



Book your LG Week Awards Dinner tickets!

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

ALGA Sydney Technical Forum

Registrations are now open for the ALGA Sydney Technical Forum - Brownfield Development, Contaminated Land & the Planning System in NSW.

2011 Local Government Web Network Conference

Get your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference.

Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW

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

Email subscription

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

Awards

Item 1: Award opportunities

View the latest Award opportunities for Local Government

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

Grants & Funding

Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

General interest

Item 4: 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference

Get your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference.

Item 5: The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) Person Centred Approach Consultations - starting next week

Living Life My Way.

Item 6: 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.

Item 7: LGSA Water Management Conference 2011

One week remains to plunge in and get the Early Bird rate for the Water Conference.

Item 8: Book your LG Week Awards Dinner tickets!

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

Item 9: LG Week 2011 - Empowering Communities

In celebration Local Government (LG) Week, NSW councils are invited to promote their LG Week activities on the LGSA website.

Community

Item 10: Forum on developing a regional museum

The 'Bricks and Mortar: Foundations for the Future' one day seminar will portray the challenges and opportunities presented when developing a regional museum in an evolving environment.

Environment

Item 10: NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Fund

Applications to the Restoration and Rehabilitation program are now open.

Item 11: NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee - Nominations Sought

The Local Government Association (LGA) is seeking nominations for representation on the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.

Environment/Planning

Item 12: ALGA Sydney Technical Forum

Registrations are now open for the ALGA Sydney Technical Forum - Brownfield Development, Contaminated Land & the Planning System in NSW.

Industrial Relations

Item 13: WorkCover NSW Draft Preventing and Responding to Violence at Work Guide

WorkCover NSW is seeking comment on the *Draft Preventing and Responding to Violence at Work Guide* (the Draft Guide).

Item 14: Requirements for operators of loadshifting plant change from 30 September 2011

Effective from Friday 30 September 2011, councils are advised of new requirements for operators of loadshifting machines, front-end loaders, backhoes, skid steers and excavators as part of the transition process to the *NSW Work Health & Safety Act 2012* on 1 January 2012.

Learning

Item 15: Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Supervisors and Managers

This practical and interactive workshop has been designed specifically for Supervisors and Managers and will assist in building confidence to manage workplace performance issues associated with drugs and alcohol.

Item 16: Handling Difficult People

Handling difficult people training programs aim to assist staff to manage and deal with behaviours from colleagues, customers and other individuals that are difficult, aggressive or verbally and physically threatening.

Item 17: In house Training Services – Training Workshops

Councils can gain significant savings by having training workshops customised to their needs and supplied in-house.

Item 18: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas

Learning Solutions is offering a selection of public staff programs and events scheduled for September 2011 in NSW.

Planning

Item 19: Ministerial Planning Forum – Review of Planning Legislation

Local Government and other stakeholders were invited to share their views on planning reform at a forum hosted by the Planning Minister, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, on Friday 22 July.

Item 20: Urban Design Protocol for Australian cities

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport has asked for feedback on the Draft *Creating Places for People and Urban Design Protocol for Australian cities*.

Item 21: Differences in building standards for apartments (Class 2) and hotels/motels (Class 3)

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has initiated consultations with interested stakeholders on the adequacy of building standards for apartments being used for short-term accommodation in competition with hotels, motels and the like.

Water

Item 22: Australian Government Stormwater Harvesting Program - Third Competitive Grants Round

The Australian Government is calling for applications for funding for eligible stormwater harvesting and re-use projects that capture, treat and use stormwater to ease the pressure on drinking water supplies and deliver improved water quality to urban waterways.

Item 23: Review of Last Resort Arrangements under the *Water Industry Competition Act*

The NSW Government Department of Finance and Services invites submission to a discussion paper on arrangements for retailer and operator of Last Resort under the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006*.

Roads and Transport

Item 24: NRMA Road Safety Grants

Submissions for the NRMA Safer Driving School Road Safety Grants are now open.

Item 25: Auditor General Report on Speed Cameras

The Auditor-General, Mr Peter Achterstraat, has released his report on the Road and Traffic Authority's fixed, mobile and safety cameras.

In the News

Item 26: 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

Book your LG Week Awards Dinner tickets!

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

[| Top |](#)

Conferences and Events

Item 2: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

2011 Local Government Web Network Conference

Get your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference.

LGSA Water Management Conference 2011

One week remains to plunge in and get the Early Bird rate for the Water Conference.

LG Week 2011 - Empowering Communities

In celebration Local Government (LG) Week, NSW councils are invited to promote their LG Week activities on the LGSA website.

Forum on developing a regional museum

The 'Bricks and Mortar: Foundations for the Future' one day seminar will portray the challenges and opportunities presented when developing a regional museum in an evolving environment.

ALGA Sydney Technical Forum

Registrations are now open for the ALGA Sydney Technical Forum - Brownfield Development, Contaminated Land & the Planning System in NSW.

Ministerial Planning Forum – Review of Planning Legislation

Local Government and other stakeholders were invited to share their views on planning reform at a forum hosted by the Planning Minister, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, on Friday 22 July.

[| Top |](#)

Grants & Funding

Item 3: Grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

View the latest grant and funding opportunities for Local Government

Australian Government Stormwater Harvesting Program - Third Competitive Grants Round

The Australian Government is calling for applications for funding for eligible stormwater harvesting and re-use projects that capture, treat and use stormwater to ease the pressure on drinking water supplies and deliver improved water quality to urban waterways.

NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Fund

Applications to the Restoration and Rehabilitation program are now open.

NRMA Road Safety Grants

Submissions for the NRMA Safer Driving School Road Safety Grants are now open.

[| Top |](#)

General interest

Item 4: 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference

Get your ticket to the 2011 Local Government Web Network Conference.

Highlights of this year's Conference include workshops on the National Transition Strategy to WCAG 2.0 presented by the Australian Government Information Office, as well as a workshop with NSW State Records on Record Keeping and Social Media.

Another highlight of the Conference is our "Lightning Talks" where staff from councils will deliver a 5 minute talk on something they've done in the last 12 months. If you have a story to tell us, register for a Lightning Talk now!

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.**
- **A beginners Guide to Mobile Apps** with *Oliver Weidlich.*
- *Online and On Track: Delivering Solutions for Public Library Clients now and in the Future* with Mylee Joseph.
- *Does Online community Engagement Work?* with **Matt Crozier.**
- **PDFs and Accessibility: Can they really be made accessible?** With **Gian Wild.**
- *Workshop: Social Media and Recordkeeping with State Records.*
- **Workshop: An Introduction to CSS3** with *Russ Weakley.*

Don't forget that when you attend the Conference you'll be the first to get your hands on a copy of the 2011 issue of Stories Magazine.

Conference Dates

Thursday 18 – Friday 19
August

Location

Sydney

Cost

Full conference ticket: Both days, 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>

Contact

Reem Abdelaty
02 9242 4000
lgwebnetwork@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R08/0026 RA

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 5: The Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) Person Centred Approach Consultations - starting next week

'Living Life My Way.'

The NSW Government is seeking feedback from people with a disability, their families and carers and members of the community with an interest in improving disability services.

This important initiative is providing an opportunity for people to have their say on creating a disability services system and supports that put the people who need them at the centre of decision making.

Consultations

Monday 1 August – Friday 2 September

To register

www.nswpcaconsult.net

Contact

(02) 8270 2132

pcaconsultations@dhs.nsw.gov.au

Further information

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/pca

Ref: R90/1195-11

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 6: 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 up 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 2010, 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 Friday 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.

Survey will be issued

Friday 5 August

Contact

Gregor Ptok,
HR Consultant,
LG Management Solutions
02 9242 4185
gregor.ptok@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0017-02

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 7: LGSA Water Management Conference 2011

One week remains to plunge in and get the Early Bird rate for the Water Conference.

The LGSA 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 LGSA has created an exciting program (now available on the website) as a result of a very successful call for papers.

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 keynote addresses from Dr Pierre Mukheibir, Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, David Harriss, Commissioner, NSW Office of Water, and Dr Frederic Leusch SmartWater research Facility, Griffith University.

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

Conference Website

www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au

Contact

Meg Fisher
LGSA Manager Events and Protocol
02 9242 4044
meg.fisher@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R10/0004 JH

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 8: Book your LG Week Awards Dinner tickets!

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

The evening is 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. Awards will be 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.

Tickets are \$120.00 each or table of ten for \$1100.00 and can be purchased online (see fact box). Whilst the deadline has passed, we are keeping the tickets available on request only until **Monday morning, 1 August**. This is an absolute deadline and cannot be extended.

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 died tragically in 2009.

This Award is for an individual councillor or council staff member for their efforts in Regional Cooperation Initiatives, where they have been nominated by their council. 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 on Wednesday 3 August in Sydney.

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

**EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES**



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

LG Week
Monday 1 - Sunday 7 August

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

Tickets
Karen Rolls
02 92424050

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

Ref: R10/0006 JH

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 9: LG Week 2011 - Empowering Communities

In celebration Local Government (LG) Week, NSW councils are invited to promote their LG Week activities on the LGSA website.

Councils are encouraged to fill in the online form to advertise what is planned in your area. See the website for hints, suggested activities and what other councils have planned!

This is a good opportunity to focus on the achievements of your council, the breadth of work undertaken and your council's plans for the future.

Showcasing Gosford City Council

LG Week in Gosford will showcase the positive work Council does and encourage a greater relationship with the community:

- **Gosford City Australia Day Community Awards**

Launch – Being nominated for a Gosford City Australia Day Award is a great honour. It is the highest civic award that a resident of Gosford City can receive at a local level. This is your opportunity to recognise someone who makes your proud. Nomination forms can be obtained online at www.gosford.nsw.gov.au

- **Gosford City Garden Competition Launch** – For those who dig gardening, this is your opportunity to have your pride and joy and of course, hard work recognised! Entries are opened until Friday 9 September. Pick up an entry form online at www.gosford.nsw.gov.au

- **Storytime in the Park** – taking place on Monday 1 August and Thursday 4 August at 10.30am in Kibble Park. Ideal for children aged between two – five years for stories, songs and lots of fun!

- **Council Meeting** - Never been to a Council meeting? Want to understand how Local Government works? Come along to the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 2 August at 6.45pm in Council Chambers, 49 Mann Street, Gosford.

- **Polishing the Stars Exhibition** – Gosford Regional Gallery is hosting this exhibition until Sunday 18 September. Photographer Richard O'Farrell has spent the last two years exploring and photographing a remarkable private garden created and cultivated by gardener John Vickary. The garden, situated in Terrigal, enjoys strong local recognition and admiration.

- **Tides of Resilience Exhibition** – Gosford Regional Gallery is hosting this exhibition until Sunday 18 September. Documentary photographer and multimedia storyteller, Rodney Dekker explores how climate change affects communities around the world.

- **Tour of the Japanese Gardens at Gosford Regional Gallery, East Gosford** -The garden is opened daily from 9.30am – 4.30pm, admission is free.

- **Join the Living with Floods Bus Tour** - Gosford City Council in conjunction with the State Emergency Services (SES), is conducting a local Living with Floods bus tour on Wednesday 3 August from 9am – 3pm.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



LG Week
Monday 1 - Sunday 7 August

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

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

Ref: R10/0006 JH

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 10: Forum on developing a regional museum

The 'Bricks and Mortar: Foundations for the Future' one day seminar will portray the challenges and opportunities presented when developing a regional museum in an evolving environment.

Delegates will develop an appreciation for managing council and community expectations when delivering a new museum; hear a first hand account of working with a heritage space and learn how to plan for sustainable outcomes.

The panel discussion will present the views of a range of stakeholders experienced with recent regional cultural projects across NSW. Members of the Newcastle Museum's development team will share their experiences of developing the brief, planning for educational engagement and how to control conditions in a heritage warehouse. These insights will be augmented by a session on planning for eco-logical success.

Speakers include:

- Gavin Fry, Director, Newcastle Museum.
- Allan Smith, Mayor, Dubbo City Council.
- Lesley Atkinson, Director, Community & Cultural Development, Port Macquarie Hastings Council.
- Julie Baird, Acting Deputy Director, Newcastle Museum.
- Sharne Fielder, Design Institute of Australia.
- This event is presented by Museums and Galleries NSW and hosted by the soon-to-be-opened Newcastle Museum.

Forum

Tuesday, 30 August
Newcastle Museum, Honeysuckle

RSVP

Monday 22 August

Cost

\$65 full price
\$45 concession (Students, pensioners, museum/gallery volunteers)
Volunteer museums deal:
Register three delegates for \$100

Online information

http://mgnsw.org.au/sector_development/bricks_mortar/

Further information

Museums and Galleries NSW
fdc@mgnsw.org.au
02 9358 1852
Post: 43-51 Cowper Wharf Rd,
Woolloomooloo 2011

Ref: R90/0333

[| Top |](#)

Environment

Item 11: NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Fund

Applications to the Restoration and Rehabilitation program are now open.

Aim of the program

The aim of the Restoration and Rehabilitation (R&R) program is to facilitate projects to prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation of any kind, run by community organisations and State and Local Government organisations. Through these projects, the Trust also aims to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

Grants of \$5,000 to \$100,000 are available to:

- Community organisations and non-profit associations (total program \$2 million).
- State and Local Government organisations (total program \$2 million).

Objectives

The Objectives of the Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Program are:

- To restore degraded environmental resources, including rare and endangered ecosystems.
- To protect important ecosystems and habitats of rare and endangered flora and fauna.
- To prevent or minimise future environmental damage.
- To enhance the quality of specific environmental resources.
- To improve the capacity of eligible organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.
- To undertake resource recovery and waste avoidance projects and to prevent and/or reduce pollution.

Call for applications 2011

The Trust has changed the cycle of funding for the R&R program which will allow projects to run by financial year, commencing on 1 July each year and continuing for up to a maximum of three years. This change means that the call for applications to this program has been deferred from Saturday 23 July 2011. It is anticipated that organisations will be advised of the outcome of their applications around April each year. This should assist councils to better commit and manage their budgets as first payments will be received early in the financial year, on the signing of a grant agreement as is the current requirement.

Closing date

Friday 2 September

Online information

[2011 Guidelines for Community and State & Local Government Organisations](#)

[2011 Application form for State & Local Government Organisations only](#)

Ref: R06/0041 RV

[| Top |](#)

Environment

Item 12: NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee - Nominations Sought

The Local Government Association (LGA) is seeking nominations for representation on the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee.

The NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC) was established under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* to:

- Provide a forum for all matters relating to control of noxious weeds.
- Provide advice to The Minister on all matters related to noxious weed control.
- Recommend to The Minister allocations from the Government's Weeds Action Program funding and to ensure public authorities are accountable for those funds.
- Recommend to The Minister plant species to be declared as noxious weeds.

Members are appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries for a fixed term, usually two years. Local Government is represented by one representative from the Local Government Association and one representative from the Shires Association.

The NWAC meets regularly (usually quarterly) in either Sydney or Orange. However, it may be necessary to hold meetings in other areas throughout the state and combine meetings with tours so that NWAC members can meet with local control authorities and become familiar with weed problems across NSW.

For attendance at NWAC meetings members are entitled to a sitting fee as approved by the Minister. Reimbursement of expenses (travel and accommodation) is also paid.

The LGA has been invited to provide the names of three nominees to The Minister, to fill a position which is currently vacant. Councils (who are members of the LGA) are therefore invited to provide the names of nominees. These should be provided on council letterhead signed by the Mayor or General Manager and should include a resume and relevant information about the background and interests of the nominee, to assist with the selection process.

Nominations are required by Friday 19 August 2011. If the nomination is being provided in draft form subject to council endorsement this should be indicated in the letter, along with the date when endorsement will be forthcoming. Nominations should be marked for the attention of Geoff Hudson (see fact box).

Nominations due

Friday 19 August

Contact

Geoff Hudson
Senior Policy Officer – NRM
02 9242 4095
geoff.hudson@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0144 GH

[| Top |](#)

Environment/Planning

Item 13: ALGA Sydney Technical Forum

Registrations are now open for the ALGA Sydney Technical Forum - Brownfield Development, Contaminated Land & the Planning System in NSW.

The Managing Land Contamination Planning Guidelines and SEPP 55 Remediation of Land have been in place for 13 years. Now is an opportune time to assess:

- What's working well?
- What's not working as well?
- What could usefully be changed?

Speakers will provide perspectives from different parts of the industry that has to deal with contaminated land and planning system when undertaking Brownfield redevelopment.

A panel comprising speakers and representatives of other stakeholders will then debate a range of issues such as:

- What are the shortcomings of the present planning system as it relates to contaminated land?
- Does the system lead to good outcomes in a timely and cost effective manner?
- Can the process be made more effective?
- Planning authority's acceptance of contaminated land consultants and auditors.
- Community expectations and acceptance.
- Does the planning system work the same in regional areas and urban areas? If different, what are the lessons to be learned from the way it is implemented in different environments?
- Is the current planning system sustainable?
- Is there enough knowledge and awareness within consent authorities to effectively implement the planning guidelines and SEPP55?
- Are additional training opportunities required within the planning community? If so what form should these take?
- Environmental management plans - do they really work within the planning system framework?

The forum will provide an opportunity for industry members to express their views on the current contaminated land planning system in NSW.

Forum

Wednesday 3 August
Henry Davis York, Sydney

Registration closes

10am on the day

Cost

Members \$30.00
Non-Members \$50.00

Online information

www.landandgroundwater.com/Industry%20Calendar.html

Further information

Elisabete Dank
1300 789 719
secretariat@landandgroundwater.com

File: R90/0897 RV

[| Top |](#)

Industrial Relations

Item 14: WorkCover NSW Draft Preventing and Responding to Violence at Work Guide

WorkCover NSW is seeking comment on the *Draft Preventing and Responding to Violence at Work Guide (the Draft Guide)*.

Item 12 of Local Government Weekly Issue 22/11 (10 June 2011) advised councils of the purpose of the Draft Guide and the closing date for submissions – COB Friday 30 September 2011.

Councils are now advised that WorkCover NSW has shortened the development period, and as a result, the closing date for submissions is now **COB Friday 9 September 2011**.

Further information

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/2473-occupational-health-and-safety.asp>

Contact

Dianne Turner
WorkCover NSW
dianne.turner@workcover.nsw.gov.au

Ref: I99/0012-04 NS

[| Top |](#)

Industrial Relations

Item 15: Requirements for operators of loadshifting plant change from 30 September 2011

Effective from Friday 30 September 2011, councils are advised of new requirements for operators of loadshifting machines, front-end loaders, backhoes, skid steers and excavators as part of the transition process to the *NSW Work Health & Safety Act 2012* on 1 January 2012.

Loadshifting machines

From 30 September 2011, there will be no new assessments or re-assessments done by a WorkCover assessor and operators in NSW no longer require a certificate of competency to operate a:

- Front end loader (LL).
- Front end loader/backhoe (LB).
- Front end loader of the skid steer type (LS).
- Excavator (LE).

Notwithstanding these changes, councils continue to have ongoing risk management obligations in relation to providing appropriate levels of information, supervision and training to operators of loadshifting plant.

Determining and demonstrating competency

In light of the new requirements, the following WorkCover factsheets have been formulated to provide information regarding determining and demonstrating competency:

- *Loadshifting machines (Category No. WC03391).*
- *What applicants need to know before being assessed for front-end loader, backhoe, skid steer and excavator (Category No. WC03392).*

Earthmoving machinery used on public roads

Councils should note that earthmoving machinery used on public roads may require road registration and operator licensing under the requirements of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

Obligations under the *Local Government (State) Award 2010*

Councils are also reminded of their ongoing obligations under the *Local Government (State) Award 2010* in relation to:

- Clause 14 subclause (viii) - reimbursing eligible employees required to hold a WorkCover NSW approved certificate or licence the cost of such a certificate or licence.
- Clause 27 - developing a training plan and budget that provides employees with the skills and competencies required to perform their duties in a safe and competent manner.

Clause 33 – providing a safe place of work and work practices in accordance with the provisions of the *NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*.

Further Information

WorkCover Authority of NSW
13 10 50

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
13 22 13

www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Ref: I05/0029-02 PB

[| Top |](#)

Learning

Item 16: Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Supervisors and Managers

This practical and interactive workshop has been designed specifically for Supervisors and Managers and will assist in building confidence to manage workplace performance issues associated with drugs and alcohol.

It is recognised that the use of illicit drugs and the inappropriate use of alcohol and prescription and non-prescription drugs can have serious adverse effects on a person's health, safety and job performance.

Awareness of the issues associated with the use of alcohol and drugs and the application of effective and appropriate interventions can assist Supervisors and Managers to meet their duty of care responsibilities to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Dates and Locations

Wednesday 31 August	Sydney
Wednesday 14 September	Wagga Wagga
Wednesday 21 September	Lismore
Wednesday 12 October	Dubbo

Cost

1 day workshop \$495 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

[| Top |](#)

Learning

Item 17: Handling Difficult People

Handling difficult people training programs aim to assist staff to manage and deal with behaviours from colleagues, customers and other individuals that are difficult, aggressive or verbally and physically threatening.

Diffusing difficult situations is a learned technique and some employees do not have the skills to ensure their safety is not at risk when faced with these situations.

The interactive and practical Handling Difficult People workshop will take participants through negative behavioural styles and explore how to handle them while staying assertive, calm and safe.

The program is suitable for all levels of staff.

Dates and Locations

Tuesday 16 August - Sydney
CBD

Thursday 8 September - Wagga
Wagga

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

[| Top |](#)

Learning

Item 18: In house Training Services – Training Workshops

Councils can gain significant savings by having training workshops customised to their needs and supplied in-house.

Details of most requested in house training workshops below:

General People Skills

- Assertiveness
- Communicating for Success
- Creative Problem Solving
- Effective Investigation Processes
- Handling Difficult People (for all levels)
- Influencing Skills for Women
- Introduction to Internal Consulting Skills (one day, or a two day intensive programs available)
- Mentoring Skills for Managers
- Negotiating for Results
- Time Management
- Verbal Judo for Contact Professionals
- Workplace Behaviour (bullying and harassment prevention, code of conduct etc)

Leadership

- Coaching Skills for Leaders (full or half day)
- Developing High Performing Teams (can be done with a team or with leaders only)
- Leadership workshops for aspiring leaders, supervisors, outdoor leaders and middle and senior managers are available
- Managing Diversity
- Revisiting Leadership (a refresher for experienced leaders)

Customer Service

- Customer Care Professionalism – leader, basic and advanced courses available
- Customer Service Skills for Parking Officers/Rangers/Librarians etc (we customise the programs to suit the individual units)
- Powerful Telephone Techniques

Presentation Skills

- Creative Training Skills
- Facilitation Skills
- Presentation Skills (basic and advanced)
- Training Small Groups

Also ask us about our Writing, Legislation, Recruitment and Selection, Planning and Meeting Skills programs.

Further information

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

Contact

Judy Archer
Learning Solutions
02 9242 4182
learning@lgsa.org.au

Ref: I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

Learning

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

Learning Solutions is offering a selection of public staff programs and events scheduled for September 2011 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.

Customer Care Professionalism

Thursday 1 September – Lismore and Thursday 13 October – Sydney

Media/Communication Skills (for Councillors and Staff)

Friday 2 September – Sydney

Report Writing

Friday 2 September – Sydney

Advanced GIPA

Tuesday 6 September – Lismore

Managing My Stress Responses

Tuesday 6 September – Sydney

Revisiting Leadership (for more experienced leaders)

Wednesday 7 September – Wagga Wagga (and Friday 19 August – Sydney)

Managing Different Generations

Thursday 8 September – Sydney

Handling Difficult People

Thursday 8 September – Wagga Wagga

Managing Information Overload – Speed Reading

Thursday 15 September – Sydney

Leading Change and Uncertainty

Tuesday 20 September – Wagga Wagga

Chairing Effective Meetings

Monday 12 September – Ballina and Tuesday 27 September – Sydney

Finance for Non Finance Managers

Tuesday 13 September – Ballina

Conflict resolution

Monday 19 September – Sydney

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

[| Top |](#)

Planning

Item 20: Ministerial Planning Forum – Review of Planning Legislation

Local Government and other stakeholders were invited to share their views on planning reform at a forum hosted by the Planning Minister, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, on Friday 22 July.

Of the 250 people who attended the Ministerial Planning Forum at Homebush Bay, 40% were from Local Government. Other groups represented were the development industry, peak bodies (representing business, environment, indigenous, community, farmer, heritage and other interests) and state agencies. The Forum was chaired by Tim Moore, the co-chair of the Planning Review Panel recently established to review the State's planning legislation. Ron Dyer is the other co-chair of this panel, but he was unable to attend the Forum on Friday.

The Minister commented that not only is this process about reviewing the *Planning Act*, but he observed a need for a cultural change within government agencies and a "true partnership with Local Government and the community" moving forward.

Minister Hazzard indicated that he is particularly focused on restoring confidence and integrity in the planning system. He showed a genuine desire to listen to councils and other stakeholders to develop a simplified planning system that addresses the needs of the 21st century. When asked about a 'one size fits all' approach, the Minister acknowledged that this is not necessarily appropriate across the 152 councils in the State, and that flexibility was needed.

Participants at the Forum were asked for their views and ideas about 'what good planning legislation should look like'. During the discussions references were made by participants to planning systems of other jurisdictions (inter-State and overseas) and a range of issues and ideas were posed for consideration by the Review Panel.

The Minister acknowledged that the 18 month timeframe for the review is a "mighty challenge." Both he and Mr Moore emphasised that transparency would underpin the process, and they undertook to post all submissions, papers and notes from forums, etc on a website which is shortly to be established. The website will also provide more information about the review process itself and opportunities for stakeholders to have input.

The LGSA will continue to work with the Minister, the Planning Review Panel and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure that Local Government has a voice in these discussions.

Broad details about the review are provided in a fact sheet and media release on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website.

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure website

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/PolicyandLegislation/ANewPlanningSystemforNSW/tabid/68/language/en-AU/Default.aspx>

Fact Sheet

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

News items on planning issues

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

Ref: R04/0066 JP

[| Top |](#)

Planning

Item 21: Urban Design Protocol for Australian cities

The Department of Infrastructure and Transport has asked for feedback on the Draft *Creating Places for People and Urban Design Protocol for Australian cities*.

The Australian Government has recently established a National Urban Policy for a long term, national framework to guide policy development and public and private investment in cities.

This Policy outlines a set of goals, objectives and underlying principles to guide this agenda.

One goal is to enhance liveability by promoting better urban design, planning and affordable access to recreational, cultural and community facilities.

The preparation of the new Urban Design protocol has been developed to in part meet this goal.

The Urban Design Protocol provides an overarching framework to guide and manage the discipline of Urban Design practice. The objective of the Australian Urban Design Protocol is to encourage world-class urban design and architecture, by establishing a framework for the practice and delivery of urban design that will be supported by case studies, a toolkit for best practice and links to additional resources.

The LGSA are seeking a copy of your submission on this Protocol as well as your views on applying urban design principles in your local area.

For access the Protocol and background information see fact box above.

Submissions due

Tuesday 19 July

Online information

<http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu/urbandesign/index.aspx>

Submissions to

Jenny Dennis
Senior policy Officer, Planning
jennifer.dennis@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0755 JD

[| Top |](#)

Planning

Item 22: Differences in building standards for apartments (Class 2) and hotels/motels (Class 3)

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has initiated consultations with interested stakeholders on the adequacy of building standards for apartments being used for short-term accommodation in competition with hotels, motels and the like.

The investigations by the ABCB originate from a Productivity Commission report released in August 2010 (entitled '*Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business*'), which suggested that the inconsistent application of building classifications and the subsequent use of Class 2 buildings as serviced apartments for short term accommodation, is leading to various issues that would benefit from further investigations.

The key issue is that serviced apartments are increasingly competing with hotels in the short-stay tourist accommodation market, but are classified differently within the BCA and are therefore subject to different standards (e.g. in relation to disabled access and fire safety). The potential consequences of this inconsistency include non-compliance with mandated building standards, reduced amenity for long term residents and increased maintenance costs.

The Productivity Commission in its August 2010 report advised that the ABCB should consider whether the current variation in standards is appropriate where the buildings are used for similar (especially tourist accommodation) purposes. The Commission also noted that any investigation of the issue should be informed by "extensive consultation" with all interested parties.

The ABCB is therefore inviting stakeholders to submit evidence, via a short questionnaire, on the impacts of the current differences in standards and to put forward feasible reform options.

If you are interested in this issue and you have experience and feasible reform options to contribute, please contact Jane Partridge in the Policy Unit at LGSA (see fact box) for more information.

Questionnaires due

Friday 19 August

National Construction Code (NCC)

Class 2 buildings - apartments; Class 3 buildings - hotels, motels, hostels etc.

Australian Building Codes Board

<http://www.abcb.gov.au/index.cfm?objectid=7384D707-28B9-11DE-835E001B2FB900AA>

Productivity Commission Report

http://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/102047/business-consumer-services-report.pdf

Contact

Jane Partridge
Senior Policy Officer, Planning
LGSA
02 9242 4093
jane.partridge@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0564 JP

[| Top |](#)

Water

Item 23: Australian Government Stormwater Harvesting Program - Third Competitive Grants Round

The Australian Government is calling for applications for funding for eligible stormwater harvesting and re-use projects that capture, treat and use stormwater to ease the pressure on drinking water supplies and deliver improved water quality to urban waterways.

In recognition of the recent flooding across Australia, projects that include a flood mitigation component will also be eligible for funding.

Applications due

Wednesday 7 December

Online information

www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/urban/stormwater-harvesting.html.

Ref: R90/1056-12 SM

The third round of this grants program under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan's Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Grants Round makes available funding of \$100 million to support urban stormwater harvesting and reuse projects that contribute to:

- Improving the security of water supplies in Australia, without adding to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reducing the demand for potable water supplies.
- Helping to reduce the impact of urban runoff on the ecological condition of receiving waters by protecting or improving water quality and the hydrological regime (e.g. protecting low flows and reducing the impact of high flows).

The third round builds on funding of \$200 million available under the first two rounds.

Project funding is capped at 50% of eligible capital costs, with a minimum project size of \$2 million (eligible for funding of \$1 million).

Project work must be completed by 30 June 2016. This is a competitive grants round and meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee funding.

Online information

Further information on the grants round, on eligibility criteria and on how to apply can be found on the website of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

[| Top |](#)

Water

Item 24: Review of Last Resort Arrangements under the *Water Industry Competition Act*

The NSW Government Department of Finance and Services invites submission to a discussion paper on arrangements for retailer and operator of Last Resort under the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006*.

In August 2008, the NSW Government introduced a new licensing and access regime for private sector entrants into the NSW water supply and wastewater industry; i.e. the *Water Industry Competition Act (NSW) 2006* and its regulations.

To protect consumers, the Act includes provisions to ensure the continued supply of water and sewerage services in the event that a licensed retail supplier fails or becomes unviable - these provisions are referred to as retailer of last resort (RoLR) arrangements. While the RoLR provisions address the possibility of a retail supply failure, the Act does not include provisions that would respond to a licensed network operator failure (Operator of Last Resort - OoLR event) or the failure of a combined network operator and retail supplier.

To address these issues, the Department of Finance and Services is undertaking a review to:

- Assess the adequacy of the RoLR provisions and identify a preferred set of arrangements.
- Identify a preferred option for OoLR arrangements.

The Department has issued a discussion paper and is seeking in relation to two key areas:

- The principles and objectives that should underpin a RoLR and OoLR scheme.
- The issues that must be addressed in developing the detailed provisions that will make up the RoLR and OoLR scheme.

The arrangements for RoLR and OoLR schemes under the Act are a significant issue for councils as it is likely that public water utilities, including local water utilities, will be declared retailer and/or operator of last resort; i.e. being responsible for stepping in if a private provider fails. Clarification is required as to how these risks can be adequately planned for and how the cost associated with making contingency provisions and/or stepping in can be fairly distributed.

The LGSA encourages councils to make submissions to the review and requests that a copy be provided to the LGSA.

Closing dates for submissions

Monday 12 September

Online information

www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/mwp/industry/last_resort

Contact

Metropolitan Water Directorate
02 8281 7344

wica@waterforlife.nsw.gov.au

Sascha Moege
Senior Policy Officer, Finance and
Infrastructure
LGSA

sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au

(For copies of council submissions
and all other queries)

Ref: R90/1056-12 SM

[| Top |](#)

Roads and Transport

Item 25: NRMA Road Safety Grants

Submissions for the NRMA Safer Driving School Road Safety Grants are now open.

The NRMA provides \$100,000 in grant funding each year for road safety projects important to local communities.

Schools, youth organisations, parent and community groups can now apply for a grant and fund a project that addresses a local road safety concern.

Primary School grants, as well as those for High Schools, are available for the first time this year. Grant funding is also available to support the development of road safety teaching resources for interactive whiteboards.

The NRMA welcomes submissions for a wide range of projects that could potentially save lives. Successful grants have been awarded for a range of safety initiatives including educational campaigns targeting driver, cycling and pedestrian safety and correct driver behaviour around school pick up and drop off zones.

Submissions close 25 September 2011 for the following Grant categories:

- High Schools – Ten \$1,000 grants.
- Primary Schools – Ten \$1,000 grants.
- Create an interactive whiteboard presentation - Ten \$1,000 grants for Primary or High Schools.
- Infants and Preschoolers – Four \$2,500 grants.
- Youth-based community groups – Four \$2,500 grants.
- Older Road Users – Four \$2,500 grants.
- General Community – Grants up to \$5,000.

Closing dates for submissions

Sunday 25 September

Further information

<http://www.mynrma.com.au/grants>

Ref: R90/1244 RC

[| Top |](#)

Roads and Transport

Item 25: Auditor General Report on Speed Cameras

The Auditor-General, Mr Peter Achterstraat, has released his report on the Road and Traffic Authority's fixed, mobile and safety cameras.

Auditor-General's report on speed cameras

http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/publications/reports/performance/2011/speed_cameras/speed_cameras_contents.htm

Ref: R90/1244 RC

In his report the Auditor-General found that:

- Overall, speed cameras change driver behaviour and improve road safety. Fixed speed cameras reduce crashes and speeding.
- While the overall impact of speed cameras has been positive, 38 of the 141 fixed speed cameras need to be closely examined as they appear to have no significant road safety benefit. Other road safety measures may be needed for these sites.
- Speed cameras save lives. The RTA should place them where they work, and remove or replace them with other measures when they don't.
- Speed cameras must be integrated with other road safety measures and regularly reviewed to take into account changing road conditions and driver behaviour.

The audit also found that:

- Total crashes and injuries each fell 26% and fatalities fell by more than two-thirds, in the three years after the installation of fixed speed camera. Long term trends show that these reductions have been maintained.
- The average number of speeding fines per fixed and safety cameras declines over time.
- Fixed and safety speed cameras were located in areas with high road safety risk.
- There was no evidence that revenue is a factor in determining where to locate cameras. Revenue from speed cameras reduces the longer they operate.
- If a camera is there to improve road safety, the RTA must publically provide the information to support that decision.

Following the release of the Auditor General's report into speed cameras, the NSW Government has agreed to remove the cameras which were found to be ineffective or that provide no road safety benefit.

[| Top |](#)

In the News

Item 26: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

'Listening' tour highlights support needed for rural communities

29 July, 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3841-29-july-2011-listening-tour-highlights-support-needed-for-rural-communities.asp?intSiteID=1>

'Disaster recovery, the emergency services levy, more funding for roads and rural financial counselling services, were just some of the key issues raised at the Shires Association's 'listening tour' of nine Western NSW councils held this week.

Bigger is not better, amalgamation is not the answer', say councils

28 July 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/3840-28-july-2011-bigger-is-not-better-amalgamation-is-not-the-answer-say-councils.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have rejected the Sydney Business Chamber's comments proposing amalgamations of Sydney councils, as reported in the Daily Telegraph today.

| Top |