



One Association Convention - Last Week for Registration

The closing date for registrations for the One Association Convention is fast approaching. Participation in shaping a single Association to represent Local Government in NSW is important and highly encouraged.

Grants for positive ageing initiatives

Applications for the Department of Human Services NSW - Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (ADHC) Positive Ageing Grants program are now open. Councils are encouraged to apply.

Productivity Commission - Study on planning issues

The deadline for submissions to the Productivity Commission's benchmark study into Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments has now been extended.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

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Email subscription

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

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Registration details, a draft program and an information booklet regarding voting and lodging motions are available online.

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Item 7: Local Government Events Network – Website launch

Whether you're in events, marketing, communications, in the Mayor's office or the library - if you're involved in organising council events, this network is for you!

Item 8: LG Week: Showcasing Campbelltown City Council

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Councils are invited to attend the launch of this Toolkit, developed by Catholic Community Services in conjunction with the City of Sydney.

Item 13: New Research Finds Value in Central West Cultural Facilities

The *Value Added!* study reveals Central West councils help residents think differently, connect with communities and contribute positively to a sense of place. Substantial economic benefits were also found.

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Do you have an example of environmental excellence? Is your council leading the way in environmental sustainability? Councils are encouraged to enter their projects in the 22nd Banksia Awards.

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The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pushing for the adoption of a set of National Principles to engage Local Government in the NBN roll out.

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LGSA Learning Solutions holds a series of workshops for councillors and senior staff.

Item 17: Managing Information Overload – Speed Reading for Councillors and Staff

Presented by renowned international speaker, author and trainer Roz Townsend, this course helps increase your comprehension and manage the sometimes overwhelming reading material you face every week.

Item 18: Verbal Judo Program

Many employees have to constantly deal with difficult, aggressive and both verbally and physically threatening behaviour. This program helps staff manage these situations.

Item 19: Springboard– A personal development program for women

Springboard empowers women in non-management positions to reach their career goals. Registrations for the 2010 program are now open.

Item 20: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops

An exciting range of public staff programs has been scheduled for August 2010.

Planning

Item 21: Changes to the SEPP (Infrastructure) on telecommunications

The delivery of telecommunication facilities - including new broadband infrastructure - can now be fast tracked under the new State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Telecommunication Facilities)

Item 22: Performance Standard for Private Bushfire Shelters

The NSW Department of Planning has released information concerning the Australian Building Codes Board application of the Performance Standard 'Private Bushfire Shelters 2010' in NSW.

Item 23: Productivity Commission - Study on planning issues

The deadline for submissions to the Productivity Commission's benchmark study into Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments has now been extended.

Item 24: LGSA Development Contributions Campaign

The Associations are currently developing a state-wide campaign opposing the State Government's changes to development contributions.

Procurement

Item 25: LGP Purchasing Network

Following the success of the inaugural Local Government Procurement Network, the next meeting has been scheduled for early August.

Roads and Transport

Item 26: Parking Exemptions for Mobile Speed Camera Operators

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has advised that mobile speed cameras have been re-introduced in NSW. As a result, Road Rules 2008 has been amended to allow mobile speed camera operators to park and drive on a nature strip or dividing strip.

Item 27: Motorised Mobility Scooters study

Councils are invited to participate in a study of injury data involving Motorised Mobility Scooters.

In the News

Item 28: 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

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General Interest

Item 4: 2010 Local Government Association Annual Conference

Registration details, a draft program and an information booklet regarding voting and lodging motions are available online.

Key Dates

9 August

Deadline for motions to be included 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 from the Association's website.

11 October

Deadline for providing names of council 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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General Interest

Item 5: One Association Convention - Last Week for Registration

The closing date for registrations for the One Association Convention is fast approaching. Participation in shaping a single Association to represent Local Government in NSW is important and highly encouraged.

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.

Online registration now available

The cost to attend the Convention is at a cost recovery basis. 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.

Discussion Paper

Councils will have received four printed copies of the One Association Taskforce Discussion Paper.

Key dates

Convention: 16 & 17 August
Star City Sydney
Registration deadline: 2 August

Cost

\$297.00 (\$267.30 ex GST)

Discussion Paper

One Association website:
www.lgsa.org.au/oneassociation

Further information

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 6: LG Web Network Conference – Early Bird Registrations close this Tuesday

This year's conference includes presentations and workshop sessions from some of the leading experts in Australia, as well as government case studies. Secure your tickets now!

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 feature self-choice topic streams 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 with 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

Registration

Closes August 6.

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

Cost

Two day pass (includes dinner and choice of two workshops)
\$577.50 (inc. GST)

One pass (includes dinner)
\$357.50 (inc. GST).

Further information

Reem Abdelaty

02 9242 4000

lgwebnetwork@lgsa.org.au

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General Interest

Item 7: Local Government Events Network – Website launch

Whether you're in events, marketing, communications, in the Mayor's office or the library - if you're involved in organising council events, this network is for you!

The LGSA has coordinated the Events Network for a number of years. We're proud to launch the new website which will benefit both new and existing members.

Our aims and objectives:

- To build a community amongst events people in NSW councils.
- To support learning and development through knowledge sharing.
- To educate and facilitate networking opportunities through regular meetings.

The Events Team at the LGSA run three seminars per year to address issues relevant to council events. The meetings encourage the exchange of information, education and networking amongst Local Government staff involved in staging and facilitating events.

Join the network

Visit the new website and sign up to become a member. Current members must also sign up to the new site, as this will take over the current website and members list.

Only NSW council employees are able to become members, so if you host council events and have an email addresses ending in "nsw.gov.au", please register. You will have access to members only pages, receive updates on industry news and have the opportunity to speak directly with other members in the new Events Network Forum!



Events Network
eventsnetwork.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 8: LG Week: Showcasing Campbelltown City Council

The search for Campbelltown's best gardens, a foyer displaying Council's recent projects and a Local Government themed community radio program are some of the activities and launches happening during this year's Local Government Week.

The week will begin with the launch of the annual Campbelltown City Garden Competition with entries open to all residents across a range of categories.

A foyer display will showcase significant recently completed or in-progress capital works projects and community programs aimed at *Building a Brighter Future* for our city's residents.

Local Government Week themed advertisements will be used in local papers and there'll be a Local Government Week community radio program showcasing Council's activities for the week and promoting careers in local government.

To see what else they're planning, visit the LG Week website!

Become a showcased Council for Local Government Week

Every week, the LG Week website will showcase 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!



Local Government Week 2010

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

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

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

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General Interest

Item 9: Only days left to buy your LG Week Awards Dinner tickets!

If your council has entered 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 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

The Heart Foundation Local Government Awards celebrate the success of councils who are making their local communities healthier places to live and work. Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death and a major source of disability in Australia. However, people can reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease by making healthier lifestyle choices.

The awards recognise the achievements of councils to improve the heart health of their communities. Prizes include cash awards, plaques and certificates at national and state levels. The six award categories are: Planning for Active Living; Facilities; Healthy Weight; Priority Groups; Tobacco; and Employee Health and Wellbeing. Thirty nine NSW councils have entered this year's awards, with the NSW award winners to be announced at the Awards evening. The other awards given on the night are:

RH Dougherty Awards

Awarded by the LGSA

NSW Local Government Youth Week Awards

Awarded by the Commission for Children and Young People

Cancer Council Local Government Partnership Awards

Awarded by the Cancer Council NSW

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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Community

Item 10: IMAGInE Awards for Museums and Galleries now open

The IMAGInE Awards celebrate the achievements and extraordinary diversity of the NSW and ACT museum and gallery sector and those who work within it, both paid and volunteer. Councils are encouraged to apply.

The IMAGInE Awards:

- Celebrate excellence across all levels of the museum and gallery sector.
- Acknowledge the significant contribution that individuals make to their communities through museums and galleries across NSW and the ACT.
- Promote the value and importance of museums and galleries beyond the sector.
- Promote and benchmark best practice in collection management, exhibitions and public programs.
- Forge networks and links between the paid and volunteer staff of museums and galleries.

The Awards are presented by Museums & Galleries NSW, Museums Australia (NSW), Museums Australia (ACT) and Regional Public Galleries Association of NSW.

2010 IMAGInE Awards night

Friday, 22 October, 2010
Circular Quay Terrace
Museum of Contemporary Art

Nominations

Close 5pm, Monday 5 September 2010

Nomination fees

\$25 volunteer-run organisations
\$30 organisations with less than seven paid staff
\$40 organisations with more than 7 paid staff

Guidelines & Entry Forms

http://mgnsw.org.au/sector_development/2010_imagine_awards/

For further information

Cassie Charlton,
cassiec@mgnsw.org.au
02 9358 1760

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Community

Item 11: Grants for positive ageing initiatives

Applications for the Department of Human Services NSW - Ageing, Disability and Home Care's (ADHC) Positive Ageing Grants program are now open. Councils are encouraged to apply.

The program supports positive ageing initiatives that strengthen communities, contribute to an aged-friendly culture in NSW, and maximise opportunities for older people to remain active, socially connected and engaged.

The program provides one-off grants to Local Government and not-for-profit organisations to implement positive ageing projects throughout 2011.

Funding is available under two categories:

Small grants - grants of \$5,000 are available for positive ageing projects in local areas throughout NSW

State wide grants - Two Positive Ageing Grants of \$30,000 each are available for state-wide positive ageing projects that specifically targets:

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community; and
- The culturally and linguistically diverse community.

Applications close

20 August

Application forms

Available online from 26 July

Further information

<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Older+people/Office+for+Ageing.htm>

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Community

Item 12: Squalor and Hoarding Toolkit Launch

Councils are invited to attend the launch of this Toolkit, developed by Catholic Community Services in conjunction with the City of Sydney.

The Toolkit reflects the 'Partnerships Against Homelessness' Squalor Guidelines.

The Toolkit - made possible by the City of Sydney's Community Services Grants program - aims to provide direction for both service providers and community members within the City of Sydney to respond to situations of Squalor and Hoarding. Definition and descriptions of the complexities involved, an intervention flowchart, resources and contact details for relevant organisations, as well as links to useful information are all provided in the kit.

The information in the Toolkit reflects the recommendations set out in the 'Partnerships Against Homelessness' Squalor Guidelines. These can be found in the Appendices section of this Toolkit.

Due to the complex nature of these situations it is recommended that the Toolkit is read in its entirety before a course of action is determined.

Two educational DVDs on Squalor and Hoarding, information packs and a free copy of the Squalor and Hoarding Toolkit binder will be available at the launch.

Launch details

Wednesday 4 August, Mercy Arms, 663 Elizabeth Street, Waterloo NSW 2017, 2pm-4pm, includes afternoon tea.

RSVP

Wednesday July 28th to Emma Barnett: 02 8306-2905, ebarnett@chcs.com.au or referrals.communityservices@chcs.com.au

Toolkit

www.catholiccommunityservices.com.au/squalorandhoarding/

For further information

Emma Barnett or contact the Customer Service Centre: 1800 225 474, www.catholiccommunityservices.com.au

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Community

Item 13: New Research Finds Value in Central West Cultural Facilities

The *Value Added!* study reveals Central West councils help residents think differently, connect with communities and contribute positively to a sense of place. Substantial economic benefits were also found.

Twelve council operated museums, galleries and performing arts centres in Orange City Council, Bathurst Regional Councils and Dubbo City Council were studied. The three councils partnered with Museums & Galleries NSW, who commissioned the research.

The *Value Added!* study provides figures on positive contributions made by cultural facilities and activities to local and regional communities and their economies.

Online information

http://mgnsw.org.au/research/value_added/

For further information

Michael Huxley, M&G NSW,
02 93339 9912,
finance@mgnsw.org.au

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Environment

Item 14: 2010 Banksia Awards – Entries now open

Do you have an example of environmental excellence? Is your council leading the way in environmental sustainability? Councils are encouraged to enter their projects in the 22nd Banksia Awards.

Local Governments plays a key role in forwarding Australia's development towards a sustainable future. There are many categories to enter, including Water and Leading in Sustainability.

The Banksia Awards also recognise Australian businesses, community groups, individuals and public bodies that are reducing their environmental footprint and using resources in innovative ways.

Entries

Close 2 August, 2010
Finalists announced 2
September

Banksia Awards Dinner

15 October 2010.

Further information

www.banksiafdn.com

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Infrastructure

Item 15: National Broadband Network – Local Government National Principles

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pushing for the adoption of a set of National Principles to engage Local Government in the NBN roll out.

The guiding principles were released at last month's National General Assembly of Local Government.

The importance of consulting local authorities as the NBN is rolled out across Australia, as well as the need for Local Government to be provided with the capacity to handle queries from community members about the NBN are contained within the principles.

The principles also state the need for councils to be able to assess and understand any new requirements for planning and development introduced as part of the NBN implementation.

Online Information

Includes copy of the principles:
<http://www.alga.asn.au/news/20100716.html?id=0c5174f08ade05d055fe9f361dc5fa7d>

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Learning

Item 16: In-house Training Services – Councillor Professional Development

LGSA Learning Solutions holds a series of workshops for councillors and senior staff.

These half and one day programs can be conducted on your premises saving you more than 50% off the price of a public workshop.

Workshops include:

- Asset Management for Councillors.
- Financial; Skills for Councillors.
- Community Leadership.
- Conflict of Interest and Model Code of Conduct.
- Connecting with the Community.
- Councillors as Change Initiators.
- Dynamic Presentation Skills.
- Effective Meeting Skills.
- Good Governance.
- Handling Difficult People for Councillors.
- Induction for Councillors.
- Managing Time and Stress.
- Media Skills.
- Planning Legislation Skills and Knowledge.
- Preventing Bullying and Harassment for Councillors.
- Speed Reading for Councillors.
- Strategic Management.
- The Effective Chair in Local Government (half day).
- Understanding Sustainability for Councillors.

We can also put together a two day program of selected modules, entitled the Councillor Weekend. This can be held on a weekend or over Friday/Saturday. In this program councillors are exposed to three or four short bursts of topics they want to learn more about.

Further information

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

Contact

For a quote contact Darryl Rubiolo,
Learning Solutions: 02 9242 4182
learning@lgsa.org.au

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Learning

Item 17: Managing Information Overload – Speed Reading for Councillors and Staff

Presented by renowned international speaker, author and trainer Roz Townsend, this course helps increase your comprehension and manage the sometimes overwhelming reading material you face every week.

You will learn the basic principles of speed reading with improved comprehension. You will learn how to at least double your reading speed and improve your comprehension.

You will also learn how to improve your memory and use mind maps to store information. Once these basic skills have been understood, they can be applied to a whole range of documents.

Attend the course and develop your skills in concentration, comprehension, previewing, punctuation, paragraphing, peripheral vision, skimming, scanning, memory, mind mapping and flexible reading.

Date and Location

Tuesday 12 October, Sydney

Cost

The full day workshop fee is \$495 inclusive of GST

Registration

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/150-learning-solutions.asp>

Contact

Ruth Niemczyk, Learning Solutions:
02 9242 4180, learning@lgsa.org.au

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Learning

Item 18: Verbal Judo Program

Many employees have to constantly deal with difficult, aggressive and both verbally and physically threatening behaviour. This program helps staff manage these situations.

This one day program is one of our most requested, and teaches a set of specific behaviours and tactics with which staff can redirect hostile or aggressive behaviour of others and generate voluntary compliance.

Rangers and other compliance staff, child care, customer service, librarians, development planners and health and building staff have all benefited in the past from attendance at this excellent workshop.

Date and Location

Tuesday 26 October, 2010 Local Government Learning Centre, Sydney

Cost

\$462 inclusive of GST. This includes comprehensive handouts and a one month email service following the workshop.

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 19: Springboard– A personal development program for women

Springboard empowers women in non-management positions to reach their career goals. Registrations for the 2010 program are now open.

At four workshops over four months, participants will learn to set and achieve personal goals: establish what they want from life; focus on priorities; acquire ideas, skills and confidence needed to reach potential and goals; position themselves to make positive decisions about work and personal options and to take action.

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

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

Managers may wish to consider this proven program for their staff as one strategy to support the Year of the Women in Local Government.

Program dates

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.

2010 Springboard Program
Local Government Learning
Centre, 28 Margaret St, Sydney

Cost
\$990 (inc.GST)
Four workshops for participants
Half-day workshop for mentors

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

Contact
Ruth Niemczyk
LG Learning Solutions
02 9242 4180 or
learning@lgsa.org.au

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Learning

Item 20: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops

An exciting range of public staff programs has been scheduled for August 2010.

Sydney

5 August - Preventing Bullying and Harassment for Managers

6 August - Preventing Corruption for Managers

9-10 August - Planning for Effective Public Participation

12 August - Performance Conversation Skills

11-12 August - The Supervisors' Series

13 August - Time Management

19 August - Mentoring Skills for Managers

20 August - Making Minutes Matter

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

26-27 August - Improving Your Business Writing

27 August - Influencing Skills for Women

Queanbeyan

10 August - Making Consultative Committees More Effective,

Wagga Wagga

12 August - Finance for Non-Finance Managers,

Lismore

17 August - Handling Difficult People

18 August - Revisiting Leadership

Registrations

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

Contact

Learning Solutions: Ruth
Niemczyk: 02 9242 4180
ruth.niemczyk@lgsa.org.au

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Planning

Item 21: Changes to the SEPP (Infrastructure) on telecommunications

The delivery of telecommunication facilities - including new broadband infrastructure - can now be fast tracked under the new State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Telecommunication Facilities)

Gazetted on 16 July 2010, the Infrastructure SEPP introduces new provisions that allow telecommunications infrastructure providers to be either exempt from planning approval or receive a ten-day complying development approval for a range of telecommunications facilities, subject to strict criteria including health and amenity considerations.

New telecommunications towers in residential zones will continue to require development application approval from the relevant council.

The Telecommunications Guidelines provide further detail about the types of infrastructure that can be classified as exempt or complying development and the requirements and development standards that must be met for each facility type.

SEPP changes

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/sessionalview/sessional/epi/2010-375.pdf>

Planning Guidelines

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PlanningSystem/Circularsandguidelines/PlanningSystemCirculars/tabid/81/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

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Planning

Item 22: Performance Standard for Private Bushfire Shelters

The NSW Department of Planning has released information concerning the Australian Building Codes Board application of the Performance Standard 'Private Bushfire Shelters 2010' in NSW.

Online information

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=cv4ZvcWKpc%3d&tabid=82&language=en-AU>

The performance standard for private bushfire shelters will enable informed decisions to be made regarding the design and construction of private bushfire shelters.

The development of a private bushfire shelter in NSW must meet the requirements for all developments on bushfire prone land in NSW. Section 79BA of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979* requires that before granting consent for development on bushfire prone land (other than certain subdivisions), a consent authority must:

- Be satisfied that the development conforms with the requirements of Planning for Bushfire Protection, produced by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS); or
- Consult with the Commissioner of the RFS concerning measures to be taken to afford protection from the dangers that may arise from a bushfire.

As Planning for Bushfire Protection does not specifically address private bushfire shelters, the assessment of such developments requires consultation with the RFS Commissioner. Advice from the RFS indicates that all such developments will be required to comply with the ABCB's Performance Standard for *Private Bushfire Shelters*.

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Planning

Item 23: Productivity Commission - Study on planning issues

The deadline for submissions to the Productivity Commission's benchmark study into Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments has now been extended.

This benchmarking study by the Productivity Commission is part of a series of reviews benchmarking Australian business regulatory burdens.

The Productivity Commission has been requested by the Australian Government to examine and report on the operations of the states and territories' planning and zoning systems, particularly as they impact on:

- Business compliance costs;
- Competition; and
- The overall efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of cities.

In doing so, the Commission is to report on best practice approaches that support competition, including:

- Measures to prevent 'gaming' of appeals processes;
- Processes in place to maintain adequate supplies of land suitable for a range of activities; and
- Ways to eliminate any unnecessary or unjustifiable protection for existing businesses from new and innovative competitors.

An Issues Paper has been released by the Productivity Commission as well as instructions on how to make a submission.

Submissions close

31 August 2010

Online Information

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

Further information

Jennifer Dennis, Policy Officer,
Planning:

02 9242 4094

Jennifer.dennis@lgsa.org.au

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Planning

Item 24: LGSA Development Contributions Campaign

The Associations are currently developing a state-wide campaign opposing the State Government's changes to development contributions.

The LGSA's Communications team will provide councils with a media tool kit with resources such as template letters and media releases and a poster for local facilities.

The campaign is scheduled to be launched after the Australian Government elections.

All materials and information will be distributed prior to this, allowing councils to customise the resources according to their individual circumstances.

More information about the campaign will be circulated in future editions of the Local Government Weekly.

Changes to developer contributions

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3371-development-contributions.asp>

Campaign information

Fay Daoud, LGSA

Communications:

02 9242 4061,

fay.daoud@lgsa.org.au

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Procurement

Item 25: LGP Purchasing Network

Following the success of the inaugural Local Government Procurement Network, the next meeting has been scheduled for early August.

Local Government Procurement (LGP) will be hosting regular Procurement Network meetings. This is a free event hosted by LGP and a light lunch will be provided.

Purchasing and Procurement Managers, Purchasing staff, anyone involved in council purchasing are encouraged to attend.

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

Agenda/registration
info@lgp.org.au

Meeting details

Tuesday 3 August, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Local Government Centre, Level 5 28 Margaret Street, Sydney

Contact

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

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Roads and Transport

Item 26: Parking Exemptions for Mobile Speed Camera Operators

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) has advised that mobile speed cameras have been re-introduced in NSW. AS a result, Road Rules 2008 has been amended to allow mobile speed camera operators to park and drive on a nature strip or dividing strip.

The following is an extract from the road rules relating to the exemption:

Further information

Includes a list of initial enforcement locations:
[www.rta.nsw.gov.au/mobilespee
dcameras](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/mobilespee
dcameras).

307–1 NSW rule: exemption for drivers conducting mobile speed camera operations

(1) A provision mentioned in sub rule (2) does not apply to the driver of a vehicle being used for the purpose of, or in connection with, the operation of a mobile speed camera (comprising an approved speed measuring device and an approved digital camera recording device) for or on behalf of the Authority if, in the circumstances:

- (a) the driver is taking reasonable care, and
- (b) it is reasonable that the provision should not apply.

(2) Sub rule (1) applies to the following provisions:

- rule 137 (Keeping off a dividing strip)
- rule 197 (1) (to the extent only that it relates to stopping on a dividing strip or nature strip)
- rule 289 (1) (Driving on a nature strip).

Note 1. *Approved speed measuring device* and *approved digital camera recording device* are defined in sections 44 and 45 of the Act, respectively.

Note 2. Rules 125 and 198 prohibit a driver from unreasonably obstructing the path of other drivers or pedestrians or from stopping in a position that obstructs access to or from footpaths, bicycle paths, driveways or similar access ways.

Note 3. This rule is an additional NSW road rule. There is no corresponding rule in the *Australian Road Rules*.

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Roads and Transport

Item 27: Motorised Mobility Scooters study

Councils are invited to participate in a study of injury data involving Motorised Mobility Scooters.

In response to the growing problem of motorised mobility scooter (MMS) related injuries, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has commissioned a targeted research project to improve the understanding of current usage and safety issues related to these devices.

Information gained from interviews with mobility scooter users, key professionals and industry representatives will be combined with analysis of mortality and injury data to help develop strategies designed to minimise the risks associated with motorised mobility devices.

The research is being conducted by the Monash University Department of Forensic Medicine and Accident Research Centre. The research team seeks to interview key professionals and industry representatives on MMS.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. The telephone interviews will take about 20 minutes and cover three main areas:

- Reason for interest in mobility scooter use and safety.
- Issues of concern.
- Potential actions to address issues of concern.

Monash University Department of Forensic Medicine will be conducting these telephone interviews in July and August. If your council is willing to participate or would like to know more, please call Research Assistants Fiona Kitching or Katharine Gibson (details above) and a convenient time will be set to telephone you for the interview.

Further information

Fiona Kitching
03 9684 4419
Fiona.Kitching@monash.edu

Katharine Gibson
03 9684 4364
Katharine.gibson@monash.edu

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In the News

Item 28: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Councils welcome \$200m Australian Government pledge for towns

Monday 19 July

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3408-tuesday-20-july-councils-welcome-200m-austalian-government-pledge-for-towns.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Associations have welcomed the Australian Labor Party's campaign promise to pledge \$200m towards infrastructure to encourage population growth in regional and rural centres.

Councils welcome funding for Western Riverina arts

Monday 19 July

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3409-tuesday-21-july-councils-welcome-funding-for-western-riverina-arts.asp?intSiteID=1>

President of the Shires Association, Cr Bruce Miller, has welcomed the NSW Government's pledging of \$200,000 to establish a Regional Arts Board (RAB) which will service Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera regions.

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