

Public Services Bulletin



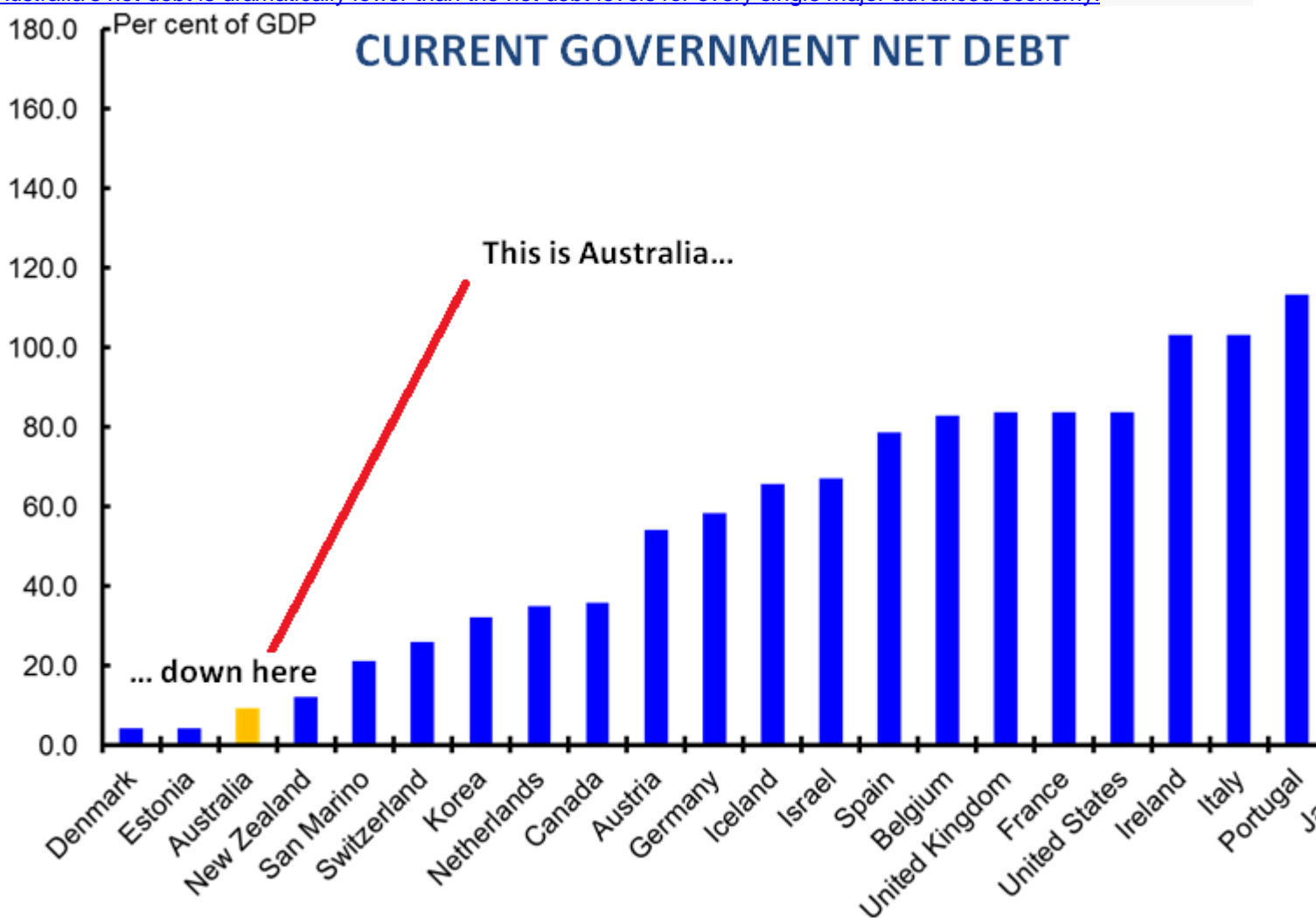
A•S•U

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

Dear Colleagues,

The following are 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/>

[Australia's net debt is dramatically lower than the net debt levels for every single major advanced economy.](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/australias-net-debt-is-dramatically.html)



<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/australias-net-debt-is-dramatically.html> As someone who has been an economist for more than 25 years, including almost 13 years with global banks, I'm sick of the misinformation campaign being run by the Liberal Party and sections of the media about the Australian economy. Let's have a debate on the economy, for sure, but let's make sure we stick to the facts. This morning it continued with a beat up in the tabloid press misrepresenting Australia's modest debt. The fact is Australia's net debt is dramatically lower than the net d... [more »](#)

[Water Operators - March Edition of Words is now available to be downloaded from the WIOA website.](#)

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch /
Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary,
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au W: www.asu.asn.au

<http://www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIOAWordsMar13.pdf>

[Creative Australia, 18 years after Creative Nation](http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130322-creative-australia) <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130322-creative-australia> The ASU welcomes the Gillard Government launch of the National Cultural Policy. "Creative Australia" will reform Australian Government support for the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries. In welcoming the Government's announcement on the National Cultural Policy, ASU Assistant National Secretary, Greg McLean said, "Bringing the opportunity for local government to play an important role in the area of the arts is a natural blend of the arts community and the local community." "The local jobs and comm... [more »](#)

[Veolia loses its water contract in Nice, France](http://www.world-psi.org/en/veolia-loses-its-water-contract-nice-france) <http://www.world-psi.org/en/veolia-loses-its-water-contract-nice-france> Veolia will lose its water contract for Nice after Mayor Christian Estrosi said he wants the French city to control its water management from February 2015. This is one of Veolia's Heritage Contracts. It's the oldest private water contract in the world, awarded without competition and never once subjected to competition in 150 years. The president of the city Nice Côte d'Azur, Christian Estrosi, announced on 1 March 2013 his choice to return in the regulated water utility of the city of Nice in February 2015, w... [more »](#)

[Building local government contact with New Zealand UNION \(NZ PSA\) .](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/building-local-government-contact-with.html) <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/building-local-government-contact-with.html> Just to let you know that through recent discussions with the public services international we have rebuilt our contacts with the NZ PSA and are exchanging updates and experiences. Two recent news items from the NZ PSA have been republished at the following two links as an example <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/living-wage-next-step-for-auckland-nz.html> <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/nz-psa-calls-for-review-of-wcc.html> Most of our news items for the NZ PSA will be published at my... [more »](#)

[NZ PSA calls for review of WCC restructuring and contracting policies](http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/nz-psa-calls-for-review-of-wcc-18.html) * <http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/nz-psa-calls-for-review-of-wcc-18.html> ** * The Public Service Association is calling on the new chief executive of Wellington City Council to put a stop to further restructuring and review the Council's contracting out policies. The PSA represents more than 200 Council staff and is the largest union in the local government sector. At a meeting this week PSA members said while they want to work constructively with new CEO Kevin Lavery, they are calling on him to put a moratorium on restructuring until a review can be held. PSA National Secret... [more »](#)

[NSW Forced council amalgamations in NSW repudiated - published Government NSW](http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2013/03/21/article/Forced-council-amalgamations-in-NSW-repudiated/LVFWJZKMXG.html) <http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2013/03/21/article/Forced-council-amalgamations-in-NSW-repudiated/LVFWJZKMXG.html>

[Water, workers and our communities: Cooperating for the common good World Water Day 22 March 2013](http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/water-workers-and-our-communities.html) <http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/water-workers-and-our-communities.html> The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2013 the "International Year of Water Cooperation", following its endorsement of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in 2010. Public Services International affiliates around the world are committed to advancing this right in this international year of cooperation, and beyond. PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli says, "Implementing this human right is the cornerstone of our work in the public water and sanitation sector. PSI member unions are mobilisin... [more »](#)

[World Water Day - 22 March](http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/events/world-water-day/en/) <http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/events/world-water-day/en/> World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. In 2013, in reflection... [more »](#)

[E-Oz Energy Skills Australia e-Bulletin - March 21st](#) To view the complete e-Bulletin please click here Advice from E- OZ

[Right-To-Request Flexible work protections](http://workinglife.org.au/timetocare/) The ACTU is looking for more stories from members: <http://workinglife.org.au/timetocare/> Members can go online now and petition the Government to make sure they know how family-friendly work arrangements are necessary to support working life. ASU National office item with more detail here: <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/securejobsbetterfuture/130320-time-to-care>. Advice from Joanne Knight ASU National Women's Consultative Committee Convenor jknight@asu.asn.au

[Rally Demand that the World Bank Sever its Relationship with ICSID An Investor State Tribunal](http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/demand-that-world-bank-sever-its.html) <http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/demand-that-world-bank-sever-its.html> *Where:* World Bank's Sydney Office *When:* Friday 22 March *Lunchtime* 12 to 12:30 *Location* 14 Martin Place CML Building Sydney NSW 2000 The World Bank is supposed to promote economic development and end poverty. But the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) arbitrates cases brought by global corporations against governments.

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary ,
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au W: www.asu.asn.au

ICSID rulings allow corporate exemptions to national environmental, public health and labor protections. The tribunal undermines demo... [more »](#)

[Early Childhood Educators get a boost](http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130320-early-childhood-educators) <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/localgovt/130320-early-childhood-educators> *The ASU welcomes the Gillard Government making a \$300 million commitment to boost quality early childhood education and care and establishment of the Pay Equity Unit of the Fair Work Commission.* In welcoming the Government's announcement, ASU Assistant National Secretary, Greg McLean acknowledged, "This is an important step in the recognition of educators and all child care centre workers." The ASU has been a long term campaigner for pay equity and recognition of Early Childhood Educators, pursuing nego... [more »](#)

[LIVING WAGE - NEXT STEP FOR AUCKLAND - NZ PSA](http://psa.org.nz/YourWorkplace/LocalGovt/LGBlog.aspx) <http://psa.org.nz/YourWorkplace/LocalGovt/LGBlog.aspx> Auckland Council has a vision to create "the world's most liveable city." For this to become a reality, people need a Living Wage. In a great first step, Mayor Len Brown stated his support for the principle of the living wage when he met with 20 Living Wage community leaders in February. Rev. Fakaofu Kaio urged Len Brown to be a "voice for the voiceless" while a contracted cleaner at Auckland Council told his story of struggling to live on \$13.85 when he must travel to the city every night for an ever decreasing number of hours o... [more »](#)

[Pro Public Library article in Government News - Local Government](http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2013/01/14/article/Library-cuts-lend-nothing/FGRZQTFHV.html) <http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2013/01/14/article/Library-cuts-lend-nothing/FGRZQTFHV.html> The above links to an item published earlier this year by Government News covering off the positive benefit of public libraries, . most of use would know that Local Government is the largest provider of Public Libraries in Country , once again the article shows the positive and great contribution made by those that work in our libraries - again our Union Members that work in local government Libraries are a great example .

[New TUC Publication - The Case for Stronger Laws - Time to Change - Health & Safety Bulletin](http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-21991-f0.cfm) <http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-21991-f0.cfm> One of the principles that underpin the Health and Safety at Work Act is the belief that the involvement of the workforce is crucial to achieving good standards of health and safety, and that health and safety systems work best when trade unions and employers work together. In fact the involvement of workers, through their representatives, has been one of the great successes of health and safety.... Read more. <http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-21991-f0.cfm>

[for those dealing with National Express](#) *German unions EVG and Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di) have received no response to their letter of November 2012 to the management of National Express Deutschland GmbH asking for constructive co-operation.* *In their letter, the unions asked for an undertaking that the sector collective wage agreement for regional and local public transport and the representative collective agreement for urban (road) transport would be respected. The company has since won two invitations to tender for regional and local public transport in the region of North Rhine-Westphalia alone an... [more »](#)

[more support for Local Govt - referendum](http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2013/03/11/article/Leak-lays-bare-Newman-referendum-support/GMJDFGXUC.html) <http://www.governmentnews.com.au/2013/03/11/article/Leak-lays-bare-Newman-referendum-support/GMJDFGXUC.html> - Government News has published an article reporting on an support from Queensland Government on the Federal Government National Referendum for Local Government the article starts off with , " A leaked letter from Queensland Premier Campbell Newman to Prime Minister Julia Gillard reveals that the state government is behind the proposed wording of a Constitutional amendment pivotal to a referendum and does not believe the change will erode state powers over local government." Th... [more »](#)

[Public Services Social Dialogue in an Era of Austerity - Managing workforce change: Strengthening public services social dialogue in an era of austerity](#) " Outcomes of Comparative Research Project King's College London on Strengthening Dear colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the outcomes- comparative report and executive summaries from UK, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, France, Italy and Denmark from the research project of King's College London on "Managing workforce change: Strengthening public services social dialogue in an era of austerity" You will find case examples from municipalities from these countries and how workforce change has been managed. It is maybe as well worth to verify the information form your... [more »](#)

[Queensland Local Government - Residents vote in favour of de-amalgamation](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/queensland-local-government-residents.html) <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/queensland-local-government-residents.html> Local Government Minister David Crisafulli is vowing to begin work on establishing four new councils after residents in the former Noosa, Livingstone, Mareeba and Douglas shires voted to de-amalgamate yesterday. Mr Crisafulli said the referendums were a win for democracy and marked the final chapter in a dark period for local government that culminated in Labor's forced amalgamations in 2008. "Residents in the four areas have chosen to put their money where their hearts are to get their council back,"... [more »](#)

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary ,
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au W: www.asu.asn.au

[No to further liberalisation says EPSU on the occasion of 4th Railway Package](#) - *EPSU, Europe's Public Service Workers Trade Union Federation is alarmed that the European Commission with its 4th railway package continues its ideological push to liberalise public services in the European Union. EPSU is concerned that the same arguments will be applied to other public services such as healthcare and water and sanitation.* The Commission is proposing a template for all Member States independent of their situation. It uses arguments about innovation and cost savings that do not stand up to scrutiny if we look at the experience in other sectors. While there are cro... [more »](#)

[Four Queensland councils vote 'yes' to reform - Article from Brisbane Times](#)

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/four-queensland-councils-vote-yes-to-reform-20130310-2ftni.html>

[30 years, 30 stories: celebrating PIAC's 30th](#) <http://piac.cmail2.com/t/r-l-uudylyl-fttjihij-yh/> - The Public Interest Advocacy Centre is celebrating its 30th birthday with a digital collection of 30 stories.

[ASU Public Services Bulletin - February 2013 - NEWS from last Month](#)

<http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/publicsector/130307-public-services> This edition contains the following items: ASU appears before productivity Commission hearings; National Transport Commission (NTC) is currently reviewing the heavy vehicle charging system; Remunicipalizing public services in Europe; Water Industry Operators Association - advice for ASU Branches working in water; Fires and Storms across Australia; Cuts to public sector jobs are driving a rise in unemployment and putting pressure on services; Amalgamation not the path to real reform - NSW Local Government; plu... [more »](#)

[Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government has recommend to Government that](#)

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsclg/localgovt/finalreport.htm *Recommendation - **"Taking the major finding into consideration, the Committee recommends that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government be put to Australian voters at the 2013 federal election."

The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government presented its report yesterday to the Federal Government, the full report is available at the following link:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Ho... [more »](#)

[Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government –](#) Recently I addressed one of two open hearings held by the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, in its time line to report to the government by the end of February. The first meeting being with the ALGA and the Second with State Local Government Associations – the second meeting included invitations to industry stake holders this included the ASU, as the only Union to attend. This included a letter/submission to the Joint Committee, to reaffirm our views to support funding and to support recognition in the constitution and to move on this issue a... [more »](#)

[The National Transport Commission \(NTC\) has proposed a range of improvements to the current heavy vehicle charging system to ensure it is more practical and fair.](#)

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/RFCList.aspx> *Heavy vehicle charges review discussion paper *outlining the proposed improvements was released for public consultation on 1 March 2013 on the NTC website. The NTC is now embarking on a series of consultation forums in each state and territory. Consultation on the discussion paper closes on 2 April 2013. Advice NTC

[International Women's Day message](#) <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/women/130306-iwd2012> *This International

Women's Day on 8 March we reflect on the way ASU members are working to improve income security for women and joining global campaigns to address violence against women.* ASU members gathered with other community citizens in all states this year, to dance together for an end to violence against women on 14 February 2013. Men and women danced in response to the unacceptable fact that one billion women (one in three) will be raped or beaten in their lifetime and to raise awareness, a million women dancing i...[more »](#)

[Can you donate to help labourstart](#) <http://www.labourstart.org/docs/en/000002.html> * **First of all, thanks so much for your recent donation to LabourStart. Whether you made a one-time donation or are a regular contributor, you make our work possible.* **The last month has been a very special one for LabourStart and I wanted to share some of the exciting news with you.* **As you probably know, we've launched a number of important new campaigns. Our campaign in support of Mexican trade unionists was central to the global Days of Action called by the IndustriALL global union last month. And more recently, we were asked b... [more »](#)

[End violence against women now! International Women's Day 8 March 2013](#) <http://www.world-psi.org/en/end-violence-against-women-now-international-womens-day-8-march-2013>

Public Services International joins our members across the globe in celebrating the social, political and economic change and achievements of women on 8th March. PSI promotes the work of women trade unionists and stands united with our sisters who place themselves on the frontline to deliver vital public services.

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary ,
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au W: www.asu.asn.au

[Elizabeth Broderick calls for inquiry into childcare http://afairdealforwomen.wordpress.com/2013/02/27/elizabeth-broderick-issues-rallying-call-for-overhaul-of-care/](http://afairdealforwomen.wordpress.com/2013/02/27/elizabeth-broderick-issues-rallying-call-for-overhaul-of-care/) *Sex Discrimination Commissioner Elizabeth Broderick has called for a broad Productivity Commission inquiry into childcare and the care sector generally, to investigate a range of bold options to overhaul the system.* *Ms Broderick argues that changes delivered in federal budgets do not provide lasting and desperately needed change and, while attention is focused on the care needed for preschool children, the care needed in later years is being ignored.*

Greg Mclean OAM

Assistant National Secretary

Australian Services Union

8/321 Pitt St. Sydney 2000

gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au

Phone 02 9283 9280

Fax 02 9283 9270

Mobile 0419 796 801

www.asu.asn.au

Personal blog - <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com/>

Produced for ASU Branches with members in the public services:

NSW US Branch / Victorian & Tasmanian Authorities & Services Branch / NSW & ACT (Services) Branch / South Australia & NT Branch / Western Australian Branch / QLD (Services & Northern Admin) Branch (QSU) / Central & Southern QLD C&A Branch

Authorised and published by Greg McLean, ASU Assistant National Secretary ,
Australian Services Union, Level 8, 321 Pitt Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia

T: 0419 796 801 E: gmclean@syd.asu.asn.au W: www.asu.asn.au