



Carbon Tax – Impacts on Local Government

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The LGSA wishes to advise councils of the background and results of the NSW LG HR benchmarking pilot project and upcoming LGSA HR Metrics annual benchmarking survey.

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Email subscription

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As a result of a very successful call for papers, the LGSA has created an exciting program for this year's LGSA Water Management Conference.

Item 7: Registrations are now open for 2011 LGA Conference

All details regarding the LGA Conference registration are now available on the Conference website.

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The 2011 Stormwater NSW Conference, *Stormwater: Addressing Local Issues*, is the major stormwater management event being held in NSW during 2011.

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Learning

Item 17: Leadership Skills for Aspiring Women

This program is designed for women to explore issues which might be limiting them from aspiring for greater achievements at work.

Item 18: NSW Water Training and Assessment Network

The LGSA wishes to advise councils about the Water Training and Assessment Network.

Item 19: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – August 2011

Learning Solutions is offering a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for July and August in NSW.

Item 20: Verbal Judo for Contact Professionals in Dubbo and Sydney

This practical program helps staff who deal with difficult people.

Item 21: Work Health and Safety

14 FREE Workshops will be held across NSW, covering the latest information on the changes that affect NSW Councils from January 2012.

Planning

Item 22: Reminder - Call for Local Government 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'.

Roads and Transport

Item 23: 110km/h Reinstated on Newell Highway & Speed Zones Audit Website

Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, has announced that the majority of the Newell Highway would be returned to a 110km/h speed limit from 31 July 2011. In addition, the Roads and Traffic Authority has announced the launch of their Safer Roads website.

Item 24: Transport for NSW Announcement

Minister for Transport, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, and Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, have announced the formation of a new integrated transport authority to be called Transport for NSW.

Water

Item 25: NSW Government response to Infrastructure Australia/AECOM Report

The NSW Government has provided its response to the AECOM Report prepared for Infrastructure Australia on Regional Water Quality and Security to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Urban Water Sector.

In the News

Item 26: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

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View the latest Award opportunities for Local Government

Local Government Week Awards Dinner

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

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Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

2011 Stormwater NSW Conference

The 2011 Stormwater NSW Conference, *Stormwater: Addressing Local Issues*, is the major stormwater management event being held in NSW during 2011.

2011 Local Government Web Network Conference

Get in now to secure your ticket for the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference.

Register for the LGSA Water Management Conference 2011

As a result of a very successful call for papers, the LGSA has created an exciting program for this year's LGSA Water Management Conference.

Registrations are now open for 2011 LGA Conference

All details regarding the LGA Conference registration are now available on the Conference website.

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Grants & Funding

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View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

Last Chance to enter 'Empowering Communities' Competition

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

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General Interest – LGSA opinion piece in UK Guardian

Item 4: The Guardian (UK) has published an opinion piece from NSW Local Government Association President, Keith Rhoades AFSM, on Local Government in NSW.

The Local Government Association President, Keith Rhoades AFSM, provided an opinion piece on the modernisation of Local Government in NSW, referencing our profile raising as we work towards a referendum on constitutional recognition.

The article was published late Wednesday evening (20 July) NSW time on the Guardian's Local Government Network blog, and can be viewed at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/local-government-network/2011/jul/20/australian-lessons-british-councils>.

It is a proactive and informative piece about what we are up to at the LGSA and across NSW, which highlights our current projects and includes LGSA website links.

The Guardian Professional Networks are a division of Guardian News and Media, and the LGSA hopes to recommend any avenues from promotion of other states' activities, in particular the national issue of constitutional recognition.

Online article

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/local-government-network/2011/jul/20/australian-lessons-british-councils>

Contact

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Ref: CIRC-4665 LP

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General interest

Item 5: Destination 2036 online survey

To help make Destination 2036 work for councils, the LGSA Presidents encourage mayors or their delegates to fill in the online survey.

As the Division of Local Government has highlighted, Destination 2036 reflects the NSW Government's commitment to work constructively with Local Government and to recognise Local Government as a partner.

The Division hopes Destination 2036 will be the start of a new way of planning which moves NSW Local Government from talking about and reacting to change, to managing change to create a preferred future.

To help people start to think about the issues, the Division commissioned a discussion paper: "Our Communities, Our Councils, Our Future".

This paper brings together key ideas from a range of work on Local Government in NSW and Australia done by a large number of organisations and individuals in recent years. It also poses a series of questions as a starting point.

In order to achieve the Destination 2036 Workshop purpose and enable DLG to understand the views of participants on some of the issues covered in this Discussion Paper, an online survey has been developed (see fact box). The survey will only take 10 minutes or so – so the Presidents join the Division to encourage Mayors to take this opportunity to have their thoughts heard.

The survey

<http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/eventregistration/PRS/PRSIindex.asp?mi=21&ml=5&AreaIndex=Survey>

Discussion Paper

http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/information/Destination2036_Discussion_Paper_LR.pdf

Further information

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Ref: R03/0025 NB

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General Interest

Item 6: Register for the LGSA Water Management Conference 2011

As a result of a very successful call for papers, the LGSA has created an exciting program for this year's LGSA Water Management Conference.

The Water Management Conference is an annual event providing a forum for debate and discussion on urban water supply and sewerage as well as broader water management issues.

The event attracts up to 250 delegates from NSW and interstate, including councillors and general managers, water managers and professionals, policy makers from government agencies, and key industry stakeholders.

The Conference program includes keynotes addresses from the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP (invited), Dr Pierre Mukheibir, Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, and David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water. A draft program is now available on the website.

The event is hosted by Clarence Valley Council and sponsored by Essential Energy, Government Sponsor NSW Office of Water, Premier Sponsor State Water Corporation, Distinguished Sponsor MWH Australia and a range of trade exhibitors will be featured.



Conference Dates

Wednesday 14 – Friday 16
September
Grafton, Clarence Valley Council

Cost

\$396 Earlybird Rate - Before
Monday 8 August 2011

Registration and further information

www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au

Contact

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meg.fisher@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0004 JH

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General Interest

Item 7: Registrations are now open for 2011 LGA Conference

All details regarding the LGA Conference registration are now available on the Conference website.

The 2011 LGA conference is hosted by Shoalhaven City Council and supported by Elite Sponsor Essential Energy.

Registration

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 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 upon the 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 currently available on the website. 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 (This 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 received after close of business on Friday 5 August 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 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 whether or not nominees for the award are attending the Conference.

An online application form can be found on the website. **Application deadline to have awards presented at conference: Monday 5 September 2011.**

Conference dates and location

Sunday 23 – Wednesday 26
October 2011
Shoalhaven

Motions due

Friday 5 August

Conference Website

www.LGAConference.lgsa.org.au

Conference Secretariat

Bradley Hayden
02 6023 6300
lga2011@ccem.com.au

Motions

Skye Smith
02 9242 4052

Awards information

Karen Rolls
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karen.rolls@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R09/0031 JH

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General Interest

Item 8: Last Chance to enter 'Empowering Communities' Competition

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

This year's Local Government (LG) Week 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 an exciting competition.

The *Empowering Communities* Competition supports councils to get their local 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. An 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 under the 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, council column in your local newspaper etc.

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

**EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES**



Competition Opens
Friday 1 July

Competition Closes
5pm Monday, 25 July

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

LG Week
Monday 1 - Sunday 7 August

LG Week Website
www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au

Further information
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02 9242 4031
jann.hing@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0008 JH

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General Interest

Item 9: Local Government Week Awards Dinner

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

The awards evening will be the signature event of LG Week and includes a three course dinner, great entertainment and spectacular harbour views.

Essential Energy is again the elite sponsor of this exciting night where awards are given for the following:

- 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.

Local Government Week Awards - Robert Wilson OAM Award now closed

The Robert Wilson OAM Award is in memory of long standing Councillor, Robert Wilson OAM, who tragically died in 2009.

Nominated by their council, this Award recognises 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 Week Awards dinner (see fact box).

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

Become a showcased Council for Local Government Week


The LG Week homepage is gearing up to showcase the great LG Week plans of one council per week. 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 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 the form in 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.

**EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES**



LG Week Awards Dinner
Wednesday 3 August,
6.30pm, The Deckhouse,
Woolwich Sydney

Cost
\$120.00 each or table of ten for
\$1100.00

Deadline to purchase tickets
Wednesday 27 July

LG Week
Monday 1 – Sunday 7 August

**Tickets and further
information**
www.LGweek.lgsa.org.au

Further information
Jann Hing
02 9242 4031
jann.hing@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0006 JH

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General interest

Item 10: 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference

Get in now to secure your ticket for the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference.

Highlights of this year's conference include **Anthony Baxter** from **Google** speaking about Google mapping during the recent natural disasters in Victoria, Queensland as well as New Zealand as well as a half day workshop with **NSW State Records** on **Record Keeping and Social Media**.

Program and topics

The Conference will have some split streams to allow attendees to pick sessions that are best suited to them. It will also include some exciting key note speakers. 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.
- *PDF's and Accessibility: Can they really be made accessible?* With Gian Wild.
- Workshop: *Social Media and Recordkeeping with State Records.*

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 Local 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 Wednesday 17 August. Please register here: <http://local-e-joomla.eventbrite.com/>

Conference dates

Thursday 18 – Friday 19 August

Location

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

Website

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

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Ref: R08/0026 RA

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General Interest

Item 11: The use of HR metrics and the development of NSW Local Government benchmarking

The LGSA wishes to advise councils of the background and results of the NSW LG HR benchmarking pilot project and upcoming LGSA HR Metrics annual benchmarking survey.

Councils have used different ways of measuring their organisational performance and health. As is common in many industries, financial measures are usually the first port of call.

HR metrics can assist getting a handle on the (average) 39% of operational funds NSW councils spend on employee costs.

In terms of HR performance, measures around the number of grievances and industrial disputes could be seen as most basic measures of organisational health. However, a broader range of measures are available.

Benchmarking of HR metrics

HR Metrics benchmarking has been undertaken in Victoria since 2009 through the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), with participation rates of over 50%.

In response to interest expressed by NSW councils, LG Management Solutions has conducted an HR Metrics Benchmarking Pilot Project for the six months to 31 December 2010 with significant input from LG HR practitioners.

Initial feedback has been very positive and a workshop has been held to refine the formulae to be used in an annual benchmarking survey.

Some results from the 2010 pilot project

The following are based on the sample of twelve participating councils (eight urban and four rural/regional councils). For the six months to 31 December 2011, the:

- Average Voluntary Turnover Rate for all participating councils was 5.68%.
- Average Unplanned Absence Rate for all participating councils was 4.95%.
- Average Long Service Leave Liability Rate for all participating councils was 24.68%.

To allow councils to compare their data, the formulae used and a sample report can be requested by authorised council officers.

Next steps

A survey form for the inaugural LGSA HR Metrics Benchmarking Survey covering the 2010/2011 financial year will be available on 5 August 2011. The survey has been designed to be completed as easily as possible and although some councils may not be able to contribute data for each measure, all are encouraged to participate.

2010-2011 HR Metrics Benchmarking Survey will be issued

Friday 5 August 2011

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Ref: I98/0017-02

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Community

Item 12: Free workshops for people using community services

The Community Education Team of the NSW Ombudsman is offering training, education and information for people accessing community services, including those run by council.

The NSW Ombudsman exists to promote good conduct and fair decision-making in the interests of the NSW community. The NSW Ombudsman is fair, impartial and independent of the government of the day. The NSW Ombudsman:

- Promotes and protects the rights and best interests of consumers of community services in NSW.
- Assists service providers to meet their obligations under the community welfare legislation.

The Rights Stuff – tips for solving problems and making complaints is a free information and education workshop for consumers of community services. Workshop training is held throughout the state or the Ombudsman can provide in-house training.

The workshop provides easily accessible, structured information on service user rights under the *Community Services-Complaints Reviews and Monitoring Act 1993*. It helps people improve their problem solving, learn how to complain effectively, improve communication skills and build positive relationships with service providers.

Training will cover:

- Information on the community services system in NSW.
- The rights of people who use community services.
- Tips for dealing more effectively with service providers.
- How to resolve concerns and complaints.
- The role of the NSW Ombudsman's office.
- Where to find support and assistance.

The workshop is suitable for people who use community services, including people with physical and other disabilities, carers, foster carers and older people. Family members, unpaid carers, advocates and guardians are also welcome.

This workshop is free for groups of ten or more consumers of community services and a toolkit and resources are provided to all participants. The Ombudsman will travel to your local area.

Workshops duration

2-3 hours

Workshops can be run in any area

Online information

www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/trainingworkshops

Further information

NSW Ombudsman's Community Education and Training Unit

02 9286 0900 or

1800 451 524

training@ombo.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0458 MK

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Economic Development

Item 13: Inquiry into Economic & Social Development in Central Western NSW

The Legislative Council Standing Committee on State Development has announced an Inquiry into the Economic & Social Development in Central Western NSW.

The inquiry will examine the provision of health, education, cultural and transport services to the area, as well as ways to encourage development of local enterprises and the potential of the region overall.

Terms of Reference:

That the Standing Committee on State Development inquire into and report on the factors restricting economic and social development in central western NSW, and in particular:

- The provision of health, education and cultural facilities.
- The reasons for population decline or growth in different areas.
- The adequacy of transport and road infrastructure.
- Ways to encourage development of local enterprises and the potential of the region overall.
- The comparative level of government business activity located within the region.
- Methodologies for Local Government to collectively cooperate to achieve increased infrastructure funding and economic growth.
- Any other factor restricting economic and social development in central western NSW.

Members of the Committee are:

- The Hon Rick Colless MLC (Chair).
- The Hon Mick Veitch MLC (Deputy Chair).
- The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC.
- The Hon Paul Green MLC.
- The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.
- The Hon Dr Peter Phelps MLC.

The LGSA welcomes any feedback from councils in relation to this inquiry. Please forward comments to Liz Gemes (see fact box).

Submissions close

Friday 26 August

Online information

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/statedevelopment>

Further information

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Ref: R90/1160 LG

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Environment

Item 14: 2011 Stormwater NSW Conference

The 2011 Stormwater NSW Conference, *Stormwater: Addressing Local Issues*, is the major stormwater management event being held in NSW during 2011.

The Conference will include a series of keynote speakers, supported by presentations on key water issues facing stormwater practitioners. The LGSA aims to include technical sessions and themed streams within the Conference to engage and build the knowledge and skills of water management professionals working within the stormwater discipline.

The Conference Program will be designed to feature a mixture of papers including research, experience or case studies of projects undertaken, especially those that add to the knowledge, understanding and practical application of stormwater in NSW, and the NSW Stormwater Industry.

The Conference will feature two days of pre conference workshops, two days of conference sessions and a full day technical tour.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to network with colleagues and peers, attracting delegates from the private sector, government and universities, including engineers, scientists, landscape architects, contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, educators, researchers and other industry professionals.

Conference delegates will include:

- All levels of government, with interests in environmental management, planning, construction, education, community services, engineering and research.
- Civil and consulting engineers.
- Surveyors and urban planners.
- Civil construction contractors.
- Universities and research institutions and other service industries to the environment, stormwater and the water quality industry.

Conference

Wednesday 7 – Thursday 8
September
Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter
Valley

Registrations Closes

Thursday 1 September

Registration and online information

www.gemsevents.com.au/siansw2011

Further information

Julie McGraw or Peta Freeman
GEMS Event Management
02 9744 5252
siansw@stormwater.asn.au

Ref: R90/1011 RV

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Finance

Item 15: National Disasters Insurance Review – ALGA Submission

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has made a submission to the National Disasters Insurance Review representing Local Government's concerns.

Online information

www.ndir.gov.au

Ref: R90/0753 SM

In March 2011, the Hon Bill Shorten, MP, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation established an independent review into disaster insurance in Australia following the floods in January 2011. Among other things, the review is to look at the ability of private insurance markets to offer adequate insurance for individuals, small businesses and governments for natural disasters; whether there is a case for subsidising insurance premiums for individuals and small businesses in the areas of highest risk facing the highest premiums; and whether there is a need for a national disaster fund to support the rebuilding of public infrastructure in the aftermath of events such as the recent floods.

With input from all State Local Government Associations, ALGA made a submission to the review which includes the following arguments:

- Apart from buildings and property, councils did not insure many of their infrastructure assets, in particular local roads and most bridges, and it was not common practice for any sphere of government to insure such assets in Australia. Consequently, this type of insurance was not readily available in the market.
- As a result of recent changes to the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA), which now require insurance (or an explanation of why it is not practical), this general lack of insurance availability raised a number of issues for Local and State Governments. Of main concern was the potential increase in insurance costs that may be faced by individual councils. In addition, Local Governments could receive reduced funding assistance from the Commonwealth, and in turn from State and Territory Governments, to assist with challenges following major natural disasters such as flooding experienced by much of Australia earlier this year.
- Any reduction in the financial risk borne by the Commonwealth through reducing the funding it makes available to the states through the NDRRA, would simply increase the risks and costs carried by councils. This was essentially cost shifting; there was not likely to be an overall saving for taxpayers, just a shifting of the burden from federal taxes to local taxes, or rates.
- Opposition against any proposal that would introduce a national flood insurance cover scheme, whereby councils, through their rating schemes would be expected to help subsidise premiums for high-risk properties. Local Government was already constrained financially and it would be inequitable if further cost shifting of this manner was contemplated.
- With respect to measuring flood risk, the Commonwealth and peak insurance sector were underestimating the real challenges facing all State and Local Governments in accurately modelling flood impacts.

The Natural Disaster Insurance Review is now expected to consider all submissions as it prepares its report and recommendations for the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, by Friday, 30 September 2011.

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Finance

Item 16: Carbon Tax – Impacts on Local Government

The Federal Government launched the Clean Energy Future (CEF) package on Sunday 10 July 2011. A summary of the package and the likely impacts on Local Government, based on a recent circular produced by the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA), is provided below.

This package contains action on 4 key policies:

- Carbon price.
- Renewable energy.
- Energy efficiency.
- Land use.

The CEF package outlines detail on the proposed carbon tax, compensation packages for households, businesses and industry and a range of support packages to encourage programs and innovation in renewable energy, energy efficiency and land use.

Key elements of the CEF package include:

Target: To cut pollution by at least 5% compared with 2000 levels by 2020, with a view to 80% cuts by 2050.

Timing: Commences 1 July 2012 and is a three year fixed scheme moving to a full Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2015-16.

Carbon Price:

\$23.00 per tonne 2012-13

\$24.15 per tonne 2013-14

\$25.40 per tonne 2014-15

Coverage: Around 500 of the biggest polluters in Australia will be required to pay for their pollution under the carbon pricing mechanism. Liable businesses will need to buy and surrender to the Government a permit for every tonne of pollution they produce.

Around 60 per cent of Australia's carbon pollution will be covered by the carbon price, including pollution from electricity generation, some business transport, waste, industrial processes, and fugitive emissions. A carbon price will not apply to agricultural emissions or emissions from light on-road vehicles. While costs will rise for some products and services households, smaller businesses and farmers will have no direct obligations under the carbon price.

As noted above, approximately 500 of Australia's biggest carbon emitting companies / facilities will be "caught" by the scheme. This will include approximately 190 landfills across Australia. This analysis, and a checklist to determine whether a facility will be caught, is at <http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/500-companies/>

Waste: The waste sector will be covered by the CEF package. Landfills that will be required to pay a carbon price will be those that exceed 25,000 tonnes of CO₂-e per annum. Legacy waste (waste deposited prior to the scheme starting) emissions will be counted toward reaching the threshold, however the emissions from this waste will not have a carbon price applied.

To avoid people from taking waste which would normally go to a large landfill that will reach the threshold (and as such applying an extra carbon tax cost at the gate) to a smaller landfill that doesn't reach the threshold (and may be cheaper), a 10,000 tonnes of CO₂-e threshold will apply to smaller landfills within a prescribed distance of large landfill facilities. The prescribed distance will be a regulatory matter and will need to be determined.

A copy of the CEF package

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

Local Government factsheet

<http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/014-FS-Local-government.pdf>

Further information on support programs

http://www.lga.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/Proposed_Support_Packages_for_the_Clean_Carbon_Future.doc

Ref: R96/0104 SMCB

Electricity: Electricity generation will be covered by the CEF package. The Government has also indicated that 2000 megawatts of high polluting capacity will be closed across Australia. An Energy Security Fund will provide an approximate \$5.5 billion to assist generators with the transition.

Fuel: Light commercial vehicles (4.5 tonnes or less gross vehicle mass) and households will not face a carbon price. Other business transport will be subject to an equivalent carbon price, generally applied by reducing fuel tax credits as per the table below.

Fuel tax credit reductions Fuel

Fuel	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Petrol	5.52	5.796	6.096
Diesel and other liquid fuels	6.21	6.521	6.858
LPG	3.68	3.864	4.064
LNG & CNG	6.67	7.004	7.366

Governance: A Climate Change Authority will be set up to provide expert advice to the Government on all aspects of the carbon pricing mechanism.

Support Packages: A number of other programs/support packages have also been announced. For a list of the programs [click here](#).

What will be the impact on councils?

The likely direct cost increases for councils from the proposed Carbon Tax include:

- Electricity (street/public lighting, council buildings, swimming pools, water and sewerage utility operations, etc). Business and commercial tariffs will be affected differently and dependant on contracts. Several sources predict increases of around 10%.
- Fuel (via the reduction in the Fuel Tax Credits Scheme rebate). Councils will receive approximately 6 cents per litre less rebate (refer table above): and
- Waste management (landfill charges). The cost implication for landfill is unknown at this stage.

Indirect cost impacts can be attributed to the potential increase in the cost of goods and raw materials, particularly building and construction materials (such as steel, bitumen, concrete).

To offset some of these costs the CEF package has a number of funding programs aimed at renewable energy and energy efficiency which will be available to Local Government. In particular the Low Carbon Communities program has been expanded from \$80 million to \$330 million under the CEF package and will be available for Councils to introduce energy efficiency schemes such as the transition to sustainable street lighting.

The impacts of the CEF package will also vary greatly between regions within NSW depending on the composition of their industrial base.

It should be noted that the implications of the CEF package will be different for each council as well as for each State as waste management practices and the profile of energy sources varies significantly.

Next steps

The announcement from the Government of the CEF package will also trigger the development of relevant draft legislation and various consultation processes during 2011-12. Parliamentary processes will enable significant debate on the package and certain details may be amended.

The draft CEF bills and consultation process will provide the detail required for stakeholders, including Local Government to further analyse the proposal and likely impacts. The LGSA will provide further information as it becomes available.

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Learning

Item 17: Leadership Skills for Aspiring Women

This program is designed for women to explore issues which might be limiting them from aspiring for greater achievements at work.

Whether you are trying to break through to supervision, develop skills in leadership or just manage your work/life balance issues, you will need a little help.

At the end of the program you will have a skill set to confidently take you to the next level.

The content includes:

- Leadership skills – what does it take to be an effective leader.
- The six management functions.
- Female and male leadership – is there a difference?
- Time management - getting the job done.
- Giving and receiving feedback.
- Goal setting and career planning.
- Developing a team.
- Setting an action plan for achieving a move into a leadership role.

Councils in regional areas should consider scheduling this program as an in-house event.

Date

Thursday 25 August

Location

Sydney

Cost

\$550 inclusive of GST

Registration

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

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 18: NSW Water Training and Assessment Network

The LGSA wishes to advise councils about the Water Training and Assessment Network.

The NSW Water Training and Assessment Network has been established to increase the capacity of the water industry to provide high quality training and assessment for its workforce.

With funding provided by the NSW Department of Education and Communities and the water industry, the network is targeted to trainers and assessors working in or with the water industry, managers and staff from water utilities, and councils responsible for developing the skills of their employees.

The Water Training and Assessment Network conducts meetings in Sydney and regional NSW. These meetings are attended by managers and staff of water utilities and councils, trainers and assessors from Registered Training Organisations and staff from government agencies such as NSW Office of Water and NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Network Meetings:

Orange

Saturday 1 October

Sydney

Monday 17 October

Further information

www.wtan.com.au

Contact

Jennifer James
02 9499 3168 or
0419 974 084

Ref: I97/0028 LT

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Learning

Item 19: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – August 2011

Learning Solutions is offering a range of public staff programs and events scheduled for July and August in NSW.

Attending one of our Local Government oriented workshops is an opportunity to network, share ideas and learn with people from many other councils. It also provides valuable experience for you to take back to your council.

Details of public staff programs and events:

Preventing Bullying and Harassment Training for Managers

Monday 1 August - Orange and Wednesday 17 August – Tamworth.

Effective Investigation Processes

Tuesday 2 August – Sydney.

Organisational Cultural Change

Tuesday 2 August – Orange and Tuesday 16 August – Tamworth.

Handling Difficult People

Tuesday 2 August – Lismore and Tuesday 16 August – Sydney.

Time Management

Wednesday 3 August – Lismore and Thursday 25 August – Sydney.

The Supervisor Series (4 modules over 2 days)

Thursday 4 and Friday 5 August – Sydney (note – changed from 3-4 August).

Development Approvals – the Heritage Perspective

Tuesday 9 August – Sydney.

Making Consultative Committees more Effective

Thursday 18 August – Tamworth and Thursday 13 October – Wagga Wagga.

Managing Staff with Stress Responses

Thursday 18 August – Sydney.

Revisiting Leadership (for senior and more experienced leaders in council)

Friday 19 August - Sydney and Wednesday 7 September – Wagga Wagga.

Verbal Judo for Contact professionals

Wednesday 24 August – Dubbo.

Coaching Skills for Leaders

Wednesday 31 August – Dubbo.

Registrations

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

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 20: Verbal Judo for Contact Professionals in Dubbo and Sydney

This practical program helps staff who deal with difficult people.

Verbal Judo is one of Learning Solutions' most requested programs.

This one day program teaches a set of specific behaviours and tactics with which staff can redirect difficult 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 9 August - Sydney CBD
Wednesday 24 August - Dubbo

Cost

\$550 inc. GST

Registrations

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

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Learning

Item 21: Work Health and Safety

14 FREE Workshops will be held across NSW, covering the latest information on the changes that affect NSW Councils from January 2012.

These free workshops are presented by StateCover, WorkCover NSW and the LGSA.

The workshops have been specifically designed for:

- Executive Management and Councillors.
- Managers, Supervisors, Health and Safety Representatives.
- HR, Risk and OHS Officers, and OHS Committee Members.

Case studies addressing council specific issues will also feature as part of the workshop.

Dates, Locations and times

Registration 9:30am, Workshop times 10.00 am - 2.30 pm, includes morning tea and lunch.

Monday 1 August – Ryde.

Wednesday 10 August - Sydney CBD.

Thursday 11 August – Kiama.

Monday 15 August – Moree Plains - Registration 9:00am Workshop 9:30 – 2:00 pm.

Tuesday 16 August – Tamworth.

Thursday 18 August – Holroyd.

Tuesday 30 August – Dubbo.

Wednesday 31 August – Orange.

Tuesday 13 September – Ballina.

Wednesday 14 September - Coffs Harbour.

Friday 16 September – Newcastle.

Tuesday 20 September - Wagga Wagga.

Wednesday 21 September – Griffith.

Wednesday 12 October – Cobar.

Cost

Free

Registrations

[http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/WHS Flyer and Registration Form.pdf](http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/WHS_Flyer_and_Registration_Form.pdf)

Or fax to 02 9262 6605

Contact

Samantha Chalmers
StateCover Event Coordinator
02 8270 6035
samantha.chalmers@jlta.com.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

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Planning

Item 22: Reminder - Call for Local Government 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'.

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 (LEP) 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 principally 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 planning professionals with extensive Local Government experience.

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

Jenny Dennis

LGSA

(02) 9242 4094

jennifer.dennis@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R04/0066 JD

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Roads and Transport

Item 23: 110km/h Reinstated on Newell Highway & Speed Zones Audit Website

Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, has announced that the majority of the Newell Highway would be returned to a 110km/h speed limit from 31 July 2011. In addition, the Roads and Traffic Authority has announced the launch of their Safer Roads website.

On Tuesday 19 July the Minister announced that the majority of the Newell Highway would be returned to a 110km/h speed limit from 31 July 2011, fulfilling yet another election promise.

The speed limit was reduced on the highway in December 2009. More than 800 km of the 1060 km Newell Highway currently has a speed limit of 100km/h.

The RTA has worked on a strategy that will allow the 110km/h speed limit to be reinstated along the majority of the highway. A range of initiatives have been implemented to help increase safety and reduce crashes on this link between Victoria and Queensland.

These include major upgrades of the Newell Highway where it intersects with the Sturt Highway, Tallimba Road, the Castlereagh Highway and Oxley Highway.

About 30 intersections have been upgraded and work is being carried out to ensure there is a six metre clear zone on each side of straight lengths of the highway and a ten metre clear zone on the outside of bends. Where this is not possible, wire rope barriers are being installed.

The 100km/h speed limit will remain:

- Between Tooraweenah and Coonabarabran.
- From Coonabarabran to north of the intersection with the Oxley Highway.
- Sections between Jerilderie and Finley.
- Sections between Finley and Tocumwal.
- From Boggabilla to the Queensland border.

The lengths between Tooraweenah and Coonabarabran and Coonabarabran to north of the intersection of the Oxley Highway were 100km/h before the speed reduction in December 2009.

In a related announcement, the RTA is calling on the community to have their say about speed zones and speed limit signs across the state via the RTA's new Safer Roads website.

The information collected will be used to help the RTA prioritise 100 corridors to be reviewed as part of the speed zone audit by March 2012

Speed zone reviews of a number of lengths of road, already identified as problematic, are being finalised and results will be available soon

Newell Highway

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/rulesregulations/newell_hway_speedlimits.html?hhid=newell

Speed Zones Audit - RTA Safer Roads Website

<http://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au>

Ref: R90/1244 RC

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Roads and Transport

Item 24: Transport for NSW Announcement

Minister for Transport, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, and Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, have announced the formation of a new integrated transport authority to be called Transport for NSW.

NSW Department of Transport website
<http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/>

Ref: R90/0552 RC

Transport for NSW will be responsible for the co-ordinated delivery of transport services across all modes. It will see policy and planning experts from all transport agencies working together in the one authority.

Under the restructure, the Roads and Traffic Authority will be abolished and a new body to be called NSW Roads and Maritime Services will build and maintain roads; conduct driving tests; issue licenses and registrations; and oversee harbours and waterways.

NSW Maritime, the Transport Construction Authority and the Country Rail Infrastructure Authority will also cease to exist and their functions will be absorbed by the new integrated transport authority.

The Transport for NSW divisions are:

- Customer Experience – which will make sure journeys are as simple and seamless as possible.
- Planning and Programs – which will consolidate planning for all modes and develop a comprehensive transport masterplan.
- Transport Services – which will ensure transport services cost-effectively meet the current and future needs of customers.
- Transport Projects – which will ensure major projects are delivered on time and on budget.
- Freight and Regional Development – which will make sure freight services and facilities meet the needs of the State economy, with particular focus on regional NSW.
- Policy and Regulation – which will develop and oversight polices and laws pertaining to transport across the State.

Legislation to form Transport for NSW will be introduced in parliament in the next session.

LGSA Response

The LGSA have welcomed the government's decision to overhaul the existing transport agencies including the Roads and Traffic Authority. However, whatever the agency responsible, the NSW government needs to acknowledge the significant role Local Government plays in the delivery of transport infrastructure in NSW, especially the local road network which represents almost 90% of the NSW road network by length. We are seeking assurance that the restructure may represent a downgrading of the status of road funding and management in NSW.

We also acknowledge the renewed focus on customer service, but also hope this includes Local Government and in particular the government's significant engagement with councils on a wide range of roads and traffic issues including funding, maintenance activities, traffic management, road safety and heavy vehicle access and enforcement.

While previous transport and planning ministers have been involved in the development of a range of detailed strategic planning documents for addressing Sydney's transport needs, what has been absent is a subsequent committed and funded implementation plan to deliver these overarching strategies in a timely, consistent and financially viable manner. We therefore look to the new 'Transport for NSW' to move beyond the plans, and towards commitment and delivery of the key transport infrastructure investments that underpin and support those planning strategies.

We also welcome the focus given to freight and regional development in the new transport structure, especially given the importance of efficient freight movement to rural and regional areas of the NSW.

The LGSA look forward to working with the new agencies to help improve roads and transport infrastructure funding and management in NSW, and particularly to address the significant roads and transport funding needs of Local Government.

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Water

Item 25: NSW Government response to Infrastructure Australia/AECOM Report

The NSW Government has provided its response to the AECOM Report prepared for Infrastructure Australia on Regional Water Quality and Security to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Urban Water Sector.

In February 2011, Infrastructure Australia submitted to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Australia's Urban Water Sector and made publicly available a report prepared for it by AECOM entitled Review of Regional Water Quality & Security. Among other things, the report recommends structural reform of Local Government water utilities in regional NSW, preferably the establishment of state government owned regional water corporation similar to the Victorian model. AECOM's recommendations are based on allegations of failure of Local Government water utilities in regional NSW to deliver adequate drinking water quality and to fully recover cost and provide for adequate capital investment.

The NSW Office of Water (NOW) has now provided to the Productivity Commission its comments on the Infrastructure Australia/AECOM report sharing the concerns raised by the LGSA and Local Government water utilities. The LGSA had identified significant shortcomings in the Infrastructure Australia/AECOM Report raising serious doubt over the report's credibility and the value of its recommendations including:

- A significant number of factual errors and conclusions that appear to be incongruous and/or not supported by evidence.
- Policy recommendations on governance structures that lack sound, evidence based analysis and do not adequately take account of significant research and consultation undertaken in NSW during the NSW Inquiry into Local Water Utilities.

The NOW submission

www.water.nsw.gov.au/Urban-Water/default.aspx#draft.

Attachment C of the submission contains NOW's letter of 31 March 2011 to Infrastructure Australia which provides a detailed commentary on the deficiencies of the Infrastructure Australia/AECOM Report.

LGSA submissions on the Infrastructure

Australia/AECOM report
<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2629-submissions.asp>.

Ref: R90/1056-12 SM

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In the News

Item 26: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Shires Association President meeting with rural councils in Western NSW next week

22 July 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3823-22-july-2011-shires-association-president-meeting-with-rural-councils-in-western-nsw-next-week.asp?intSiteID=1>

The President of the Shires Association, Cr Ray Donald, will meet with rural councils to discuss key issues of importance in a series of meetings being held early next week across Western NSW.

Testing the waters leads to huge savings for NSW councils

20 July 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3822-20-july-2011-testing-the-waters-leads-to-huge-savings-for-nsw-councils.asp?intSiteID=1>

NSW councils are now saving the equivalent of one 600ml bottle for each and every person in Australia every day, thanks to an innovative program that identifies leakages and improves efficiencies in water supply pipe networks.

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