



Expressions of Interest to host 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference

The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday, 13 April 2012.

Registration is now open for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2012.

The LGSA Tourism Conference is back for its eighth year: our program will foster an interesting debate on the benefits and challenges of tourism in a destination where coal mining, agriculture and tourism have to sit side by side in the *'Koala Capital of the World'*

Local Agenda – The sport and recreation issue is now available

The LGSA's December issue of Local Agenda is now published and available online.

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

Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

General Interest

Item 2: Registration is now open for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2012.

The LGSA Tourism Conference is back for its eighth year: our program will foster an interesting debate on the benefits and challenges of tourism in a destination where coal mining, agriculture and tourism have to sit side by side in the *'Koala Capital of the World'*!

Item 3: Fundraising for the family of the late Cr Janet Hayes of Kempsey Council

Many of you will be aware of the recent untimely passing of our friend and colleague Cr Janet Hayes in October.

Item 4: NSW Police Force 150th Anniversary

In 2012 the NSW Police Force will commemorate 150 years of service to the people of NSW. The LGSA has been approached to lend their support to this anniversary and have agreed. The LGSA encourages councils to support their Command in developing local events.

Item 5: Expressions of Interest to host 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference

The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday, 13 April 2012.

Item 6: Shires Association of New South Wales

Casual Vacancy Election

Item 7: Local Agenda – The sport and recreation issue is now available

The LGSA's December issue of Local Agenda is now published and available online.

Community

Item 8: Smoke-free outdoor areas

Cancer Council NSW invites councils to support their campaign, calling on the NSW Government to bring in smoke-free legislation covering busy outdoor public places, including playgrounds and alfresco dining areas.

Item 9: Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)

In September 2011, the Minister for Health announced an increase in funding for travel and accommodation through the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS). The reform to IPTAAS also included a commitment to review and streamline the application process.

Item 10: NSW Whole of Government Ageing Strategy

The Minister for Ageing has invited communities to have their say during a series of consultation sessions to be held in January 2012. A Summary Paper has been released highlighting priority areas.

Item 11: Community Transport Driver Authorisation

The NSW Government has released a discussion paper regarding Community Transport Driver Authorisation and has invited Local Government feedback.

Item 12: New Events Policy and Toolkit for NSW Councils

A range of resources are now available to support councils to develop events policy and management frameworks.

Item 13: Revised Local Government Cultural Awards timing

The LGSA has been undertaking a review of the cultural development program with a range of new initiatives supporting councils to be launched in 2012. Amongst the changes is a change to the timing of the 2012 Cultural Awards.

Emergency Services

Item 14: Victorian Review of the 2010-2011 Floods Warnings and Response Final Report

The Victorian Review of the 2010-2011 Flood Warnings and Response has released its final report with 93 recommendations.

Environment

Item 15: Council involvement sought in NSW Asbestos Strategy

The CEO of WorkCover NSW, Lisa Hunt, wrote to all NSW councils on 8 December regarding the issue of asbestos management. Councils are encouraged to respond to WorkCover and become involved in the NSW Strategy to reduce exposure to asbestos.

Item 16: Council input sought on "Best Bin Systems"

A letter has been sent to the General Manager of all councils across NSW seeking comments on the draft Preferred Resource Recovery Practices by Local Council's – Best Bin Systems.

Item 17: Floodplain Management Association Conference

The 52nd Floodplain Management Association Conference is being held at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Batemans Bay from 21 - 24 February 2012. The theme for this year's conference: *Riding the Flood of Change - turning risk into opportunity.*

Industrial Relations

Item 18: Draft Model Work Health and Safety Regulations – summary and key changes for NSW

WorkCover NSW has released an online publication providing a summary and key changes for NSW, based on the draft Model Work Health and Safety Regulations released by Safe Work Australia.

Learning

Item 19: In-house Training Services – Challenging Situations

This item covers workshops that can assist you to deal with difficult and challenging situations. All workshops can be customised for delivery on an in-house basis.

Item 20: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – February/March 2012

This item lists a selection of public staff programs and events scheduled for Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Griffith and Albury.

Planning

Item 21: LGSA Representation at Coal Seam Gas Hearing in Sydney

The LGSA gave evidence last week to the Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 to hearings being held for the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) Inquiry.

Item 22: Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in NSW

The Department of Primary Industries is seeking public comments on a new draft manual for 'Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in New South Wales'.

Item 23: Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas

This five-day course designed to provide planning and development professionals, particularly those working in Local Government, with the necessary skills and understanding to apply the relevant requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, *Rural Fires Act* and AS 3959 (Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas).

Procurement

Item 24: NSW Local Government Procurement Roadmap Program – Stage 2 – EOI extended

Council procurement probity practice is under scrutiny like never before at the same time as new opportunities to drive real administrative and expenditure savings are emerging.

Roads and Transport

Item 25: NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian MP and Minister for Roads and Ports Duncan Gay MLC have announced the development of a Long Term Transport Master Plan for NSW.

In the News

Item 26: Media from the LGSA

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

Conferences and Events

Item 1: Upcoming conferences and events

View upcoming conferences and events relevant to Local Government

Registration is now open for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2012.

The LGSA Tourism Conference is back for its eighth year: our program will foster an interesting debate on the benefits and challenges of tourism in a destination where coal mining, agriculture and tourism have to sit side by side in the *'Koala Capital of the World'!*

Expressions of Interest to host 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference

The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday, 13 April 2012.

Floodplain Management Association Conference

The 52nd Floodplain Management Association Conference is being held at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Batemans Bay from 21 - 24 February 2012. The theme for this year's conference: *Riding the Flood of Change - turning risk into opportunity.*

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 2: Registration is now open for the LGSA Tourism Conference 2012.

The LGSA Tourism Conference is back for its eighth year. Our program will foster an interesting debate on the benefits and challenges of tourism in a destination where coal mining, agriculture and tourism have to sit side by side in the *'Koala Capital of the World'*!

Book now and take advantage of the Early Bird registration fee, which ends on 31 January 2012. Gunnedah is experiencing high mid-week occupancy due to the mining industry. Its time to 'Check In'

Visit the conference website to see listed properties (at the time of publishing) or call the VIC on 1800 KOALAS to discuss bookings, homestay programs or sharing options. Do not try and book serviced apartments as these do not provide short term stays. Start planning now and book your accommodation early. If you experience difficulties call the LGSA on 9242 4050.

The theme of the conference is *'Check In or Check Out! Does your service meet your visitors' expectations?'*, and is presented in partnership with Destination New South Wales, the Tourism Industry Council, industry partners and sponsors.

There will be a great line up of speakers including a keynote address by Penny Burke, Director, Author, Speaker and Brand Advertiser who will feature 'Perception is Reality – it's not about you, it's about your customers!' Penny is creator of the 'Not Happy Jan...' advertisement for Yellow Pages.

The draft program is now available on the website. Don't miss the only Local Government focused tourism conference in NSW - by the industry for the industry.



Gunnedah
LGSA Tourism Conference
Monday 12 – Wednesday 14
March 2012

Host
Gunnedah Shire Council

Website
www.tourismconference.lgsa.org.au

Further Information
Jann Hing
LGSA Events Coordinator
02 9242 4031
events@lgsa.org.au

Registration
Early Bird by 31 January: \$550
Register by 29 February: \$660

Accommodation
Gunnedah Visitors Information
Centre
1800 KOALAS (1800 562 527)

Ref: R11/0010

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 3: Fundraising for the family of the late Cr Janet Hayes of Kempsey Council

Many of you will be aware of the recent untimely passing of our friend and colleague Cr Janet Hayes in October.

Ref: R90/0293-02

At the Local Government Association Conference in October 2011 a fundraiser was held during the Gala Dinner, which raised approximately \$11,000.

The Shires Association Executive intends to hold a further fundraiser in 2012 in conjunction with the annual Shires Conference.

The money raised thus far has been used to cover funeral costs and the memorial service. Any further funds raised will be used to assist the family and/or provide a permanent memorial of some kind in Cr Hayes' memory.

The LGSA, on behalf of Cr Hayes' family would like to thank all those who made donations and provided support during this sad and difficult time.

[| Top |](#)

General interest

Item 4: NSW Police Force 150th Anniversary

In 2012 the NSW Police Force will commemorate 150 years of service to the people of NSW. The LGSA has been approached to lend their support to this anniversary and have agreed. The LGSA encourages councils to support their Command in developing local events.

Ref: R90/0975 NB

The Commissioner is encouraging all Commands to consider developing local commemorative events that have a historical and community feel. It is understood there is a rich history attached to some Commands which should provide opportunities for police and community involvement in the celebratory activities in 2012.

The Commands will be seeking support from Local Government, media, historical societies and community groups. The Commands may be seeking financial or in kind support for planning and implementing their activities.

Activities may include:

- Medal presentation ceremonies.
- Local Sea of Blue March.
- Commemorative plaque dedication or re-dedication.
- Local Police history displays.
- Street or Park naming after local Police killed in the line of duty.
- Clean up of graves of Police killed in the line of duty.

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 5: Expressions of Interest to host 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference

The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday, 13 April 2012.

The LGSA Water Management Conference is an annual event that provides a platform for discussion on issues such as urban water supply and sewerage and other broader water management issues.

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

Criteria for the Expressions of Interest are available on the Water Management Conference website.

Submissions will be evaluated in April/May and applicants will be advised of the outcome in approximately mid-May 2012.

EOI closes

13 April 2012

Website

www.WaterConference.lgsa.org.au

Further information

Jann Hing

02 9242 4031

jann.hing@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R00/0027 JH

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 6: Shires Association of New South Wales

Casual Vacancy Election

ELECTION NOTICE

Nominations are called for:

Division A

Executive Member

Nominations, which must be in writing and comply with the Organisation's registered rules, may be made at any time from 14 December 2011. They must reach the office or postal address not later than 10:00am on Friday, 6 January 2012. Nominations cannot be withdrawn after this time.

The ballot, if required, will open on Friday, 20 January 2012 and close at 10:00am on Friday, 3 February 2012.

For more information regarding the Shires Division A Elections, please contact Peter Coulton, Director Corporate Services, on 02 9242 4030.

Address for lodging nominations

By Post / Fax:

Australian Electoral Commission

P.O. Box 496

Haymarket NSW 1239

Fax: 02 9375 6336

By Hand:

Australian Electoral Commission

Level 4, Roden Cutler House

24 Campbell Street

Haymarket NSW 2000

By Email:

nswelections@aec.gov.au

Ref: R10/0024

[| Top |](#)

General Interest

Item 7: Local Agenda and Presidents' Newsletter now available online

The LGSA's December issue of Local Agenda and 'From the Presidents' is now published and available online.

Please visit the website link to access the online version of the Local Agenda magazine, which has a sport and recreation theme at:

http://www.lgsa.org.au/resources/documents/LocalAgenda_December2011.pdf

For a copy of the monthly 'From the Presidents' newsletter please go to:

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/1264-from-the-presidents.asp?intSiteID=1>

LGSA contact

Loren Plummer, Manager –
Communications and Marketing
(02) 9242 4061
loren.plummer@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R96/0054-02

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 8: Smoke-free outdoor areas

Cancer Council NSW invites councils to support their campaign, calling on the NSW Government to bring in smoke-free legislation covering busy outdoor public places, including playgrounds and alfresco dining areas.

The LGSA is supportive of the current campaign led by the Cancer Council NSW for uniform state-wide law. The current campaign, asking the NSW Government to bring in state legislation called *'Clear the air: Why wouldn't you?'* proposes to give communities everywhere equal access to the health benefits of smoke-free areas.

The Cancer Council invites councils across NSW to add their voice to the campaign for smoke-free outdoor area legislation. For further information please visit the Cancer Council website.

Smoke-free campaign information

<http://www.canceraction.com.au/big-issues-2/smoke-free-outdoor-areas/#action>

Online information

www.cancercouncil.com.au/localgovernment

Further information

Grant Malpas
Cancer Council NSW
02 9334 1891
localgovernment@nswcc.org.au

Ref: R00/0038 MB

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 9: Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)

In September 2011, the Minister for Health announced an increase in funding for travel and accommodation through the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS). The reform to IPTAAS also included a commitment to review and streamline the application process.

Online information
www.health.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R96/0124-03 MB

Consultation commenced in December 2011, with a key focus on reviewing the application forms. Rural and regional consultations are due to occur in early 2012. The LGSA will notify councils and encourage council involvement when further details on these consultations are received from the Ministry of Health.

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 10: NSW Whole of Government Ageing Strategy

The Minister for Ageing has invited communities to have their say during a series of consultation sessions to be held in January 2012. A Summary Paper has been released highlighting priority areas.

The LGSA encourages councils to contribute to consultations. The strategy will address issues such as social inclusion, health and wellbeing, housing, transport, mature workers, volunteering, attitudes to ageing and planning for later life. There are currently approximately one million people in NSW who are 65 years or older and this figure is projected to grow rapidly in the coming decades.

Details of consultations and how to make a submission are available on the Ageing, Disability and Home Care website. The implementation of the Ageing Strategy is part of the NSW Government's Smarter, Stronger, Healthier, Safer Social Policy Framework.

Key Details

January 2012

Online information

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R05/0058 RP

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 11: Community Transport Driver Authorisation

The NSW Government has released a discussion paper regarding Community Transport Driver Authorisation and has invited Local Government feedback.

The NSW Government has agreed to introduce an appropriate community transport driver authorisation framework. Consultation on what that framework should comprise has now commenced, and Transport for NSW is seeking feedback on the Community Transport Driver Authorisation discussion paper.

This discussion paper outlines options for driver authorisation and poses a series of questions. Your responses will help Transport for NSW understand the potential impacts of driver authorisation on community transport operators, drivers and customers, and the most appropriate framework for the sector.

An online feedback form has been provided to assist you in addressing the key questions raised in the discussion paper.

Submissions to the Paper close on Friday 3 February 2012.

If you have any enquires about the discussion paper or the consultation process, please direct them to ctfeedback@transport.nsw.gov.au or call Angela Adams, Senior Policy Officer, Policy and Regulation at Transport for NSW on (02) 8202 3821.

The LGSA will be considering the Paper and would appreciate any feedback from councils or copies of submissions to assist us in formulating a whole-of-Local Government response. These can be made to Richard Connors, Senior Policy Officer, Roads and Transport, LGSA, on 02 9242 4073 or by email to Richard.Connors@lgsa.org.au.

Discussion Paper

Access the Discussion Paper and information on how to provide feedback: [here](#).

Transport for NSW contact

Angela Adams
Senior Policy Officer,
Policy and Regulation
02 8202 3821

LGSA Contact

Richard Connors
Senior Policy Officer - Roads &
Transport
02 9242 4073
Richard.Connors@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0863 RC

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 12: New Events Policy and Toolkit for NSW Councils

A range of resources are now available to support councils to develop events policy and management frameworks.

The '*Developing a Council Community Events Policy - A Toolkit for NSW Councils*' is now available on the Division of Local Government's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au (see 'Publications' and 'Directory of Policy Advice for Councils' under 'Events Management and Filming').

Well managed events are an important part of vibrant sustainable local communities, contributing to the community social fabric and the local economy. The Toolkit aims to provide a framework and tools to assist NSW councils develop an events management policy that is responsive to the character and needs of their local community. The Toolkit includes:

- Events Management Policy Checklist.
- Risk management framework, including model risk and emergency management plans.
- Model Events Management Timeline.

The Toolkit has been designed to complement events management publications produced by the Community Engagement and Events Division, Department of Premier and Cabinet, including the Event Starter Guide. This is available at <http://www.events.nsw.gov.au/event-starter-guide>.

Councils are encouraged to develop an events management policy that articulates the support they have committed to local events and the requirements they expect event organisers to meet when seeking council approval.

Resources

Developing a Council Community Events Policy - A Toolkit for NSW Councils:
<http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Developing%20a%20Council%20Community%20Events%20Policy%20-%20A%20Toolkit%20for%20NSW%20Councils.pdf>

Event Starter Guide

<http://www.events.nsw.gov.au/event-starter-guide/>

NSW Local Government Events Network

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

Ref: R11-0021 CB

[| Top |](#)

Community

Item 13: Revised Local Government Cultural Awards timing

The LGSA has been undertaking a review of the cultural development program with a range of new initiatives supporting councils to be launched in 2012. Amongst the changes is a change to the timing of the 2012 Cultural Awards.

The renewed Cultural Awards will move from calendar to financial year and be presented in conjunction with a Cultural Summit. The Summit will showcase the best practice initiatives identified from among the award nominations and include a range of professional development opportunities. A new Local Government Arts and Cultural Network will be established to facilitate participation of councils in the overall program and collaboration between councils.

The LGSA will call for nominations to the Cultural Awards early in the new financial year, for initiatives delivered between January 2011 and June 2012.

Further information

Chloe Beevers
Project Manager - Arts and
Culture, LGSA
(02) 92424047

Ref: R11/0027

[| Top |](#)

Emergency Services

Item 14: Victorian Review of the 2010-2011 Floods Warnings and Response Final Report

The Victorian Review of the 2010-2011 Flood Warnings and Response has released its final report with 93 recommendations.

On 1 December 2011, the Victorian Review of the 2010–11 Flood Warnings and Response final report was released.

The final report addresses the many issues arising from the review's terms of reference and details 93 recommendations that, if implemented, will support necessary reform of the Victorian emergency management arrangements.

Some of the 93 recommendations involve Local Government; below is a selection of these recommendations:

31. The state undertake a community education program to inform households of their respective flood risk. This may include information on rate notices of heights of houses above flood level and educating people about flash flooding.

38. The state engage with local government to ensure emergency services' public information and warnings reflect the community demographic.

86d. The state retain the ability of a Catchment Management Authority to require a council to refuse a planning permit or impose particular conditions when the Catchment Management Authority considers the flooding risk to be unacceptable.

87. The state, following the completion of the Municipal Association of Victoria Improving Emergency Management in Local Government program, work with municipalities to revise the role and responsibilities of local government in emergency management. The issue of capability and capacity of each local government should be addressed in all related emergency management arrangements.

90. The state implement arrangements to improve the support provided to local government on disaster financing before, during, and after emergency events.

91. The state finalise the 2008 review of Victoria's municipal assistance. This should include addressing:

- The provision of upfront funding for local councils for repair of community assets.
- Packages for early relief and recovery to be included in both the Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements and the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, including outreach packages.
- The process of reimbursement of local councils after floods.

The LGSA will monitor the implementation of the Review's recommendations and any implications for councils in NSW.

Online information

<http://www.floodsreview.vic.gov.au/>

Further information

Victorian Floods Review

Contact@floodsreview.vic.gov.au

1800 351 613

Ref: R90/0753-05LG

[| Top |](#)

Environment

Item 15: Council involvement sought in NSW Asbestos Strategy

The CEO of WorkCover NSW, Lisa Hunt, wrote to all NSW councils on 8 December regarding the issue of asbestos management. Councils are encouraged to respond to WorkCover and become involved in the NSW Strategy to reduce exposure to asbestos.

Background:

In November 2010 the NSW Ombudsman released a report called Responding to the asbestos problem: *The need for significant reform in NSW*. The report highlighted the need for greater support and advice to be given to councils to increase their knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of asbestos management.

In response to the Ombudsman's Report, the NSW Government announced the establishment of an inter-agency central coordination body – The Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) – to improve the management, monitoring and response to asbestos issues by developing coordinated prevention programs. The LGSA is represented on HACA.

The NSW Ombudsman's Report and the NSW Government Response are located on WorkCover's website (<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/healthsafety/headsofasbestoscoordinationauthorities/Pages/headsofasbestoscoordinationauthorities.aspx>).

Due to the complexity of asbestos issues, it is essential that consistent information is available across government agencies and councils and to work in collaboration to provide the safe management of asbestos.

To this end, HACA has been tasked with developing:

- a state-wide asbestos plan.
- a model asbestos policy and technical support for councils.
- an extensive educational campaign to raise public awareness.

Other initiatives include an informative HACA webpage available on the WorkCover website and a Local Council Fact Sheet, developed in consultation with the HACA members. The Council Fact Sheet is available at:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/headsofasbestoscoordinationauthoritieslocalgovernmentfact%20sheet3510.pdf>

The Fact Sheet provides a minimum standard of information that should ideally be displayed on a council website. The aim of the Fact Sheet is to ensure consistent and accurate information across all councils.

Workcover has requested that the Fact Sheet, or a link to the Fact Sheet, be uploaded or incorporated into all council websites by Saturday 31 December 2011.

The LGSA is strongly supportive of the objectives of HACA and are actively participating in HACA and the working group that has been established by HACA. The LGSA representative on the HACA Working Group is Robert Verhey who can be contacted on (02) 9242 4080 or at robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au

As per the request in the letter from WorkCover, all councils are encouraged to:

Website

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/healthsafety/headsofasbestoscoordinationauthorities/Pages/headsofasbestoscoordinationauthorities.aspx>

HACA contact

02 4321 5912

karyn.davidson@workcover.nsw.gov.au

LGSA Contact

Robert Verhey

02 92424080

robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0135 RV

- Provide the contact details for an appropriate person in your council who has knowledge or expertise in asbestos so that further information and knowledge can be readily conveyed (to Karyn Davidson at WorkCover, contact details below).
- Provide information about any current initiatives or activities undertaken in your local area in relation to asbestos. Where council has an asbestos policy, a copy would be appreciated, or a link to a web page where it can be accessed.
- Advise of any asbestos-related issues that the council may face that HACA can assist with.
- Ensure the Fact Sheet or a link to the Fact Sheet is uploaded or incorporated into the council website.
- Check to ensure that all information currently on the council website regarding asbestos is accurate and consistent with the Fact Sheet.

Please provide the information requested above, a link to uploaded asbestos information on council's website and any other information or questions regarding HACA to Karyn Davidson at karyn.davidson@workcover.nsw.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 4321 5912. Councils can also contact Ms Davidson if you would like receive the HACA webpage link and Council Fact Sheet electronically.

The LGSA is also currently finalising recruitment of an Asbestos Project Manager to develop a model asbestos policy for NSW councils. This policy will build on the significant achievements in many councils in NSW, interstate and internationally. Further information about this project will be provided early in 2012.

[| Top |](#)

Environment

Item 16: Council input sought on “Best Bin Systems”

A letter has been sent to the General Manager of all councils across NSW seeking comments on the draft Preferred Resource Recovery Practices by Local Council’s – Best Bin Systems.

The guide updates the 2006 advice regarding minimum service levels for kerbside resource recovery and residual waste collection.

Councils and NSW residents have made significant gains in recycling. Councils have reported improvement in resource recovery, from 30 percent in 2002/2003 to 45 percent in 2009/2010. Councils and industry have asked for the 2006 guide to be updated to assist councils determine the best service levels for kerbside resource recovery and residual waste collection.

The new guide includes information on the resource recovery performance that can be expected from the various domestic kerbside service options.

A copy of the updated guide has been posted and additional copies are available at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/PrefResourceRecovery.htm>

Council comments on the draft guide have been requested by Friday 17 February 2012. Please see the website (link above) for details on how to make a submission.

The LGSA would be interested to receive copies of any council submissions. These can be directed to Robert Verhey, Strategy Manager – Environment at robert.verhey@lgsa.org.au

Comment due

Friday 17 February 2012

Website

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/warr/PrefResourceRecovery.htm>

Further information

Danyelle Carter

02 9995 6201

danyelle.carter@environment.nsw.gov.au or

Sian McGhie

02 8837 6027

sian.mcghie@environment.nsw.gov.au

Ref: R90/0561 RV

[| Top |](#)

Environment

Item 17: Floodplain Management Association Conference

The 52nd Floodplain Management Association Conference is being held at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Batemans Bay from 21 - 24 February 2012. The theme for this year's conference: *Riding the Flood of Change - turning risk into opportunity.*

Conference website
www.floodplainconference.com

Ref: R90/0497-05 GH

The Floodplain Management Association (formerly the Floodplain Management Authorities) was established to promote sound and responsible floodplain management, and to make representations on behalf of Local Government at State and Federal levels.

Each year the FMA Conference brings together over 200 floodplain management practitioners from around Australia and overseas to experience the best of innovation, first-hand accounts of recent flood events, technical aspects, an array of products and services, and productive networking opportunities.

This year the conference program will focus on adapting to change and how to manage risk in this changing world. There will also be pre-conference workshops aimed at technical and non-technical participants on the Tuesday.

Please visit the conference website www.floodplainconference.com to find out further information and to download the conference program.

The Flood Mitigation Authorities, as the FMA was originally known, held its first conference in 1961, and now includes more than 90 member organisations. Website: www.floods.org.au

[| Top |](#)

Industrial Relations

Item 18: Draft Model Work Health and Safety Regulations – summary and key changes for NSW

WorkCover NSW has released an online publication providing a summary and key changes for NSW, based on the draft Model Work Health and Safety Regulations released by Safe Work Australia.

Many requirements under the draft Model Work Health and Safety Regulations are unchanged, or substantially the same as is currently prescribed in the existing NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001.

However, councils are advised that they may need to change how they comply with work health and safety legislation in areas that include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Health and safety representatives.
- Entry permit holders.
- General risk management.
- Residual current devices.
- Asbestos removal licenses and asbestos assessors.
- Pest management technicians.
- Fumigation certificates of competency.
- High risk work licensing classes for load shifting activities.
- Demolition work.
- Major overhaul and shutdown works of fixed plant.
- Chemicals.
- Audiometric testing.
- Notification of schedule 11 hazardous chemicals (dangerous goods).
- Registration of items of plant.

For more information, download the free WorkCover NSW publication, Model Work Health and Safety Regulations – summary and key changes for NSW from the WorkCover NSW website: <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/FORMSPUBLICATIONS/publications/pages/modelworkhealthsafetysummarykeychanges.aspx>.

WorkCover Authority of NSW

Phone: 13 10 50

Website

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/FORMSPUBLICATIONS/publications/pages/modelworkhealthsafetysummarykeychanges.aspx>

Ref: I11/0016 PB

[| Top |](#)

Learning

Item 19: In-house Training Services – Challenging Situations

This item covers workshops that can assist you to deal with difficult and challenging situations. All workshops can be customised for delivery on an in-house basis.

Handling Difficult People

Employees increasingly need to handle people who are difficult and aggressive. This interactive and practical workshop is designed to assist staff to manage these situations in a way that ensures their safety and lessens their levels of stress.

Verbal Judo for Contact Professionals

This program teaches a set of specific behaviours and tactics with which staff can redirect hostile or aggressive behaviour of others, and generate voluntary compliance. It is aimed at outdoor staff, customer service clerks, librarians, development plan officers and health and building inspectors (anyone who could be in danger of physical and/or verbal abuse).

Personal Safety and Conflict Management

This course has previously been run for a range of council staff from inspectorate roles to library environments. It includes physical intervention skills which are a non aggressive way to get people to comply, without pain. Participants receive a comprehensive workbook which also acts as an on-going reference tool.

Preventing Bullying and Harassment

This program will assist you to actively participate in the prevention and management of bullying and harassment in the workplace, by equipping you with the knowledge and skills to have those difficult conversations.

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

Ref I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

Learning

Item 20: Learning Solutions Staff Public Workshops in NSW metropolitan and regional areas – February/March 2012

This item lists a selection of public staff programs and events scheduled for Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Griffith and Albury.

Attend one of Learning Solutions' public workshops and network with council staff from other councils while enjoying the very best of Local Government learning. Workshops include:

Leadership Skills

Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Supervisors

Wednesday 15 February – Griffith

Wednesday 14 March – Sydney

Training Small Groups

Thursday 16 February – Sydney

Selection Skills for Local Government Managers

Friday 17 February – Coffs Harbour

Mentoring Skills for Managers

Thursday 22 March - Sydney

Chairing Effective Meetings

Monday 19 March - Sydney

Writing Skills

Improve Your Business Writing

Monday 26 -Tuesday 27 March - Sydney

Writing Powerful Proposals and Funding Applications

Wednesday 22 February – Sydney

Report Writing

Thursday 23 February - Sydney

English Grammar and Punctuation

Tuesday 28 February – Sydney

Dates

February and March 2012

Registrations

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

Cost

\$550 per person inclusive of GST for one day courses and \$990 including GST for 2 day events

Contact

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

Ref: I98/0012 DR

[| Top |](#)

Planning

Item 21: LGSA Representation at Coal Seam Gas Hearing in Sydney

The LGSA gave evidence last week to the Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 to hearings being held for the Coal Seam Gas (CSG) Inquiry.

On Thursday 8 December, Local Government Association President Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM and Cr Adam Marshall (representing the Shires Association on behalf of Cr Ray Donald, President) represented the LGSA at the CSG Inquiry hearings at Parliament House in Sydney.

Cr Rhoades and Cr Marshall were questioned by the Committee about aspects of the [LGSA's submission](#) to the inquiry, which can be viewed on the LGSA website.

The Committee's area of questions included the following issues:

- Cumulative social and economic impact assessments of resource developments – What models already exist? Who should undertake assessments - proponent or (independent) third party?
- Strategic regional land use planning process - is the strategic regional land use policy a step in the right direction?
- Royalties and revenues - What form should Local Government share of revenues take? What is the LGSA's preferred model?
- Diversification of economic base in rural areas – is diversification a good thing for Shires, assuming all things being equal and there being no deleterious impact on the land?

Responses from Cr Rhoades and Cr Marshall to the Committee included:

We are not opposed to testing to find out the effects because, at the end of the day, the report that will be handed down must be factual. This is what communities now want, expect and should have across New South Wales.

Some assessments need to be done even before exploration is granted, because exploration is very intensive by nature and it has impacts on hard and soft infrastructure and on communities. It involves a lot of activity; having a lot of people in small and sometimes isolated locations, and in some areas, depending on the location, it can put strain on a lot of infrastructure.

An important question from a government point of view is whether we have adequate regulations and adequate resources in place. Are there resources in place to adequately police those regulations? There are concerns that the days of the past, where companies were allowed to self-regulate, have come and gone. The community no longer has the faith in companies to self-police.

The Western Australian Royalties for Regions program is the LGSA's preferred model for revenue sharing. It hypothecates a percentage of the total royalty take and returns it to the regions in which the royalties are collected. This view is shared by the New South Wales Association of Mining Related Councils.

Essentially it is the aim of all of our member councils, especially in country areas, to diversify our economic base as much as possible. However, we do not want to see an industry come into a region and flourish at the expense of existing productive industries. That is where we come back to the strategic regional land use policy of trying to ensure that there is room for everyone. We do not want to see a new industry flourish and lose two existing industries or to have them diminished, which would in turn have a negative effect and would be counter to our attempts to diversify our economic base.

The full transcript of the Hearing on Thursday 8 December 2011 can be viewed [here](#).

CSG Hearing transcript (8 Dec 2011): [Here](#)

LGSA's submission to the Inquiry: [Here](#)

Ref: R90/1160-08 JP

[| Top |](#)

Planning

Item 22: Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in NSW

The Department of Primary Industries is seeking public comments on a new draft manual for 'Best Practice Management for Meat Chicken Production in New South Wales'.

The manual will replace the NSW Meat Chicken Farming Guidelines (2004) to reflect changes in industry operational practice, environmental guidelines and planning, design and construction of meat chicken sheds and associated infrastructure.

The draft manual consists of two parts:

- Part 1 - Site Selection and Development
- Part 2 - Broiler Growing Management

These draft manuals have been developed by NSW Poultry Meat Industry Committee in conjunction with industry groups, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Office of Environment and Heritage and Department of Planning and Infrastructure, and in consultation with equivalent agencies in Queensland and Victoria.

The aim is to provide guidance for the planning, design, construction, management and welfare of meat chicken farms in NSW with a particular focus on minimising environmental impacts.

The manuals detail location, design and management principles to ensure meat chicken farming can be environmentally sustainable. Potential environmental impacts of meat chicken farms that include community amenity, water and land contamination have been identified, along with measures to minimise the potential for these impacts.

Comments on the draft manuals are due by Tuesday 31 January 2012; please send comments to the DPI's Poultry Livestock Officer, Byron Stein.

The LGSA requests councils forward a copy of their comments on the draft manuals to Liz Gemes, Policy Rural Affairs.

Comments due

31 January 2012

Online information

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/poultry/development/bpm>

Further information

Department of Primary Industries: Byron Stein, Poultry Livestock Officer, 02 48286600 or byron.stein@industry.nsw.gov.au

LGSA

Liz Gemes
Policy Officer Rural Affairs
02 92424063
liz.gemes@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R90/0537lg

[| Top |](#)

Planning

Item 23: Planning for Bushfire Prone Areas

This five-day course designed to provide planning and development professionals, particularly those working in Local Government, with the necessary skills and understanding to apply the relevant requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act*, *Rural Fires Act* and AS 3959 (Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas).

It is essential that professionals involved in this area have a thorough grasp of both the legislation and planning and design principles involved, as well as an understanding of related aspects of bushfire behaviour and management. This is required not only to produce quality outcomes but also to help protect councils against claims of negligence in exercising their development control functions.

The course will be of value to planners, building surveyors, subdivision engineers, bushfire control personnel, architects and others responsible for the design and control of development.

The program includes a mix of lectures, workshop sessions and a field trip. It will be taught interactively, with ample opportunity for discussion.

Course Details

Dates: 20-24 February 2012

Duration: 5 Days

Cost: \$1990 (GST Free)

Availability: Places Available

Online information

Course Brochure:

<http://www.clg.uts.edu.au/shortcourses/PDFs/PBPA.pdf>

Register Online:

<http://www.clg.uts.edu.au/shortcourses/onlinereg.html>

Contact

Ann O' Loughlin

Short Course Coordinator

+61 2 9514 7884

clg@uts.edu.au

W: <http://www.clg.uts.edu.au>

Ref: R90/1033-16

[| Top |](#)

Procurement

Item 24: NSW Local Government Procurement Roadmap Program – Stage 2 – EOI extended

Council procurement probity practice is under scrutiny like never before; at the same time as new opportunities to drive real administrative and expenditure savings are emerging.

To assist councils to address probity challenges and take advantage of new opportunities, Local Government Procurement (LGP) is pleased to partner with PMMS Consulting Group to offer all NSW councils the opportunity to participate in Stage 2 of the NSW Local Government Procurement Roadmap Program.

The NSW Local Government Procurement Roadmap Program - Stage 2 was launched at the Annual Local Government Procurement Conference on 18 November at the Sydney Masonic Centre.

Stage 2 follows the completion of a highly successful Pilot Program on the Mid-North Coast. *'One of the best run, most effective and most appropriately targeted programs I have been involved in'* Craig Swift-McNair - Executive Leader Resource Planning, Greater Taree City Council.

Now undertaken for 80 councils across Victoria and NSW, the Program is designed specifically to support participating councils in raising the profile and capability of procurement through assessing and benchmarking your practice, and developing individually tailored Strategic Action Plans (Roadmaps).

The Program is being supported by LGP to keep costs down and maximise benefits for participating councils. Recent quotes for similar programs have been well over \$20,000. The total council contribution for full participation in this program will be only \$6,500 excluding GST, including all expenses. The additional subsidy for the first ten regional councils has been exhausted.

The Expressions of Interest (EOI) has been extended and now closes on Wednesday 18 January 2012. For a detailed Program Outline and Expression of Interest Form see the LGP website <http://www.lgp.org.au/www/html/4000-nsw-local-government-procurement-roadmap-program--stage-2.asp?intSiteID=3>

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

Contact

Chris Newman
PMMS Consulting Group
0412 318 384
chris.newman@pmms.com.au or

Brian O'Mara
LGP
02 8270 8700
bomara@lgp.org.au

Ref: R05/0057

[| Top |](#)

Roads and Transport

Item 25: NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian MP and Minister for Roads and Ports Duncan Gay MLC have announced the development of a Long Term Transport Master Plan for NSW.

Transport for NSW, on behalf of the NSW Government, is to prepare the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan. Preparation of the Plan will:

- Identify the transport needs for NSW over the next 20 years and the challenges to be overcome.
- Identify the role of each transport mode in meeting future needs including rail, road, buses, ferries, cycling, and walking.
- Gain insight into community expectations for transport.
- Consider options for future development of the transport system.
- Identify the preferred directions for development.
- Identify and confirm initial priorities for both services and infrastructure.

Extensive consultation with key stakeholders from industry, Local Government, transport specialists, customers and the community will be carried out over 12 months to better understand the challenges for transport planning, identify transport needs and collaboratively develop a new comprehensive plan for all modes of transport, across all of NSW.

The NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan has a stated aim to improve the integration of the NSW transport system by putting industry and customers at the “centre of the picture”, and deliver certainty and a strong framework for the future of transport in the State.

The Presidents of the LGSA (along with various individual Councils and Regional Organisations of Councils) have been invited to participate in a Local Government Advisory Group to assist with the formulation of the Plan by:

- Creating a forum for discussion and exchange of information on topics related to the development of a Long Term Transport Master Plan for NSW.
- Assisting the project team to identify issues related to the transport system that will input into the development of the plan.
- Acting as a two way communication link between the project team and key Local Government stakeholders.

Further information on the Master Plan and Local Government Advisory Group will be provided in due course.

Key Details

Access the NSW Transport Master Plan website:

<http://haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/transportmasterplan>

LGSA contact

Richard Connors
Senior Policy Officer
Roads & Transport
02 9242 4073

Richard.Connors@lgsa.org.au

Ref: R97/0037 RC

[| Top |](#)

In the News

Item 26: Media from the LGSA

View the latest media releases distributed by the LGSA

Councils ask – “what exactly does localism mean in the MDBP?”

15 December 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/4103-15th-december-2011-councils-ask--what-exactly-does-localism-mean-in-the-mdbp.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have expressed concern about what exactly the new environmental watering scheme means in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan (MDBP).

LGSA donates over \$17K to its charity of the year

13 December 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/4102-13th-december-2011-lgsa-donates-over-17k-to-its-charity-of-the-year.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have donated \$17, 957 to their charity of the year for 2011, Stewart House*.

Its time for Container Deposit Schemes, councils say

9 December 2011

<http://www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/4098-9th-december-2011-its-time-for-container-deposit-schemes-councils-say.asp?intSiteID=1>

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) have expressed serious reservations with the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) issued on Thursday, 8 December 2011 by the Council of Australian Government (COAG) Standing Council on Environment and Water.

[| Top |](#)