trust was established by the Australian Government as an independent company with more than \$75m initial funding to provide finance and advice to businesses and the wider community through innovative programs to encourage investment in, take-up and use of energy-efficient technologies.

The Trust will focus on achieving energy efficiency improvements in the buildings sector through retrofits in existing non-residential buildings across Australia - including offices, food and non-food retail, education, community, health, hotels, etc – using commercially available technology. The Trust is seeking Expressions of Interest from companies and organisations wishing to co-invest and work with the Trust in strategic relationships in developing such projects.

Criteria for eligibility include projects which feature:

- A high demonstration value.
- Scalability - are replicable and adaptable.
- Knowledge uplift and capacity in the market.
- Deliver cost effective energy savings.
- Provide significant additional private sector finance.
- Be genuinely additional to business-as-usual activity.

Australian Carbon Trust will provide financial support to energy efficiency projects by a variety of means including low-interest rate loans, revolving loan arrangements and alternative structures. We envisage working with:

- Financial institutions and property trusts to develop innovative funding models to finance energy efficiency projects in commercial retrofits.
- Individual businesses and other organisations to identify and develop flagship energy efficiency projects.
- Technical advice and service companies to deliver energy efficiency advice and finance to the business customer base.
- State and Local Government to leverage their existing capabilities and scale up existing programs.

Support could be sought for co-investment in 'flagship' retrofit projects and projects which scale up existing Government initiatives. Accompanying such finance, we will provide a range of services and advice to businesses and the wider community to further stimulate energy efficiency improvements. Any project which involves direct action in this sector, or the development of models for the delivery of finance, direct advice and related activities to stimulate such investment and action, will be eligible for consideration.

EOI closing date

5pm, 6 August 2010.

Online information

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/en/government/initiatives/australian-carbon-trust.aspx>

For further information

eoic@carbontrustaustralia.com.au

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Environment

Item 16: Regional climate change impact profiles released

Regional profiles are now available to councils to adopt a more localised climate change scenario for their climate change risk assessments and adaptation planning.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW), in partnership with the Climate Change Research Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), has developed regional climate projections for NSW based on preliminary analyses of global modelling data.

Online information

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/understanding.htm>

Hard Copies

DECCW Enviroline 131 555

For each of the NSW State Plan regions and for NSW overall, the report outlines:

- The likely changes in climate (temperature, rainfall and evaporation) by 2050.
- Physical consequences of these climate changes (rise in sea level and changes in run-off, flooding behaviour and fire regimes).
- The subsequent impacts of projected climate change and associated changes in physical processes on:
 - lands (soils and soil processes)
 - settlements (storm and flood damage)
 - ecosystems (biological communities, individual species and ecological processes).

The regionalised data for this project was derived by estimating the value of projections at a scale of 50km x 50km to identify local variations in climate change impacts and ensure the information is relevant to local and regional decision makers.

The full NSW Climate Impact Profile or individual chapters and regional summaries can be downloaded from the DECCW website.

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Finance

Item 17: Inquiry into the Valuation of Land Act 1916

The Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General has commenced an inquiry into the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1916. Councils are encouraged to put forward a submission.

The Joint Standing Committee is to inquire into the provisions of the Valuation of Land Act 1916 with particular reference to:

1. The efficiency and effectiveness of the current provisions of the Act;
2. Its application to stakeholders; and
3. Any other related matter.

The Associations have been advised that this is not a comprehensive review of the Act, but it does provide the opportunity to raise issues and put forward recommendations that should be considered in a future review. The Associations will be making a submission.

Submissions due

30 July 2010

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/committee.nsf/V3home

Post:

Joint Committee on the Office of the Valuer General, Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney NSW 2000

Further information Committee

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/valuergeneral

Primary contact - Russell Keith
02 9230 3050

jscovg@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Committee Officer - Alexis Steffen
02 9230 2632

jscovg@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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Industrial Relations

Item 18: Draft Workers Compensation Regulation 2010

WorkCover NSW is inviting written comments and submissions on the *Draft Workers Compensation Regulation 2010* and Regulatory Impact Statement.

The Workers Compensation Regulation 2003 is due to be repealed on 1 September 2010, in accordance with section 10(2) of the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989. It is proposed to remake the current Regulation with minor changes. The remade Regulation, the Workers Compensation Regulation 2010, will commence operation from 1 September 2010.

WorkCover NSW is seeking written feedback from all interested parties on the Draft Workers Compensation Regulation 2010, which can be accessed at:
<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/draftworkerscompensationregulation2010.aspx>

WorkCover NSW is also seeking written feedback on the accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement, which can be accessed at:
http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/regulatory_impact_statement_draft_workers_comp_reg_2010_2812.pdf

Please note that submissions may be made public, subject to the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. WorkCover NSW will however, consider any requests for submissions to be treated on a confidential basis, subject to the provisions of the Act.

Submissions Close

5pm, 6 August 2010.

Email:

regulation.workerscomp@workcover.nsw.gov.au

Post:

Workers Compensation Regulation
Business Analysis and Strategy
Workers Compensation Division
WorkCover NSW,
Locked Bag 2906
LISAROW NSW 2252

WorkCover NSW

02 4321 5227

regulation.workerscomp@workcover.nsw.gov.au

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Infrastructure

Item 19: Designing New Spaces for Arts Practice

Join Wyong Shire Council in meeting the challenges of developing, designing and managing new arts facilities.

Designing New Spaces for Arts Practice is for councillors, managers, planners, cultural workers, artists and anyone interested in learning how to create vital arts facilities.

Speakers include Tim Greer from TZG architects and Jocelyn McKinnon, Creative Arts, University of Newcastle.

Please note the change of date – this Forum will now be held on 27 August 2010.

This is the second in the popular “Arts Forums for Councils” series, with *Maximising Arts and Cultural Committees* to be held by Woollahra Municipal Council on 13 September 2010.

Art Forum 2: Designing New Spaces for Art Practices

27 August 2010

9.30am – 12.30pm

Wyong Shire Council

Hely St, Wyong

Online information

<http://culturalawards2010.lgsa.org.au/blog/2010-06-23-2forums2010>

For further information

Stuart Slough, 4350 5511,

stuart.slough@wyong.nsw.gov.au

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Learning

Item 20: Making Consultative Committees More Effective

This one day workshop is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of consultative committees in Local Government.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the changing face of Local Government.
- Review service delivery and the issues councils face.
- Understand roles, rights and duties of the members and the decision making process.
- Understand award/legislative changes and affected workplace structures and allied documents.
- Understand the structure of effective and productive meetings.
- Display improved skills in dealing with people and situations using more effective communication techniques.
- Implement positive consultative processes in working together and dealing with conflict and negativity in meetings.
- Conduct and participate in meetings correctly using effective decision making, consensus and time saving techniques.
- Follow up meetings and implement actions.

The workshop aims to refresh your understanding of the consultative process, ensure correct processes are implemented and give inexperienced participants increased confidence in their ability to participate and present a case or conduct meetings.

Dates and Time

Tuesday 10 August –Queanbeyan
Thursday 23 September –Sydney
9am to 4.30pm
Venues will be notified in the confirmation letters.

Cost

\$462 pp (inc. GST)

Registrations

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

Contact

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

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Learning

Item 21: Local Government Human Resources Conference

A range of community, corporate and industry speakers have been assembled for our best ever human resources conference this year.

With a theme of "HR - the tree of Diversity", this is the premier Human Resource event of 2010.

Keynote speakers include:

As the ANZ's chief 'number-cruncher' for nearly 14 years, it's been Saul Eslake's job to look at vast reams of economic data, and make sense of it. He has a knack for explaining economics in layman's terms - which is why he's always in such high demand as a speaker and commentator. We have secured Saul for our conference to educate us on the Key Economic Drivers

On the community side we are delighted to have Jo Brennan (CEO of Habitat for Humanity) talk about 'Living Diversity – the Habitat for Humanity Story' which draws upon the close relationship Local Government has with global societies, and how HR professionals have a key role in developing an organisational culture which celebrates that closeness.

To keep you up to date with industrial relations trends, especially as they pertain to our industry, the Honourable Justice Roger Boland, President of the NSW Industrial Relations Commission, will address you on 'The Staten of Play in IR Today.'

Showcase

In quick 15 minute bursts you will be exposed to a time saving online tool; new ways of thinking about the transfer of learning, eLearning and learning culture; and an update of the 2010 State Award.

MasterClass Workshops

Includes council case studies, family flexible work policies, how HR professionals can avoid corruption issues, how to measure and sell your diverse workforce solutions, and a showcase about diversity trends in the media.

Networking Opportunities

Networking opportunities are available at the optional Wednesday 17 November BBQ at the Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club. The Conference Dinner will be the usual spectacular event with an excellent meal and entertainment and an "LG Superstar". The conference brochure will be issued in the next few weeks.

LG HR Conference

17-19 November 2010
Crowne Plaza, Coogee, Sydney

Bookings

To book a room use the eBooking link <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/cp/1/en/hotel/sydcb> or call reservations on 1800 668 167 and quote the booking code "DWH" to get the conference rate

Early Bird Cost

\$990 pp (inc. GST).
Register by 15 October.

Registrations

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/154-seminars--conferences.asp>

Contact

LGSA Learning Solutions
02 9242 4181
learning@lgsa.org.au

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Learning

Item 22: Planning for Effective Public Participation

Interested in completing your Certificate for Public Participation? Register for the first module which will be delivered by The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).

Using IAP2's Spectrum for Public Participation, participants will learn how to establish clear and achievable objectives and how to define a promise to the public.

Learn how to prepare your organisation or project teams for conducting public participation. This includes timing, techniques, and what resources are needed.

This course is well recognised amongst the community of public participation professionals in Australia and New Zealand and many other countries including USA, Canada and the UK.

Facilitator: Margaret Harvie, Plan Com Consulting P/L, Margaret is an accredited International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) trainer. Margaret has extensive local, national and overseas experience including experience in community development with Indigenous communities in Queensland.

IAP2 Certificate Introductory Module

9-10 August, 2010
Local Government Learning Centre
28 Margaret St, Sydney

Cost

\$880 (inc.GST)
Two day program

Registrations

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

Contact

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

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Learning

Item 23: Year of the Women in Local Government and Professional Development for Women

**Help female staff reach their career goals in 2010!
A range of programs are now available for women interested in developing skills and knowledge to empower them in their career.**

Managers may wish to consider the following successful programs for their staff as one strategy to support the Year of the Women in Local Government.

Springboard

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

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

- Thursday 23 September, Mentors.
- Friday 24 September, Day One.
- Thursday 14 October, Day Two.
- Friday 5 November, Day Three.
- Thursday 25 November, Day Four.

Fine Tuning the Balance for Women in Local Government - Tuesday 24 August

This course helps women to invest in themselves and incorporate positive change in their work-life balance, as well as developing resilience with a healthy nutrition, exercise and relaxation regime.

Influencing Skills for Women - Friday 27 August

This one day interactive and participative workshop will be especially helpful for people who need to achieve results and manage projects without official positional power/authority. Participants will be introduced to a powerful yet simple Influence Model and have numerous opportunities to practice during the Workshop.

Leadership Skills for Aspiring Women - Tuesday 28 September

This program is designed for women to give you a non threatening environment in which to explore issues which might be bothering you and holding you back from aspiring to greater achievements at work. At the end of the program you will have a skill set to take you confidently to the next level.

Cost

Springboard: \$990 (inc. GST) for 4 workshops for participants, and a ½ day workshop for mentors

1 day workshops: \$462 (inc. GST) per day

Registrations

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

Contact

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

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Planning

Item 24: Draft Codes SEPP to apply to small lots - now on exhibition

The LGSA is seeking feedback on the Department of Planning's proposed changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 – the Codes SEPP, that will apply to small lots. The proposed changes went on public exhibition Monday, 5 July.

The proposed changes to the Codes SEPP will allow attached, semi detached and detached housing on lots under 450m² to be approved as complying development in 10 days by private certifiers.

Currently the Codes SEPP comprises five codes - the Exempt Code, the NSW Housing Code, the Internal Alterations Code, the Commercial Code and the Strata Subdivision Code. The proposed changes will:

- Extend the NSW Housing Code to apply to lots as small as 300m², which is currently restricted to sites over 450m²; and
- Create an additional small lots code that applies to sites -200m² to 300 m²; and
- Expand the provisions of the Internal Alterations Code.

The new provisions will apply common standards to a range of residential typologies (detached, attached and semi- detached houses) across the state that currently require a professional merits assessment – due to the planning, amenity (views, sunlight and privacy issues), streetscape and heritage matters to be considered in light of the impact on the adjoining neighbour.

Consequently, the new provisions will allow certifiers to approve development that may adversely impact on the adjoining development - without the current protections provided by neighbour's submissions, site inspections and the raft of considerations contained within s79C of the planning act. The proposed changes will allow:

- Alterations on attached and semi detached housing on sites as low as 200m².
- First storey development on small sites -200m² to 450m²;
- Extensions that can be approved up to the neighbours' boundary (without the neighbours' consent) and changes to common boundary walls; and
- Two storey outbuildings (up to 6m) fronting rear lanes.

Nevertheless, some aspects of the proposed changes are very reasonable, such as the expansion to the current Internal Alterations Code and the proposed minor extensions that would be allowed a ground and basement level.

Overall, the Associations are concerned that the proposed changes have 'gone too far' and some of the development allowed in the new Codes SEPP should be rightly assessed as a DA. Tighter time frames for neighbours to respond to a DA on such applications may be a more sensible and balanced reform when dealing with small changes on small lots. The Associations recognise that there is value in have a level of standardisation across the sector to manage small lot development, but suggests that this may be better managed by a Standard Development Control Plan, rather than a universal complying development provisions that apply to all small lots.

Your feedback is requested on what the proposed changes so that the Associations can provide feedback that reflects the views of the sector as accurately as possible. Please send you comments to policy officer indicated below.

Department of Planning SEPP Workshops

12-25 July

Check website for venue details

<http://events.planning.nsw.gov.au/Events/SelectEvent.aspx>

Draft Codes SEPP

<http://housingcode.planning.nsw.gov.au/>

LGSA Contact

Jennifer Dennis, LGSA Policy Officer

jennifer.dennis@lgsa.org.au

02 9242 4094.

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Planning

Item 25: Electronic Housing Code Project

The Electronic Housing Code pilot project seeks to develop and demonstrate a shared, integrated platform for end-to-end processing of complying development applications under the NSW Housing Code. A series of Information Sheets on key aspects of the project have been developed to help you understand the project.

The project is a joint initiative of the Department of Planning and the Associations. The information sheets have been produced as part of the Learning and Knowledge Program. Topics include:

- An overview of the eHC Pilot Project.
- The Role of the Role Model Councils and Accredited Certifiers.
- The Selection Process for the Role Model Councils and Accredited Certifiers.
- eDA – What is it?
- eDAIS – What is it?
- eDA and eDAIS – an historical overview.

These information sheets can be downloaded from the EHC project web site. This list will be added to over the duration of the pilot project.

The EHC pilot, and the associated systems and processes, will be developed so that in future it may be expanded in two directions:

- Extend take-up of the Electronic Housing Code component to other Councils across NSW.
- Extend the use of the system to other eDA processes once capacity reaches sustainable levels in key stakeholder areas, especially state agencies.

The project is due to be completed in March 2011. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Online information

www.ehc.nsw.gov.au under 'Learning and Knowledge'

EHC Information Sheets

<http://www.ehc.nsw.gov.au/LearningandKnowledge/InformationSheets/tabid/119/language/en-AU/Default.aspx>

For further information

John Hudson, Director Sustainable Systems, Department of Planning:
02 9228 6517
john.hudson@planning.nsw.gov.au

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

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Planning

Item 26: Update on s94 levies campaign

The Associations are continuing the campaign against the State Government's decision to cap s94 levies at \$20,000 and to narrow the range of projects that can be funded by levies to 'essential' infrastructure. All councils are potentially affected by the changes.

On 30 June, the Presidents met with a number of Mayors and General Managers to discuss the financial impacts of the changes. The meeting unanimously resolved to call on the Premier Kristina Keneally to revoke the State Government decision to place a \$20,000 cap on developer contributions, not to narrow the definition of eligible infrastructure and to commit to working with councils to deal with the problems of housing affordability in NSW.

The Associations are finalising the results of a survey of the financial impact on councils of the changes, which shows that:

- 'Greenfield' councils are facing funding shortfalls ranging from \$6 million to \$1.5 billion over the next 20 years.
- Councils with 'infill' developments face funding shortfalls of \$13m to \$74m over the next 20 years.
- Rural & regional councils face a significant loss of funding for critical link road projects to service new subdivisions.
- The provision of district sporting and community infrastructure will be jeopardized across the state.
- The financial liabilities of councils run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Many councils will need to refinance/renegotiate current loans borrowed against existing s94 plans.
- To make up the shortfall in funding due to the cap, rate increases of up to 70% council wide or up to 200% if applied only to the development precinct would be required.
- The real value of councils' rate base has been seriously eroded due to the imposition of rate pegging over the past 30 years. This has shaped long term financial structures that cannot be changed overnight. Small, or even large, percentage increases on a small rate base cannot make up the significant loss in funding for infrastructure. In the short term, councils will be forced to defer or cancel infrastructure projects.

The Presidents have met with the Minister for Planning to brief him on councils' concerns and provide information on the magnitude of the infrastructure funding shortfall caused by these decisions. The Minister has agreed to consider councils' concerns, however has made no firm commitments to revoke the cap or amend the definition of essential infrastructure.

The Presidents have this week briefed the Opposition Leader, Barry O'Farrell and the Shadow Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, on the financial impacts on councils of the cuts to s94 levies.

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Associations' Media Releases

<http://tiny.cc/fp4sd>

<http://tiny.cc/2i0af>

<http://tiny.cc/nwiv5>

<http://tiny.cc/vqxzr>

Further information

Shaun McBride, Strategy Manager,
Finance, Infrastructure & Planning,
shaun.mcbride@lgsa.org.au
9242 4072

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

Roads and Transport

Item 27: Accessible bus stop guidelines

The Australian Human Rights Commission has placed the final draft of the proposed guideline on accessible bus stops on their website. Councils are encouraged to provide comments to the Commission.

The final draft incorporates comments made on an initial draft of the guidelines which was issued in 2009. As a web based resource it will still be possible for the guidelines to be updated or revised after that date.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA) seeks to eliminate discrimination, 'as far as possible', against people with a disability. Public transport is a service covered by the Act. In 2002 the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (the DSAPT) were issued to assist public transport operators and providers to meet their obligations under the DDA. The DDA makes it unlawful for any person to contravene a Disability Standard (including the DSAPT).

This Guideline has been prepared to assist bus infrastructure providers, such as councils ('Providers') to ensure that bus stops comply with the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (DSAPT). The recommendations in this Guideline are based on the requirements outlined in the DSAPT, including the technical deemed-to-satisfy requirements of Australian Standards which are referenced in the DSAPT. Providers can fulfil their responsibilities by meeting the deemed-to-satisfy requirements or by providing what the DSAPT refers to as 'Equivalent access' by other means.

Any bus stop which is constructed after 15 August 2002 is required to comply with the DSAPT. Councils are encouraged to provide comment on the guidelines directly to the Human Rights Commission. The Associations would also appreciate advice from councils about key issues of importance to Local Government in the guidelines. Please contact Richard Connors, Senior Policy Officer - Roads and Transport (details above).

Submissions due

2 August

Proposed guidelines

http://humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/transport/Bus_Stops_Guidelines.doc

For further information

Michael Small, Acting Director,
Disability Rights Unit, Australian
Human Rights Commission:

02 9284 9769

michael.small@humanrights.gov.au

Richard Connors, LGSA

02 9242 4073

richard.connors@lgsa.org.au

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In the News

Item 28: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Climate change a hot issue for councils

14 July 2010

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3405-14-july-2010-climate-change-a-hot-issue-for-councils.asp?intSiteID=1>

In an effort to help manage the challenges associated with climate change, the Local Government and Shire Associations of NSW have this week launched the Climate Change Action Planning for Local Government workshop package for councils.

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In the News

Item 29: Local Government Media

Development contributions
Cessnock rezoning
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Climate Change Workshop Package & Coastal Erosion
New England Amalgamation
Wollongong Inquiry
Lehman Bros
CENTROC finances

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Development contributions

Inner West Courier

08 July 2010

Councils up in arms over fee changes – [Link unavailable](#)

MARRICKVILLE Council has condemned the State Government's plan to cap development fees at \$20,000. The council has joined numerous others around the state that are opposed to capping Section 94 contributions, which are payments made by developers towards the supply of infrastructure.

Northern Star

14 July 2010

Govt move could eat into council finances

LISMORE City Council will face a \$1.5 million budget shortfall over the next five years if the State Government places restrictions on projects than can be funded by Section 94 developer contributions. The restriction, which would mean the funds can only be used on essential infrastructure such as sewerage and not community infrastructure like recreational facilities, was due to come into effect on July 1. However, it is understood it has been deferred.

Central Coast Express-Advocate

14 July 2010

Rebecca Woolley

Hazzard labels levy cap illogical

OPPOSITION planning spokesman Brad Hazzard has branded a cap on section 94 developer levies as "hypocritical, illogical and potentially very unfair to ratepayers". Wyong Council is one of 16 councils around the State battling the Government over the issue.

Liverpool Leader

14 July 2010

Levy cap unfair: Hazzard – [Link unavailable](#)

OPPOSITION planning spokesman Brad Hazzard has branded a cap on Section 94 developer levies as "hypocritical, illogical and potentially very unfair to ratepayers". He said plans to cap the council imposed levies at \$20,000 for each lot had "not been thought through" and he urged Planning Minister Tony Kelly to hold further discussions with local government authorities.

2GB (Sydney)

15 July, 2010, 6.40am

Alan Jones says he spoke two days ago about developer levies. He says a massive flood plain development in Western Sydney has stalled after the cap on levies has left the Holroyd unable to

afford adequate drainage. He says The Daily Telegraph reports that the council fears that if the Neil(*) St precinct proceeds, residents could be washed out by floods. Jones says that the Holroyd Mayor John Perry says if the council allows the development, they could be legally liable.

Wentworth Courier

14 July 2010

Rebecca Woolley

Developer levy cap criticized – Link unavailable

THE state Opposition planning spokesman, Brad Hazzard, has branded a proposed cap on Section 94 developer levies "hypocritical, illogical and potentially very unfair to ratepayers".

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney)

10 July, 7.54am

Councils from the South Coast have united in their opposition to the NSW Govt's new cap on councils' ability to raise infrastructure levies. Sandra McCarthy, Southern Councils Group, says the councils are united in their opposition and says that the cap on developer levies came without any consultation with councils.

ABC 666 Canberra (Canberra)

10 July, 2010, 7.52am

Councils across the south coast have united in opposition to the State Govt's cap on council's ability to raise infrastructure levies. Under new guidelines councils can only charge Section 94 Funds of up to \$20,000 for each new residential housing lot. Sandra McCarthy, Chair, Southern Councils Group, says that the group will campaign to overturn the decision.

2GB (Sydney)

16 July, 7.40am

Jones says the Daily Telegraph yesterday said that Holroyd City Council is saying if its Neil Street precinct proceeds, 4000 inhabitants could be washed out by floods because of capped levies. Jones refers to Liverpool, Hills, Camden, Pittwater, Ku-ring-gai, Penrith and Wollongong Councils who will stop processing development applications for new subdivisions as they claim they need at least twice what they are currently getting in developer levies in order to provide the necessary infrastructure. Kelly says housing prices in Sydney are unaffordable. Kelly says the Councils will still be able to get essential infrastructure but above that they will have to justify it to IPART. Kelly says some developers are happy to pay a high price.

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Cessnock rezoning

NBN Newcastle Hunter (Newcastle)

9 July, 6pm

Cessnock Council's planning saga has taking an interesting turn, with the State Government now accused of making a major mistake. As the minister decides whether or not to take control of the council's planning powers, his own department has been blamed for a blunder. Land owners in Kitchener who are sitting on land worth well over 6 million dollars, may soon find the land rendered worthless by the State Government. The land owners and Cessnock Council wanted an area that would fit around 1000 homes rezoned from rural to residential. The Government disagreed and rezoned a smaller parcel of land, but its documents showed both the larger and smaller areas. This means the government will have to fix the mistake, leaving the land owners who want to sell up in limbo. The Planning Minister this morning told NBN news he wasn't aware of any problem. Tony Kelly, NSW Planning Minister says he won't make any comment on Cessnock until he has been given a report by the Department of Planning.

Newcastle Herald

10 July 2010

Accidental millionaires

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/planning-stuffup-a-bonus-for-kitchener-land-owners/1880609.aspx>

ABC New England North West (Tamworth)

16 July, 8.30am

Ron Filmer, Mayor, Uralla Shire Council has failed in his bid to have the council support a motion in favour of amalgamating with Guyra Shire Council. The aim of the proposal which did not have the support of Guyra Shire Council was to avoid the forced amalgamation of the two councils with Armidale Dumaresq Council. Filmer presented a petition to the council with over 500 signatures supporting an amalgamation with Guyra. He says the petition will still be put to Barbara Perry, NSW Minister for Local Government.

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Regional Tourism

ABC Western Plains NSW (Dubbo)

14 July, 7.30am

The NSW Govt has provided \$120,000 towards a website aimed at encouraging people to relocate to regional NSW. Seven councils including Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst are participating in the EvoCities campaign.

ABC New England North West (Tamworth)

13 July, 9.11am

Fuller wonders how people decide on where to take a holiday, or where to move permanently. She says a group of inland councils, including Tamworth Regional Council, Armidale Dumaresq Council, Bathurst Regional Council, Orange City Council, Wagga Wagga City Council, Albury City Council and Dubbo City Council, who go by the name EvoCities, has come up with an advertising campaign to encourage people to move to their towns. Kevin Abbey, Manager of Tourism, Marketing and Development, Armidale Dumaresq Council, joins the program and says the campaign focuses on 'Sydney-siders'. He confirms the State and Fed Govts, as well as sponsors, are helping to fund the project. Abbey speaks of the region's universities, saying there are many good opportunities for people. Fuller mentions 'EVO' stands for 'energy, vision and opportunity'.

ABC New England North West (Tamworth)

13 July, 12.30pm

Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay says promoting employment opportunities in regional areas is key to encouraging migration from cities. Torbay has welcomed a NSW Govt grant for the EvoCities project, which highlights the benefits of regional life. Seven inland councils, including Tamworth Regional Council and Armidale Dumaresq Council, are participating in the campaign.

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'Rebuilding the Regions'

ABC Western Plains NSW (Dubbo)

16 July, 8.30am

The NSW Farmers Association and the Coalition will hold a workshop in Dubbo today as part of the 'Rebuilding the Regions' program. The aim of the workshop is looking at ways to improve life for people in rural and regional areas by looking at key topics like health, social policy, transport and the environment. Charles Armstrong, the President of the NSW Farmers Association is one of the key speakers today and states that the rural alliance will also attend and explains that they an organisation made up of the other bodies including the Local Govt and Shires Association. He says the groups look at common issues in relation to rural and regional policy and that they want to turn regional NSW into a functional and vibrant place. Armstrong goes on to talk about the future of rail and road transport in the region and says that grain and wheat needs to get off road and onto rail, something that won't occur without investment in rail from the Govt. He says that the Sydney Metropolitan Transport Plan is allocating \$158m to cycleways and that the funds could be far better spent in rural NSW.

2DU (Dubbo)

16 July, 7.58am

The NSW Shadow Cabinet will use the Rebuilding the Regions forum in Dubbo today to help the Opposition formulate its policy as it heads into the March State election. The workshop will include discussions on the economy, social policy, transport and infrastructure, environment, water and planning. Stakeholders involved in the discussions Local Govt Association.

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Women in LG

ABC Illawarra (Wollongong)

14 July, 3.26pm

Hill talks about girl power at the federal and state levels but mentions that in local government surveys show very few women involved in local government. Liz Seckold, the only female councillor in the Bega Valley Shire Council who is embarking on a campaign to get more women into local government. Hill is joined by Seckold to talk about the encouragement of women to get involved in local government, what benefits there are in having more women on local councils and why women may be reluctant to get involved in local government. Hill finishes by asking listeners about their local councillors and how many women are on listeners' local councils.

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Climate Change Workshop Package & Coastal Erosion

ABC Mid North Coast NSW (Coffs Harbour)

16 July, 8.30am

Quigley says in coastal towns, like Lake Cathie and Old Bar, the issues of erosion and climate change are huge. She announces the Local Govt and Shires Association has just launched its Climate Change Action Planning for Local Govt Workshop Package. President Genia McCaffery joins the program and explains why the package is needed, saying rising the sea level is a concern for many. She mentions there's currently a bill which deals with coastal erosion before State Parliament. McCaffery discusses how the legality of the issue could play out, in relation to residents and councils. She adds that she's been talking to the Minister about the towns most affected by rising the sea level.

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New England Amalgamation

ABC New England North West (Tamworth)

16 July, 8.30am

Ron Filmer, Mayor, Uralla Shire Council has failed in his bid to have the council support a motion in favour of amalgamating with Guyra Shire Council. The aim of the proposal which did not have the support of Guyra Shire Council was to avoid the forced amalgamation of the two councils with Armidale Dumaresq Council. Filmer presented a petition to the council with over 500 signatures supporting an amalgamation with Guyra. He says the petition will still be put to Barbara Perry, NSW Minister for Local Government.

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Wollongong Inquiry

ABC 702 Sydney (Sydney)

13 July, 12noon

A developer has been given a good behaviour bond for lying to the ICAC about his affair with a Wollongong Council planner. In giving Glenn Tabak the sentence the Chief Magistrate Graeme Henson told the court that those who mislead do not do themselves or the community any good. The developer pleaded guilty to misleading investigators under a public inquiry that led to the Council being sacked. He was found to have engaged in corrupt conduct for the affair with the developer who approved his \$31m development.

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Lehman Bros
Sydney Morning Herald

10 July 2010

Councils hope for a fast result from Lehman

<http://www.businessday.com.au/business/councils-hope-for-a-fast-result-from-lehman-20100709-103zv.html>

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CENTROC finances

ABC Western Plains NSW (Dubbo)

12 July, 8.30am

There are moves to secure a regional fuel contract for Central West Council's in a bid to save money. The CENTROC Group of Council's has revealed they have made savings of over \$800,000 since December.

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