



## **Local Government Week Awards - Robert Wilson OAM Award**

Nominations close this Wednesday 20 July for the Robert Wilson OAM Award. The Award is in memory of long standing Councillor Robert Wilson OAM who died tragically in 2009.

## **Panel to oversee review of NSW planning legislation**

A Planning Review Panel will be set up to oversee the review of the State's planning legislation. The announcement was made by the Minister for Planning the Hon Brad Hazzard MP on 12 July.

## **Call for LG nominees for the new 'Local Planning Panel'**

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has asked the LGSA to nominate Local Government representatives for a new advisory Panel, called the 'Local Planning Panel'. Nominations need to be received by the LGSA by Friday 29 July 2011 at the latest.

## **NSW Water Supply & Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report**

The NSW Office of Water has released the 2009/10 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report. The report shows that local water utilities continue to make good progress in complying with the requirements of the Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007.

## **Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW**

tel: 02 9242 4000  
fax: 02 9242 4111  
email: [lgsa@lgsa.org.au](mailto:lgsa@lgsa.org.au)  
website: [www.lgsa.org.au](http://www.lgsa.org.au)  
GPO Box 7003 Sydney 2001  
Level 8, 28 Margaret St  
Sydney NSW 2000

## **Email subscription**

Subscribe to receive the Local Government Weekly and media releases directly by email on the LGSA website at: [www.lgsa.org.au/subscribe](http://www.lgsa.org.au/subscribe)

## Awards

### Item 1: Award opportunities

View the latest Award opportunities for Local Government

## Conferences and Events

### Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

## Grants & Funding

### Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

## General Interest

### Item 4: Registration open for 2011 LGA Conference in Shoalhaven

All details relating to registration for the LGA Conference are now available on the Conference website. The Conference is hosted by Shoalhaven City Council and supported by Elite Sponsor Essential Energy.

### Item 5: LG Week - Empowering Communities Competition

This year's theme of Empowering Communities acknowledges the number of ways councils help support and grow vibrant, unique neighbourhoods. In support of this theme, the LGSA and Essential Energy are running a competition.

### Item 6: Local Government Week Awards - Robert Wilson OAM Award

Nominations close this Wednesday 20 July for the Robert Wilson OAM Award. The Award is in memory of long standing Councillor Robert Wilson OAM who died tragically in 2009.

### Item 7: Local Government Web Network Conference

Secure your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference. The Conference will include presentations and workshop sessions from leading experts in Australia as well as government case studies.

## Community

### Item 8: COAG reforms to HACC program: ATSI services

NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care is conducting consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Home and Community Care (HACC) providers on the changes to HACC from the COAG reforms

### Item 9: NSW Government person Centred Approaches consultations

As the NSW Government moves towards individualised funding arrangements for people with a disability, councils providing services for people with disability, including HACC, are encouraged to participate in consultations.

### Item 10: Healthy Communities funding – Phase 3

The Australian Government has announced that Phase 3 of the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) Local Government Area (LGA) Grants has now opened.

### Item 11: National Aged Care Information Line

The Minister for Ageing has announced a new national phone number to provide information about aged care services. Councils providing information to older people are encouraged to refer inquiries to this number.

## Environment

### **Item 12: Climbing Trees: Getting Aussie Kids Back Outdoors**

Planet Ark has just launched some new research on Australian childrens' outdoor play and interaction with nature and how this has changed over a generation.

### **Item 13: Working for a sustainable NSW – online survey**

Councils are invited to provide their views on sustainability activities, education and engagement in their LGAs to help with planning future support for these activities.

## Learning

### **Item 14: The *GIPA Act* Advanced Module – 26 July and 6 September**

While the workshop will briefly visit what is required when taking public interest into consideration, it will also provide detailed information and discussion on particular elements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)*.

### **Item 15: NEW "Fall Zero" Course – July to October 2011**

Local Government is responsible for the bulk of the public domain and it faces many challenges in providing safe, equitable and dignified access to cope with community needs. This NEW training program will assist relevant staff to know their responsibilities and to address local needs.

### **Item 16: National Local Government HR Conference: 7-9 November**

Online registrations are now available for the 2011 Conference. The Conference is a joint initiative of all the state and territory Local Government Associations, to be held on the Gold Coast and coordinated by Local Government Learning Solutions.

### **Item 17: Selection Panel Convenor Training – 24 August 2011**

This half day program has been developed to support the improvement of selection practices in Local Government, and to ensure the selection panel convenors can manage the selection process confidently and effectively.

## Legal

### **Item 18: Nominations now open for the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards**

Austswim and Communities NSW have announced that the nominations for the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards are now [open](#).

## Planning

### **Item 19: Panel to oversee review of NSW planning legislation**

A Planning Review Panel will be set up to oversee the review of the State's planning legislation. The announcement was made by the Minister for Planning the Hon Brad Hazzard MP on 12 July.

### **Item 20: Building approvals process - consumer guides now available**

The Building Professionals Board has recently prepared two brochures with information for consumers about the building approvals process and working with a Principal Certifying Authority.

### **Item 21: Call for LG nominees for the new 'Local Planning Panel'**

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has asked the LGSA to nominate Local Government representatives for a new advisory Panel, called the 'Local Planning Panel'. Nominations need to be received by the LGSA by Friday 29 July 2011 at the latest.

## Roads and Transport

### Item 22: National Rail Safety Law and Regulatory Impact Statement

The National Transport Commission and the National Rail Safety Regulator Project Office are conducting a series of information forums on the proposed new National Rail Safety Law and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement. The law and Regulatory Impact Statement will be released publicly on 18 July 2011 on the NTC website.

## Water

### Item 23: NSW Water Supply & Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report

The NSW Office of Water has released the 2009/10 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report. The report shows that local water utilities continue to make good progress in complying with the requirements of the Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007.

### Item 24: OEH Report - Stormwater Management Charge Implementation

The Office of Environment and Heritage has released a monitoring report on the implementation of the stormwater management service charge.

## In the News

### Item 25: Media from the LGSA

[View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA](#)

## **Awards**

### **Item 1: Award opportunities**

#### **View the latest Award opportunities for Local Government**

##### **LG Week - Empowering Communities Competition**

This year's theme of Empowering Communities acknowledges the number of ways councils help support and grow vibrant, unique neighbourhoods. In support of this theme, LGSA and Essential Energy are running a competition.

##### **Local Government Week Awards - Robert Wilson OAM Award**

Nominations close this Wednesday 20 July for the Robert Wilson OAM Award. The Award is in memory of long standing Councillor Robert Wilson OAM who died tragically in 2009.

##### **Nominations now open for the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards**

Austswim and Communities NSW have announced that the nominations for the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards are now

[| Top |](#)

## Conferences and Events

### Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

#### View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

##### **Registration open for 2011 LGA Conference in Shoalhaven**

All details relating to registration for the LGA Conference are now available on the Conference website. The Conference is hosted by Shoalhaven City Council and supported by Elite Sponsor Essential Energy.

##### **Local Government Web Network Conference**

Secure your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference. The Conference will include presentations and workshop sessions from leading experts in Australia as well as government case studies.

##### **National Local Government HR Conference: 7-9 November**

Online registrations are now available for the 2011 Conference. The Conference is a joint initiative of all the state and territory Local Government Associations, to be held on the Gold Coast and coordinated by Local Government Learning Solutions.

[| Top |](#)

## Grants & Funding

### Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

#### Healthy Communities funding – Phase 3

The Australian Government has announced that Phase 3 of the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) Local Government Area (LGA) Grants has now opened.

[| Top |](#)

## General Interest

### Item 4: Registration open for 2011 LGA Conference in Shoalhaven

All details relating to registration for the LGA Conference are now available on the Conference website. The Conference is hosted by Shoalhaven City Council and supported by Elite Sponsor Essential Energy.

There are two ways to register for this Conference:

1. you may download and print the registration form, fill it in and fax back to the conference secretariat. (Please note this is not the LGSA office).
2. if you prefer to register and pay online by credit card, online registration will be available on Monday 25 July. A receipt will be automatically generated and if you require an invoice (as opposed to a receipt), indicate this online and an invoice will be sent to you on completion of your booking.

**The deadline for Early Bird Registrations is Friday 2 September. Early bird full Conference registration is \$1089.00 (inc gst). Registrations after this date will be \$1155.00 (inc gst). Partners' registration is \$440.00 (inc gst).**

#### Draft Program

A draft program is available on the LGA Conference website (see fact box).

The program will also offer three development workshops on Sunday 23 October prior to the Opening Ceremony for a price of \$220 inclusive of GST (covers the workshop presentation, lunch and comprehensive training material):

- Election 2012 – Engaging your Community.
- Counselling Skills for Councillors.
- Community Leadership – the latest trends.

#### Voting and Motions

An information booklet regarding voting, motions and their lodgement is available online. All voting delegates need to be registered by **Monday 10 October**.

#### Deadline for Motions

Motions must be received by close of business, **Friday 5 August 2011**. Motions received after this time will be considered late.

Late motions will only be accepted prior to **Friday 7 October 2011**. Late motions will be categorised using the same methodology as motions received prior to cut-off and will then be published in the LG Weekly on Friday 14 October 2011.

#### Awards

Outstanding Service Awards and Emeritus Mayor Certificates will be presented at the Official Opening Ceremony to those who have given outstanding service to Local Government. To enable the processing of awards, councils are asked to advise the LGSA whether or not nominees for the award are attending the Conference. An online application form can be found on the LGA Conference website. Application deadline to have awards presented at Conference: **Monday 5 September 2011**.

#### LGA Conference dates

Sunday 23 – Wednesday 26  
October

#### LGA Conference Website

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

#### Contact

#### Conference Secretariat

Bradley Hayden  
LGA 2011 Conference  
Email: [lga2011@ccem.com.au](mailto:lga2011@ccem.com.au)  
Phone: 02 6023 6300

#### Motions

Skye Smith  
02 9242 4052

#### Awards information

Karen Rolls  
02 9242 4050  
[karen.rolls@lgsa.org.au](mailto:karen.rolls@lgsa.org.au)

[| Top |](#)

## General Interest

### Item 5: LG Week - Empowering Communities Competition

This year's theme of Empowering Communities acknowledges the number of ways councils help support and grow vibrant, unique neighbourhoods. In support of this theme, the LGSA and Essential Energy are running a competition.

**Someone from your local area could be one of three winners to receive \$2000 towards empowering your community!**

The *Empowering Communities Competition* supports councils in getting the community involved in LG Week celebrations. There is \$6,000 worth of prize money up for grabs for community members looking to make a difference. The entry form is on the LG Week website.

We also request your assistance in getting this information out there. Please refer to the LG Week website, promotional materials and artwork page, for a copy of the LG Week Empowering Communities logo or poster. There is also suggested copy to use for your website, media releases, newsletters or a council column in your local newspaper.

A number of diverse entries have been submitted ranging from documentary film projects, a sports pilot program, a computer training program for Seniors, literacy programs, a sustainable community garden and funding for metal fire resistant bins.

Competition ends Monday 25 July, so head to the website and enter now.



**Competition Opens**  
Friday 1 July

**Competition Closes**  
5pm, Monday 25 July

**Winners Announced**  
LG Week Awards Evening  
Wednesday 3 August  
The Deckhouse,  
Woolwich, Sydney.

**LG Week**  
Monday 1 - Sunday 7 August

**LG Week Website**  
[www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au](http://www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au)

**Contact**  
Jann Hing  
02 9242 4031  
[jann.hing@lgsa.org.au](mailto:jann.hing@lgsa.org.au)

**Ref:** R10/0008 JH

[| Top |](#)

## General Interest

### Item 6: Local Government Week Awards - Robert Wilson OAM Award

**Nominations close this Wednesday 20 July for the Robert Wilson OAM Award. The Award is in memory of long standing Councillor Robert Wilson OAM who died tragically in 2009.**

Nominated by council, the Award is for an individual councillor or council staff member for their efforts in Regional Cooperation Initiatives. The Award will encompass a small plaque (to be retained by the winner) and will include a \$1,000 donation to a charity of the winner's choice. This will be presented at the Local Government (LG) Week Awards dinner on Wednesday 3 August in Sydney.

Sponsor of the Award, Local Government Procurement, will provide travel and accommodation to the event for the winner.

Entry forms were posted to Mayors and General Managers on Monday 20th June, and more information can be found on the website [www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au](http://www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au)



**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK 2011**

**LG Week**  
1 to 7 August

**LG Week website**  
[www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au](http://www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au)

**Contact**  
LGSA  
Jann Hing  
02 9242 4031  
[jann.hing@lgsa.org.au](mailto:jann.hing@lgsa.org.au)

**Ref:** R10/0006: JH

### Local Government Week Awards Dinner Tickets now available.

Essential Energy is again the elite sponsor of this exciting night where the following awards will be presented:

- RH Dougherty Awards - Awarded by the LGSA
- Robert Wilson OAM Award – Awarded by LGP
- National Youth Week 2011 Awards - Awarded by the [Office of Communities](#)
- Healthy Community Awards - Awarded by the Heart Foundation
- Alive & Well Partnership Awards - Awarded by The Cancer Council NSW

Tickets are \$120.00 each or a table of ten for \$1100.00. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.lgweek.lgsa.org.au> with a deadline of Wednesday 27 July.

The themed evening will include a three course dinner, great entertainment and is the signature event of LG Week.

### Become a showcased council for Local Government (LG) Week

The LG Week homepage is gearing up to showcase one council per week with the great plans they have for LG Week in 2011. Use the online form to add your photos and links and show other councils what great activities you have planned.

The LGSA invites your council and community to support Local Government (LG) Week in NSW and get behind the theme in 2011– Empowering Communities.

Even if your council hasn't completed all stages of planning, fill in the form and be one of the first on the website. This is a good opportunity to focus on the achievements of your council, the breadth of work undertaken and council's plans for the future.

[| Top |](#)

## General Interest

### Item 7: Local Government Web Network Conference

Secure your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference. The Conference will include presentations and workshop sessions from leading experts in Australia as well as government case studies.

#### Program and topics

Exciting key note speakers include Jason Dawson from New Zealand speaking about the use of **Social Media during the Christchurch Quake Crisis** and **Anthony Baxter from Google talking about Crisis Mapping**.

#### Other topics include:

- Case Study: **Sutherland Shire Council's Website Redevelopment**.
- Case Study: *Managing your online presence* with **Broken Hill City Council**.
- Case Study: Customer Service through Online Chat with **Parramatta City Council**.
- Case Study: E-Newsletters – the Toyota Camry of Communication Channels with **Coffs Harbour City Council**.
- *Open Access Policies, Creative Commons and Local Government* with Professor Anne Fitzgerald.
- *The National Transition Strategy to WCAG 2.0* with representatives from the Australian Government information Office (AGIMO).
- *Online and On Track: Delivering Solutions for Public Library Clients now and in the Future* with Mylee Joseph.
- *PDFs and Accessibility: Can they really be made accessible?* With Gian Wild.
- Workshop: *Social Media and Recordkeeping with State Records*.

#### Conference Dates & Location

Thursday 18 – Friday 19 August  
Sydney

#### Cost

Full conference ticket: Both days inc. dinner and workshops - \$770 inc. GST

One day conference ticket: Does not inc. dinner or workshops - \$440 inc. GST

#### Online registration

<http://lgwebnetwork.org/Conferences/2011>

#### Contact

Reem Abdelaty  
02 9242 4000  
[lgwebnetwork@lgsa.org.au](mailto:lgwebnetwork@lgsa.org.au)

Ref: R08/0026 RA

Not only will there be many introductory topics that do not require technical knowledge, the Conference will also include higher level sessions covering strategic issues and a broad look at the way the web is heading, and what that means for government. There are also technical sessions for those who are involved in building and extending their websites and online applications.

For those attending from Local-e Councils - there is a free training session being held in Sydney in conjunction with the Conference on 17 August. In order for this session to go ahead we need a minimum of 10 registrations.

Please register here: <http://local-e-joomla.eventbrite.com/>

[| Top |](#)

## Community

### Item 8: COAG reforms to HACC program: ATSI services

NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care is conducting consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Home and Community Care (HACC) providers on the changes to HACC from the COAG reforms.

Speakers include:

- Sue Findlay – HACC Transition Program Manager, ACS.
- Chris Chippendale – Executive Director, Community Care Directorate, ADHC.

#### Consultation Details

Workers Blacktown  
55 Campbell St, Blacktown

#### Date

Wednesday 24 August

#### Time

10.30am to 3pm

#### Online information

[http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/images/stories/08\\_acoag\\_registration\\_form.doc](http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/images/stories/08_acoag_registration_form.doc)

Ref: R96/0126 MK

[| Top |](#)

## Community

### Item 9: NSW Government person Centred Approaches consultations

**As the NSW Government moves towards individualised funding arrangements for people with a disability, councils providing services for people with disability, including HACC, are encouraged to participate in consultations.**

On 7 and 8 July, 500 people gathered at ACER Arena for the *Living Life My Way* summit. It was an opportunity for people with a disability, their families and carers to share their views on how to achieve person centred approaches.

The NSW Government is committed to making the second phase of *Stronger Together* even more effective for people with a disability, their families and carers. In the new system, people with a disability will have more control over their lives and futures, moving away from a one-size-fits-all service system to one in which people receive individualised supports so they can achieve meaningful goals based on their own preferences.

NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) will consult stakeholders across NSW to develop a person-centred model for supporting people with a disability. The consultative methodology includes:

- Two day Summit (completed).
- Metropolitan and regional focus groups with people with a disability, their families and carers (Monday 1- Friday 19 August).
- Metropolitan and regional workshops with service providers (Monday 8 August – Friday 2 September).
- Over a hundred consultations are planned for August and September. The outcomes of the consultations will be reported back to the participants, and there will be further consultations early next year before the creation of a draft model.

The information provided at these sessions will inform the Government as to what new roles and tools are required to assist people to make informed decisions.

As part of the consultation process, the NSW Government has released a discussion paper to explore how to best realise its vision for a person centred disability service system in NSW.

Councils providing disability services and HACC services are encouraged to provide feedback on this discussion paper and consider these questions through the consultation process.

#### Key Details

Registrations for Stage Two will open at 9am on Monday 18 July 2011 and are limited in capacity for each location.

Metro 1-19 August

Regional 8 August – 2 September

#### Online information

<https://custom.cvent.com/A96F1FCE15164661A466B58D03796161/files/ffe7121a84b94db2ac7e5960c46ade47.doc>

#### Further information

Tulips Meetings Management  
4984 2554

<http://www.cvent.com/events/nsw-government/event-summary-59efdf178997466a9a2eef5e135d6057.aspx>

[summit@pco.com.au](mailto:summit@pco.com.au)

Ref: R96/0126 MK

[| Top |](#)

## Community

### Item 10: Healthy Communities funding – Phase 3

**The Australian Government has announced that Phase 3 of the Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) Local Government Area (LGA) Grants has now opened.**

The HCI aims to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity within target populations of participating communities by maximising the number of adults, predominantly not in the paid workforce, who are engaged in proven or innovative physical activity and healthy eating programs. The Initiative also aims to build the capacity of communities to support healthy lifestyle behaviours.

Under Phase 3 of the HCI, grants of up to \$566,042 (GST exclusive) are available to up to 47 councils across Australia from October 2011 - June 2013. All LGAs, with the exception of those successfully funded under Phases 1 or 2 of the Initiative, are eligible to apply.

Councils interested in submitting an application must address the assessment criteria in the format outlined in the Application Pack.

**Applications close**

Friday 19 August

**Online information**

[www.health.gov.au/tenders](http://www.health.gov.au/tenders)

[www.healthyactive.gov.au](http://www.healthyactive.gov.au)

**Contact**

Healthy Communities Team

6289 4381

[COAGHealthyCommunities@health.gov.au](mailto:COAGHealthyCommunities@health.gov.au)

**Ref:** R09/0010 MK

[| Top |](#)

## Community

### Item 11: National Aged Care Information Line

**The Minister for Ageing has announced a new national phone number to provide information about aged care services. Councils providing information to older people are encouraged to refer inquiries to this number.**

Older Australians, their families, and carers will find it easier to access valuable information about aged care with the introduction of a single, national information line. This new national phone number will consolidate the range of existing 1800 numbers, and act as the new, single point of entry for people seeking information and access to aged care services.

In addition to the introduction of the single national information line, improvements have been made to the aged care website ([www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au)) to ensure better, more comprehensive and up-to-date information is available for the growing number of people who source their information online.

The introduction of a single national information line and the improvements to the national aged care website are part of the Gillard Labor Government's national health reform efforts to build a nationally consistent and integrated aged care system to meet the needs of older Australians and their families.

The phone line is the first part of the government's investment to establish a new front end for aged care that will improve information, intake and assessment through a national aged care hub and the establishment of local care and assessment teams over the next 3 years.

The Australian Government will continue to make the aged care system more responsive to the needs of older Australians as part of its response to the Productivity Commission's final report into the aged care system.

**National Aged Care  
Information Line**  
1800 200 422

**Aged care website**  
[www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.agedcareaustralia.gov.au)

**Ref:** R05/0058 MK

[| Top |](#)

## Environment

### Item 12: Climbing Trees: Getting Aussie Kids Back Outdoors

**Planet Ark has just launched new research on Australian childrens' outdoor play and interaction with nature and how this has changed over a generation.**

In March 2011, Planet Ark commissioned an independent study to investigate Australian childrens' outdoor play and interaction with nature and how this has changed over a generation. The research was conducted by Pollinate, a specialist communications research company, and was sponsored by our National Tree Day Partner, Toyota Australia.

The research focused on the levels of current childhood outside activity compared with the previous generation, as well as the perceptions of the benefits of outdoor activity, the barriers to outside play and people's understanding of National Tree Day. Among other results, the research shows that less than 20% of Aussie kids climb trees now, and only 35% of kids today play outdoors compared to 72% of children a generation ago.

Planet Ark has now released the Research Report as the launch to National Tree Day 2011. The Report, titled *Climbing Trees: Getting Aussie Kids Back Outdoors*, can be downloaded from the Planet Ark website (see fact box).

In addition to the research results, this Report discusses the benefits for children that come from active outdoor play, drawn from the growing body of research around this field of study. It also provides a range of practical solutions that parents and caregivers can integrate into a regular routine to help reunite children with the outdoors generally and nature in particular.

The report also encourages parents to get their kids involved in programs like Junior Landcare and Scouts.

#### **National Tree Day**

31 July

[www.treeday.planetark.org](http://www.treeday.planetark.org)

NTD Hotline 1300 88 5000

#### **Online Research Report**

<http://treeday.planetark.org/about/health-benefits.cfm>.

#### **Online media release**

<http://treeday.planetark.org/media>

#### **Further information**

[www.planetark.org](http://www.planetark.org)

#### **Contact**

Jodie Lewin

NTD Manager, Planet Ark

8484 7207 or [jodie@planetark.org](mailto:jodie@planetark.org)

**Ref:** GH R90/1211

[| Top |](#)

## Environment

### Item 13: Working for a sustainable NSW – online survey

Councils are invited to provide their views on sustainability activities, education and engagement in their LGAs to help with planning future support for these activities.

#### Who is this for?

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) would like to hear from people who are:

- using education or engagement tools around sustainability or environmental issues.
- working as a Sustainability Manager or Officer.
- helping people to adopt behaviours to be more sustainable.

#### Who is this from?

The NSW OEH is working with the Australian Association for Environmental Education NSW to assess the current extent and nature of sustainability engagement and education activities in NSW. They plan to use this information to shape future directions and support for these activities.

#### Why is this survey important?

To build a low carbon economy and sustainable lifestyles in NSW, widespread social change will be needed to help people to make sustainable choices. Sustainability engagement and learning has an important role to play in helping the community adopt these new skills and behaviours.

NSW has had two environmental education plans: *Learning for Sustainability*, since 2002 to provide coordination and *Key Directions for Government, Local Government, Education, Industry and the Non-Government Sector*. The current process is reviewing achievements and exploring directions for the future.

**OEH online survey on sustainability engagement in NSW**

<http://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/wix/p1055200253.aspx>

or  
[online survey](#)

**Survey closes**  
Sunday 24 July

#### Contact

Stuart Clark at Ipsos-Eureka  
Social Research Institute on  
(02) 9900 5100.

**Ref:** R90/1138 RV

[| Top |](#)

## Learning

### Item 14: The *GIPA Act* Advanced Module – 26 July and 6 September

**While the workshop will briefly visit what is required when taking public interest into consideration, it will also provide detailed information and discussion on particular elements of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)*.**

This workshop will assist you to hone your knowledge in areas that are either complex or new to access of council information.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions pertinent to your council to assist your knowledge of the *GIPA Act*. You will also have the opportunity to engage with fellow council practitioners to discuss common concerns.

Specific issues covered include:

- A review of public interest consideration against disclosure: Informal release of information.
- Additional open access information for councils.
- How *GIPA Act* overrides secrecy provisions in other legislation.
- Effect of policy documents not being publicly available.
- Contracts register and restraint orders.
- Agency-initiated transfers.
- Amending an application.
- Searches for information.
- Consultation issues.
- Objection to inclusion of information in disclosure log.
- Forms of access and deferral of access.
- Review of an internal review.
- Protections and offences.

Who Should Attend?

GIPA/FoI/ Privacy Officers, Public Affairs Officers, Governance Managers and Senior staff.

#### Locations and Dates

Sydney - Tuesday 26 July

Lismore - Tuesday 6 September

#### Cost

The cost is \$550 inclusive of GST

#### Registration

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/421-public-staff-course-registration-form.asp?intSiteID=1>

#### Contact

Learning Solutions

Jennifer Fanning

02 9242 4181

[learning@lgsa.org.au](mailto:learning@lgsa.org.au)

Ref: I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

## Learning

### Item 15: NEW "Fall Zero" Course – July to October 2011

**Local Government is responsible for the bulk of the public domain and it faces many challenges in providing safe, equitable and dignified access to cope with community needs. This NEW training program will assist relevant staff to know their responsibilities and to address local needs.**

The workshop is designed to help Local Government and community groups to focus on recent initiatives that will assist in addressing these needs and, as a consequence, reduce the incidence of accidents in the public domain.

Who should attend?

Engineers, Planners, Architects, Policy Makers, Community Workers, Safety Officers, members of Access Committees and anyone involved in providing access to buildings or open areas of the environment, for people of all ages and abilities.

#### Content

- The new Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards, referenced in the Building Code of Australia from 1 May 2011, including Financial Hardship provisions.
- The Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport, including Council's mandatory responsibilities.
- The United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.
- The Australian Road Research Board's Guidelines for Local Government on Safe Systems and Vision Zero – including roadway and footway design.
- Fall Zero – the identification of hazards in the public way, an explanation of why and for whom they are hazards, and discussion on possible solutions for their removal.
- An understanding of the needs of all pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities.
- Best practice in the provision of public facilities.

#### Course dates and venues

- Monday 25 July 2011                      Sydney
- Monday 22 August 2011                  Wagga
- Monday 12 September 2011              Dubbo
- Monday 17 October 2011                  Lismore

Staff attending these programs may also be interested in the Development Approvals – the Heritage Perspective workshop on Tuesday 9 August in Sydney.

#### Course Registrations

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/421-public-staff-course-registration-form.asp?intSiteID=1>

#### Cost

The cost is \$550 inclusive of GST for these one day workshops.

#### Contact

Learning Solutions  
Jennifer Fanning  
02 9242 4181  
[learning@lgsa.org.au](mailto:learning@lgsa.org.au)

Ref: I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

## Learning

### Item 16: National Local Government HR Conference: 7-9 November

Online registrations are now available for the 2011 Conference. The Conference is a joint initiative of all the state and territory Local Government Associations, to be held on the Gold Coast and coordinated by Local Government Learning Solutions.

The conference theme is "HR's World of Tomorrow". Any leader who is interested in staffing issues, and needs to be updated about the latest in employment trends, is encouraged to attend.

Invited keynote speakers and topics include:

- How to make Local Government more attractive – Carolyn Miller – ABC TV's "The Gruen Transfer" panellist and advertising, brand and business leader.
- Work, Health and Safety Harmonisation – Professor Ron McCallum, 2011 Senior Australian of the Year.
- The Future of Learning and Development – Les Pickett, Partner McBassi and Co and former President of the Australian Institute Training and Development.
- The use and abuse of social media from a HR and training perspective – Pete Williams, Deloitte Digital (invited).

There will also be a panel session called "Dealing with natural disasters".

Participants will have a choice of four out of twelve MasterClass workshops on Day Two of the Conference. These will include topics on organisational development skills, what engineers would know about attracting and training staff, strategy, people and performance for the HR Manager, where is recruitment heading, a workplace health and safety harmonisation, IR and employment law updates, and council case studies on organisational culture inventories and managing chronic illness in the workplace.

This Conference is a great opportunity to network with your peers from other states as well as keep with the latest trends and learn new skills.

This is the premier human resource professional development activity for Local Government. It is aimed at HR staff, training and OH & S officers, General Managers, Directors and consultants to the industry.

#### Dates and Location

12pm Monday 7 November -  
12:30pm Wednesday 9 November  
Jupiters Conference Centre  
Gold Coast

#### Conference Fee

\$990 early bird fee until Monday 10 October

#### Registrations

Register on line at

<https://lgsa.wufoo.com/forms/registration-national-hr-conference/>

#### Book accommodation at Jupiters

1800 074 344 (or 07 5592 8130) and quote that you are attending National LG HR Conference. If booking via the Jupiters web site  
<http://www.jupitersgoldcoast.com.au>  
please quote booking code NAT071111

#### Contact

Learning Solutions  
Darryl Rubiolo  
02 9242 4182  
[learning@lgsa.org.au](mailto:learning@lgsa.org.au)

Ref: I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

## Learning

### Item 17: Selection Panel Convenor Training – 24 August 2011

**This half day program has been developed to support the improvement of selection practices in Local Government, and to ensure the selection panel convenors can manage the selection process confidently and effectively.**

By the end of the half day course attendees should be able to apply best practice and merit principles in selection, manage the selection process, conduct an effective opening and closing of a behavioural interview, enhance the ability to empathise with interviewees and assess performance as a selection panel convenor.

It is advisable that the participants have previously attended a selection skills program for the public sector.

**Training**

Wednesday 24 August

**Location**

Sydney

**Cost**

The cost is \$396 inclusive of GST.

**Registration**

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/421-public-staff-course-registration-form.asp?intSiteID=1>

**Contact**

Learning Solutions  
Jennifer Fanning  
02 9242 4181  
[learning@lgsa.org.au](mailto:learning@lgsa.org.au)

**Ref:** I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

## Legal

### Item 18: Nominations now open for the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards

Austswim and Communities NSW have announced that the nominations for the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards are now open.

**Award Categories include:**

- Research project of the year.
- Water safety event of the year.
- Community education program of the year.
- Most significant contribution to water safety with a focus on an under-represented group.
- Most significant contribution to water safety by an individual.
- Most significant contribution to water safety by an organisation.

**Nomination form and further information**  
[www.austswim.com.au](http://www.austswim.com.au)

**Contact**

LGSA Legal Officer  
Frank Loveridge  
(02) 9242 4125  
[frank.loveridge@lgsa.org.au](mailto:frank.loveridge@lgsa.org.au)

**Ref:** R90/0024-05 FL

Nominations close Friday 2 September 2011 and the nomination form is available on the Austswim website [www.austswim.com.au](http://www.austswim.com.au).

[| Top |](#)

## Planning

### Item 19: Panel to oversee review of NSW planning legislation

**A Planning Review Panel will be set up to oversee the review of the State's planning legislation. The announcement was made by the Minister for Planning the Hon Brad Hazzard MP on 12 July.**

The Minister announced that the Planning Review Panel will be jointly chaired by:

- Tim Moore - a former NSW Environment Minister and a current Land and Environment commissioner and
- Ron Dyer – also a former NSW Government Minister.

The Government announced that it would review the State's planning legislation shortly after coming to office. It has now provided the first details of how the review will take place.

The Review will be divided into three stages, over approximately 18 months:

- Stage 1 - Listening and scoping - to identify the key outcomes and principles for a new planning system (4 months).
- Stage 2 – preparation and public exhibition of a discussion paper (a 'Green Paper') by a working group in collaboration with the review panel – to outline options in regard to the future planning system and the basis of a legislative scheme (6 months).
- Stage 3 – development of a 'White Paper', taking into account feedback from Stages 1 and 2 – to set out the Government's new framework for the NSW Planning System, including the draft legislation (8 months).

The newly established Planning Review Panel will interface with the community and key stakeholders and ensure a comprehensive community engagement and public participation process is undertaken. The Government intends to have a clear program of engagement which may include public talks, widespread public meetings, online consultation, advertising and intensive Local Government and stakeholder workshops.

Details are provided in a Fact Sheet and Media Release on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website.

**NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure website:**  
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PolicyandLegislation/ANewPlanningSystemforNSW/tabid/68/language/en-AU/Default.aspx>

**Fact Sheet:**

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=FTYyGHNq7G0%3d&tabid=68&language=en-AU>

**News items on planning issues**

<http://planningnetwork.lgsa.org.au>

**Ref:** R04/0066 JP

[| Top |](#)

## Planning

### Item 20: Building approvals process - consumer guides now available

The Building Professionals Board has recently prepared two brochures with information for consumers about the building approvals process and working with a Principal Certifying Authority.

The guides contain useful information to help consumers understand what approvals are required if they are considering renovating, demolishing, building or developing their land and who certifies the construction process.

Councils can view the brochures online on the Building Professionals Board web site. Alternatively, copies of the brochure can be ordered using an online order form at: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CLCS3BAOD>

#### **Guide to the Building Approvals Process:**

<http://www.bpb.nsw.gov.au/resources/682/final%20building%20approvals%20brochure.pdf>

#### **Guide to working with a Principal Certifying Authority:**

<http://www.bpb.nsw.gov.au/resources/683/final%20PCA%20brochure.pdf>

#### **Other Guides & Brochures by Building Professionals Board:**

<http://www.bpb.nsw.gov.au/page/publications---forms/guides---brochures/>

#### **News items on planning issues**

<http://planningnetwork.lgsa.org.au>

Ref: R90/0564

[| Top |](#)

## Planning

### Item 21: Call for LG nominees for the new 'Local Planning Panel'

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure has asked the LGSA to nominate Local Government representatives for a new advisory Panel, called the 'Local Planning Panel'. Nominations need to be received by the LGSA by Friday 29 July 2011 at the latest.

The Minister is establishing a new Panel called the Local Planning Panel to address ongoing concerns with the implementation of the Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan across the sector.

Do not confuse this new Panel with the existing LEP Review Panel that provides advice to the Minister on specific Planning Proposals. The LGSA recently called for nominations to the LEP Review Panel that have been forwarded to the Department for consideration.

#### The Role of the new Local Planning Panel

The new Panel will undertake a review of Local Government's experiences with the SI LEP program to date. The Panel will make recommendations to the Director General on how to improve the implementation and operation of the program.

The Panel will be meeting monthly in Sydney. However, on occasions it will be convened around the state, so that regional and rural issues are appropriately covered and that Local Government representatives from those regions are able to attend.

Hence the Local Government membership on the Panel will be rotated depending on their availability and the location of the meetings. Representation from both metropolitan regional councils is encouraged. Travel and related expenses will be covered by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The LGSA are now seeking nominees to represent Local Government.

#### Suitable Candidates

Suitable candidates need to demonstrate that they have a sound, technical, working knowledge of planning and be familiar with the SI LEP program and plan making process.

Applicants need to be senior planners who have worked in Local Government for more than 5 years.

#### Applications need to include:

- Statement of current experience with council.
- CV.
- Letter from council that supports your application.

Please note that if you already sit on the LEP Review Panel or have recently applied to be considered as a new member, you are still eligible to be a Local Government nominee to the Local Planning Panel.

Also note that the LGSA's role in this process is to collate a list of suitable candidates to represent Local Government. The Department will make the appointments.

#### Applications close

Friday 29 July

#### Applications to:

LGSA

Jenny Dennis

(02) 9242 4094

[jennifer.dennis@lgsa.org.au](mailto:jennifer.dennis@lgsa.org.au)

Ref: R04/0066.jd

[| Top |](#)

## Roads and Transport

### Item 22: National Rail Safety Law and Regulatory Impact Statement

The National Transport Commission and the National Rail Safety Regulator Project Office are conducting a series of information forums on the proposed new National Rail Safety Law and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement. The law and Regulatory Impact Statement will be released publicly on 18 July 2011 on the NTC website.

The proposed law, which will be administered by a new National Rail Safety Regulator to be introduced by 2013, contains provisions that may impact on local road managers when carrying out works near a railway or when contemplating interface agreements with rail transport operators.

The forums will:

- provide an overview of the key aspects of the proposed draft National Rail Safety Law and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement.
- explore how the National Rail Safety Regulator will operate.
- provide participants with an opportunity to ask questions and seek further information.

Submissions can be made online or by post to the NTC, Level 15/628 Bourke Street, Melbourne Vic 3000.

**The public consultation period will close on 12 August 2011.**

#### Information Forum registration

[www.emgevents.com.au/event/ntc](http://www.emgevents.com.au/event/ntc)

1800 404 400

#### Further information

The proposed law will become available on the NTC website Monday 18 July

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/viewpage.aspx?AreaId=34&DocumentId=1925>

**Ref:** R90/0552:RC

[| Top |](#)

## Water

### Item 23: NSW Water Supply & Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report

The NSW Office of Water has released the 2009/10 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report. The Report shows that local water utilities continue to make good progress in complying with the requirements of the Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007.

#### Online Report

[www.water.nsw.gov.au/Urban-water/Country-towns-program/Best-practice-management/Performance-monitoring/default.aspx#report](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Urban-water/Country-towns-program/Best-practice-management/Performance-monitoring/default.aspx#report)

Ref: R90/1056-12: SM

The report discloses key performance indicators for local water utilities (LWUs) in regional NSW, enabling each utility to monitor its performance indicators and to improve its performance through benchmarking against similar utilities.

The report finds that in 2009/10, 91% of utilities had a sound strategic business and financial plan and that implementation of these plans would ensure the long term sustainability of these services. In addition, 98% of the utilities were achieving full cost recovery for water supply and 96% for sewerage. The overall level of compliance with the 19 requirements of the framework was 85% (86% for water supply and 83% for sewerage).

The report also acknowledges NSW LWUs for their continuing efforts to minimise the typical residential bill (TRB), and for achieving a slight real reduction in the water supply median TRB of \$430 over the past 15 years. The median water and sewerage TRB was \$960, which involved a real increase of only 4% over this period. At the same time, 99% of all 20,700 samples tested for E. coli complied with the 2004 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines; with 89% of NSW utilities complying with these guidelines. Average annual residential water supplied was a low 175 kilolitres per property, which was 47% lower than that in 1991. This reduction was mainly due to strong pay-for-use water pricing signals with a median water usage charge of 163 cents per kilolitre together with implementation of water conservation and demand management measures by the utilities. In addition, water restrictions imposed by 60% of utilities as a result of severe drought conditions had contributed to this outcome.

[| Top |](#)

## Water

### Item 24: OEH Report - Stormwater Management Charge Implementation

The Office of Environment and Heritage has released a monitoring Report on the implementation of the stormwater management service charge.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), with assistance from the Division of Local Government (DLG) has undertaken a desktop monitoring project to check on the implementation of the stormwater management service charge. The project was based on published council information and DLG data for the financial years of 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. The OEH has released a project Report entitled *Stormwater management service charge implementation monitoring* (covering financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09).

The Report finds that overall the stormwater management service charge delivered significant benefits in a transparent and robust system and that most councils were appropriately raising and spending their revenue from the charge. The report identifies a few minor issues including incomplete reporting, excessive carryover of funds and, for a relatively few councils, inconsistent charging on privately owned strata premises.

The report contains a number of recommendations to improve the implementation including strengthening the regulation around carryover of funds and eligibility of services for funding through the charge as well as around reporting and alignment with the new integrated planning and reporting framework.

#### Further information

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Stormwater/20110268stormwatercharge.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Stormwater/20110268stormwatercharge.htm)

Ref: R90/0091-15 : SM

[| Top |](#)

## **In the News**

### **Item 25: Media from the LGSA**

**View the latest media release distributed by the LGSA**

#### **Review of outdated EP&A Act welcomed by councils**

13 July 2011

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have welcomed the NSW Government's announcement yesterday to undertake a complete review of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (NSW) 1979 (EP&A Act).

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3820-13-july-2011-review-of-outdated-epa-act-welcomed-by-councils.asp?intSiteID=1>

[| Top |](#)