

# Public Services Bulletin



A•S•U

• local government • energy-electricity • railways & public transport • water •  
• state & federal government services •  
February 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Below is the latest list of ASU - Public Services Bulletin related e-mails. It is hoped that this Bulletin format has reduced the number of e-mail news items that would otherwise have been forwarded to you and will allow re-circulation in a useable format as you need. Please re-circulate the Bulletin (once published on the ASU web site) . Further details on the below items can also be located at <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com/>

## [ASU appears before productivity Commission hearings](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/02/asu-appears-before-productivity.html)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/02/asu-appears-before-productivity.html> The ASU recently appeared before the Australian productivity commission to argue against the productivity commission points of privatization of the electricity industry , The productivity commission in late 2012 released its report at , which the ASU responded to and was then invited to appear before the productivity commission hearings in Canberra . ASU branches were consulted and provided with copies of the ASU submission, located at [http://www.asu.asn.au/documents/doc\\_download/100-2012-electricity-netw...](http://www.asu.asn.au/documents/doc_download/100-2012-electricity-netw...) [more »](#)

## [The National Transport Commission \(NTC\) is currently reviewing the heavy vehicle charging system and identifying potential improvements to ensure it is practical and fair.](http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCList.aspx?Mode=2004&Areald=38)

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCList.aspx?Mode=2004&Areald=38> A discussion paper outlining proposed improvements will be released for public consultation on 1 March 2013 on the NTC website. Following the release of the discussion paper, the NTC will embark on a series of consultation forums in each state and territory. To learn more about the review and have your say, register to attend one of the consultation forums by calling toll free 1800 503 082 or online: <http://www.emgevents.com/event/ntc/> Advice NTC

[Re-municipalizing public services in Europe](http://www.epsu.org/a/8683) <http://www.epsu.org/a/8683>. paper by David Hall, PSIRU, University of Greenwich \*1. Re-municipalisation and the revival of the public sector - \*After many years when privatisation, contracting-out and outsourcing have been the dominant trends across the public services, there is now increasing evidence, particularly in the municipal sector . including water and energy . of trends in the opposite direction. This short briefing looks at the background, the latest evidence and highlights some of the key issues facing trade unions faced by re-municipalisation. \*2. Background: The pres... [more »](#)

## [TOKYO RENGO & Tokyo Metropolitan headquarters of All - Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/02/tokyo-rengo-tokyo-metropolitan.html)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/02/tokyo-rengo-tokyo-metropolitan.html> ASU meets with Japanese local government union, last week Tomoki Miyamoto - President of Tokyo Metropolitan headquarters of All - Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers Union , when he led the TOKYO RENGO [http://www.rengo-tokyo.gr.jp/html/index\\_en.html](http://www.rengo-tokyo.gr.jp/html/index_en.html) delegation to meet with UNIONS NSW in Sydney and attend UNIONS NSW Annual General Meeting (AGM) (Mr Tomoki Miyamoto is also Vice President of Tokyo Rengo ) pictured with Mr Miyamoto is Paul Reid from the USU (US Branch of ASU) and myself - both Pa... [more »](#)

## [water industry operators association latest bulletin =](http://www.wioa.org.au/publications/documents/OperatorFeb13.pdf)

<http://www.wioa.org.au/publications/documents/OperatorFeb13.pdf>

## [water industry operators association - advice for ASU branches working in Water](http://www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIOAWordsFeb13.pdf)

The February Edition of Words is now available for members and includes a number of fantastic opportunities coming up in the coming months. <http://www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIOAWordsFeb13.pdf> The NSW Conference and Exhibition to be held on \*10 & 11 April 2013 in Canberra. \*We have been able to put together an engaging program with representation from a number of Councils across NSW as well as presenters from interstate. Delegate Registration Forms are available from our website. <http://www.wioa.org.au> \*OPPORTUNITIES\* - Call for Papers for Queensland Conference 2013 the closing ... [more »](#)

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[the recent Fires and Storms across Australia](#) The recent storms and fires are also a big reminder why we need to keep these services and the plant and equipment local in local communities, keeping local depots and offices open and keep these services in state government (electricity) and local government ownership \*- only public ownership can guarantee services jobs and equipment are local, public ownership means local responsibility, a bigger say by the public and accountability through the ballot box of politicians - not accountability for company share holders that live in other communities, keep their plant and equipment ... [more »](#)

## [Cuts to public sector jobs are driving a rise in unemployment and putting pressure on services](#)

<http://www.actu.org.au/Publications/EconomicReports/ACTUJobsReportFebruary2013.aspx> \*- \*New research by the ACTU reveals that the number of public sector jobs in Australia has fallen for the first time in more than a decade after Coalition state governments last year sacked tens of thousands of workers and made harsh cuts to public services. More than 50,000 public administration and safety jobs were lost around the country in the year to November 2012, with about half of those cuts taking place between May and November as state governments in New South Wales and Queensland executed... [more »](#)

## [Amalgamation not the path to real reform - NSW Local Government](#)

<http://www.usu.org.au/news/local-government/435-amalgamation-not-the-path-to-real-reform> Brian Dollery, Professor of Economics and director of the centre for local government at the University of New England, believes changing the processes of councils and not the structure is the answer to reform. "The issue of reform in local government is a major concern to the USU and its members, therefore we have reproduced some of Professor Dollery's article from Tuesday's \*Sydney Morning Herald\*." \* USU General Secretary Graeme Kelly. \*The main outcome so far has been... [more »](#)

## [ASU acts to ensure local government access to federal funding](#)

<http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130213-localgovt-funding> The ASU has clarified with the Minister for Local Government that "unintended consequences" arising from the use of different terminology in different states in relation to grants and funding matters will not impact the equitable access to funding by local governments\*.\* In recent times some state governments have believed their local government authorities, including councils, have been disadvantaged by the use of the term "body politic" versus "body corporate". Some have gone so far as to suggest structures, n... [more »](#)

[Inquiry into the use of fly-in, fly-out\(FIFO\) workforce practices in regional Australia](#) On Wednesday 13 February 2013, the House Standing Committee on Regional Australia tabled its report on the inquiry into the use of fly-in, fly-out(FIFO) workforce practices in regional Australia entitled \*Cancer of the bush or salvation for our cities? Fly-in, fly-out and drive-in, drive-out workforce practices in Regional Australia\*.  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=ra/fifodido/report.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=ra/fifodido/report.htm) .

[Anniversary of Sydney bombing that took lives of two Council Workers](#) - 35 anniversary of the of a bomb exploding outside the Sydney Hilton hotel , as Council workers emptied a kerb side waste bin , into a Council waste compactor truck. As many Local Government workers do each day. On this occasion some one had placed bomb in the waste container and as it was emptied into the rear of the waste truck it exploded killing two Council Workers, and injuring the driver - a NSW Police Officer on duty at the scene also passed away a week later due to injuries. The bombing took place at the time the Australian Government was hosting a meeting... [more »](#)

[Qualifications Update - Validation - local govt areas](#) <https://www.cshisc.com.au/index.php>- Draft Two of the following qualifications and competency standards, are now open for public review and feedback: \* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers \* Children's Services \* Education Support \* Child, Youth and Family (including Youth Work, Youth Justice and Child, Youth & Family Intervention \* First Aid Qualifications Update - Validation \*Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council\* \* Review of Draft Two documents\* Draft Two of the following qualifications and competency standards, a... [more »](#)

## [ACTU welcomes changes to bullying laws and increased worker protections](#)

<http://www.actu.org.au/ACTUwelcomeschangestobullyinglawsandincreasedworkerprotections.aspx> ACTU president Ged Kearney said intimidation, harassment and oppressive behaviours in the work place were unacceptable and Government changes that make bullying policy part of the federal workplace system will go a long way towards shifting negative culture. Ms Kearney said, %We welcome any laws that lead to further protections for workers. There have been

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horrendous stories in the past about bullying and the impacts, especially on young workers.+She said the Productivity Commission had cost...[more »](#)

## [50% of women don't go back to work because of unfriendly workplaces - Australian Council of Trade Unions MEDIA RELEASE Monday, 11 February 2013](#)

The ACTU has welcomed the current debate around family friendly work arrangements and calls for the government to give 'the tiger some teeth'. It's vital that the debate continues especially considering 44% of mothers say they do not feel comfortable taking time out from work to care for their children because their workplace is not family friendly,+Ged Kearney, ACTU President said. %And 50% of women with two year old children who are forced to choose between family and work remain unemployed. This is crazy when you consider the impact on our economy.+%We want to improve produ... [more »](#)

## [Consultation begins to find the ultimate model for job services in Australia](#)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/02/consultation-begins-to-find-ultimate.html> The Australian Government is calling for ideas to help build the ultimate model for job services in Australia, with the first of a series of nation-wide stakeholder consultation sessions commencing on Friday last in Hobart. Minister for Employment Participation Kate Ellis said the sessions will help inform how Australia's future employment services will operate from July 2015. %We've invested \$10 billion in employment services to help support all Australians, no matter their walk in life into a good jo... [more »](#)

## [Australian Local Government Womens Association meets](#)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/02/australian-local-government-womens.html> Today I had the opportunity to join Eva Cox, Mick Dolane (MUA) , and members of the NSW ALGWA NSW including its State President Julie Griffiths at a NSW meeting of ALWA at Penrith NSW . I was asked to be guest speaker and panel member to speak on the issue of Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, (see my earlier items under local govt on this issue) . i was surprised at the number of questions, on local govt recognition in the Australian constitution and the interest the issue is generating f... [more »](#)

## [Latest - E-Oz Energy Skills Australia](#) <http://www.e-oz.com.au/index.php/publications/publications/e-bulletin/25-e-bulletin/148-e-bulletin-4-02-13> Advice E-Oz

## [E-OZ - Report The Changing Face of Electrical Apprentice Training](#) [http://www.e-oz.com.au/images/Reports/Other\\_Reports/The\\_changing\\_face\\_of\\_electrical\\_apprentice\\_training.pdf](http://www.e-oz.com.au/images/Reports/Other_Reports/The_changing_face_of_electrical_apprentice_training.pdf)

This paper examines the changing face of electrical apprenticeships in Australia, considering both the cohort of new apprentices and the qualification itself. Understanding the needs of apprentices, expressed through cohort demographics, and the needs of employers, expressed through the performance standards in Training Package qualifications, is necessary to ensure training is demand driven and meets the needs of stakeholders. Advice E-Oz \*the ASU works with E-Oz for ASU M\*\*em... [more »](#)

## [First Nations/First Peoples or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples - 'National Local Government Indigenous Employment Position Paper - ASU Local Government Branch - Reminder](#)

<http://www.ancelg.org.au/upload/National%20LG%20Indigenous%20Employment%20Position%20Paper.pdf> - ACELG and LGMA National have released the 'National Local Government Indigenous Employment Position Paper - Closing the Gap through Place-based Employment'. This paper aims to encourage and facilitate increased Indigenous workforce participation in local government, and is a response to considerable workforce challenges that lie ahead for the sector. (According to ACELG) The discussion paper can be down loaded here at <http://www.ancelg.org.au/upload/National%20LG%20Indigenous%20Employment...> [more »](#)

## [Women and Globalisation: The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#) [www.aftinet.org.au](http://www.aftinet.org.au) \*Never

heard \*of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement being negotiated by Australia, the US and nine Asia Pacific countries? Think that trade agreements\* don't affect women's rights? \*\*Think again! \* \* \* \* \*Trade agreements can create global rules which mean higher prices for medicines and for seeds used by women farmers, privatisation of public services and less ability for governments to make laws to protect women's rights. \* The Australian Fair Trade & Investment Network (AFTINET) presents a special seminar to mark the lead-up to International Women's Day... [more »](#)

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