

Public Services Bulletin



A•S•U

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

[COAG Regional Australia Standing Council- joint meeting with the Local Government Ministers' Forum 18th April](#)

<http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/councils/rasc/communique-18april2013.aspx> Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for regional development and for local government, as well as the representatives for the Australian Local Government Association, met in Hobart for a joint meeting of the COAG Regional Australia Standing Council and the Local Government Ministers' Forum. *Members progressed a cooperative agenda to deliver sustainable and lasting growth across Australia's regions and agreed to:* continue to address the impediments to investment in local government in... [more »](#)

[Youth to Youth PSI AP Bulletin April 2013](#) <http://twitdoc.com/upload/indahbudiarti/youth-to-youth-april-2013.pdf> Please be free to share and spread to your youth members. Advice from indah.budiarti@world-psi.org Indah Budiarti Organising and Communication Coordinator PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation

[What is trackSAFE?](#) <http://www.tracksafefoundation.com.au/site/> trackSAFE is a not-for-profit Foundation, established by the Australian Rail Industry in March 2012 to endeavour to reduce near collisions, injuries and fatalities on the rail network resulting from suicide and reckless behaviour, in doing so creating a better workplace for rail employees. extract from <http://www.tracksafefoundation.com.au/site/>

[ALP National Platform - Quality Childcare - Includes Local Governments role](#)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/05/alp-national-platform-quality-childcare.html>

A strong economy for all Australians . Labor Values (pg. 20) 8 Labor believes in a strong economy that delivers for all people. Economic growth must be shared, particularly at times of increasing cost of living due to global instability Labor's commitment to social justice drives our economic policies. Labor believes in providing opportunities for all Australians to contribute to and benefit from economic growth and wealth creation, through a fair tax system, quality public services, equal access to educational opportunities, and a decent social safety net. We are committed to: *... [more »](#)

[SIS10 v2 Sport, Fitness and Recreation Transition Workshop Registration](#)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/05/sis10-v2-sport-fitness-and-recreation.html>

Service Skills Australia invites you to register to attend SIS10 v2 Sport, Fitness and Recreation Transition Workshop. The transition workshop will address the key changes: · Sport, and Sport and Recreation Qualification structures of 13 amended qualifications of 1 new qualification · Revised and new Sport units · New Sport Skill Sets (Coaching, Officiating, and Governance) · Revised and new Cross-sector units · Industry needs and coverage on Sport, and Fitness and Recreation working environments [CLICK HERE](#) to register for Sydney - Thursday 9... [more »](#)

[Abbott show true colours on penalty rates - Mr Abbott had been caught out telling a community forum in South Australia that a Coalition Government might back applications to Fair Work Australia to change penalty rates.](#)

<http://www.actu.org.au/Media/Mediareleases/Abbottshowstruecoloursonpenaltyrates.aspx> -Tony Abbott needs to be honest with workers about whether he will get rid of penalty rates if elected, the ACTU said today. ACTU President Ged Kearney said Mr Abbott had been caught out telling a community forum in South Australia that a Coalition Government might back applications to Fair Work Australia to change penalty rates. %Mr Abbott has been trying to avoid scrutiny of the Coalition's IR policy, but remarks like this show that a Coalition government would put penalty rates at risk,+Ms Kearney... [more »](#)

[Anti Electricity privatization campaign for NSW](#) * <http://stoptheselloff.org.au/> * - This Stop the Sell Off Campaign has been started so members of the public have a voice against plans by the NSW Government to privatise our electricity network (poles & wires) and Snowy Hydro. The Premier said before the last election that he had %no plans+to privatise our power stations but right now the NSW Government are selling these valuable community assets off.

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

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The Premier has recently said that his government have no plans to sell the poles and wires but they cannot be trusted. We know that NSW Treasury are already well advanced

[April Edition of Words is now available to be downloaded from the WIOA website.](http://www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIOAWordsApr13.pdf)

[ASU meets with Federal Child Care Minister Kate Ellis.](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/asu-meets-with-federal-child-care.html)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/asu-meets-with-federal-child-care.html> ASU meets with Federal Child care minister Kate Ellis. On Tuesday I meet with Minister Ellis to raise the importance of local govt child care and education services delivered by local government and the council employed staff who provide these quality public services A range of detail points including the differences between the governments actions and the oppositions policy on child care including the actions and monies lost in services delivery in business collapse like in the ABC child care scenario -... [more »](#)

[Together with Public Services International lets celebrate International Workers' Day - 1 May 2013 - down load posters as well - " Your future is in public hands - quality public services for all"](http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/together-with-public-services.html)

<http://gmpsiaprec.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/together-with-public-services.html> The international labour movement celebrates 1 May in memory of the activists who were killed in the Haymarket massacre of 1886 while demonstrating for the eight-hour work day. Today, using the pretext of the economic and financial crises, neo-liberal forces around the world are determined to eliminate workers right to bargain collectively and hard-won social and labour rights. Workers and our communities are uniting to turn back the wave of measures being used to increase privatisation, claw back public s... [more »](#)

[Hundreds of Sydney families could be forced to find alternative childcare with up to a dozen centres at risk of closing as landlords seek to capitalise on valuable property.](http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/childcare-closures-as-landlords-cash-in-20130427-2ilc6.html)

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/childcare-closures-as-landlords-cash-in-20130427-2ilc6.html> Childcare closures as landlords cash in - Hundreds of Sydney families could be forced to find alternative childcare with up to a dozen centres at risk of closing as landlords seek to capitalise on valuable property. Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/childcare-closures-as-landlords-cash-in-20130427-2ilc6.html#ixzz2Rib36xZE> *The above article in the SMH reminds us that monies (including public monies or subsidies) used to pay for child care and child educators, is often part used for rental of pro... [more »](#)

[Honouring frontline workers who've lost their lives while helping others -](http://www.world-psi.org/en/28-april-international-workers-memorial-day)

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/28-april-international-workers-memorial-day> On 28 April, International Workers Memorial Day, Public Services International and affiliate members join in our workplaces and communities to honour fellow workers who have been injured or lost their lives in the delivery of public services.

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<http://www.world-psi.org/en/28-april-international-workers-memorial-day> Honouring frontline workers who've lost their lives while helping others - On 28 April, International Workers Memorial Day, Public Services International and affiliate members join in our workplaces and communities to honour fellow workers who have been injured or lost their lives in the delivery of public services.

[Ensuring the Rail Safety National Law delivers outcomes](http://www.ntc.gov.au/ViewPage.aspx?DocumentId=02385)

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/ViewPage.aspx?DocumentId=02385> The NTC will establish a Rail Safety National Law maintenance group comprising industry and government representatives to ensure that the Law continues to reflect best practice and delivers its intended outcomes. This includes work on how to address train communication systems and event recording devices (similar to airline black boxes which record incidents) under the Rail Safety National Law. Train communications systems and event recording devices have been identified as important aspects of rail safety and we want to consult... [more »](#)

[Local Government and Water - Apprenticeship and Traineeships](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvfJlz4L8no)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvfJlz4L8no> As your probably aware industry skills councils have a strong roll under the labour national government in not only the training package agenda but also industry engagement, and helping to build the work force through a range of programs. One of the programs includes apprenticeship and traineeship

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engagement, and workforce development. The attached DVD prepared by GSA skills council covers a good example of the need to internally recruit and train apprentices and trainees to prepare for the future work force. *youtube supplied by GSA I... [more »](#)

[ALGA signs national agreement on arts and culture - Local government invests \\$1 billion each year in arts and cultural activities and considering the comparative income of each level of government, this is the largest investment of any level of government.](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANNEWS19April2013#Article9180> The first ever National Arts and Culture Accord was signed in Hobart last week. All of the arts ministers signed the accord and importantly, ALGA was also a signatory. The Accord outlines the roles and responsibilities of each level of government in relation to the provision of support and services for the arts. The signing of the Accord formalises the framework that will focus all levels of government to deliver stronger and more coordinated arts and cultural services. Local governments r... [more »](#)

[ALGA urges firm commitment to referendum at Regional Ministers' Forum](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANNEWS19April2013#Article9179> ALGA has called on the Commonwealth and the states and territories to commit to the planned referendum on constitutional recognition of local government at national talks involving all three tiers of government. At a joint meeting of the Council of Australia Governments' Regional Australia Standing Council and the Local Government Ministers' Forum held in Hobart on Thursday, ALGA Vice President Troy Pickard said that the timing for the referendum needed to be resolved so that local government... [more »](#)

[Recent Digital Future Conference](#) <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/60oku5asfwwnm9t/-EaFORIPAL> Recently I attended a seminar run by IBSA on the digital future, which included some excellent presentations; in particular I found the presentations by . ~ Greg Butler, Microsoft . A New Era in Digital Learning ~ plus a presentation by Garner Annett, this presentation is currently not available at this time, but I'd pass on when available. In particular the link between learning and education and new technology and remote access to leaning and work, struck me that we are only just responding to the new way of working and training... [more »](#)

[Anti privatization in QLD and Anti privatization in NSW](#)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/anti-privatization-in-qld-and-anti.html> * Anti privatization in QLD* *The following links have been passed onto me, they show strong voter resentment to electricity privatisation in Qld , the links can also be located from the <http://www.together.org.au/stay-informed-news/member-emails/privatisation-will-mean-a-one-term-government/> * <http://www.reachtel.com.au/blog/largest-political-poll-in-australian-history> <http://www.reachtel.com.au/blog/largest-political-poll-in-australian-history-metro-brisbane> <http://www.reachtel.com.au/blog/largest-pol...> [more »](#)

[Electricity disconnection and state owned corporations social responsibility](#)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/electricity-disconnection-and-state.html> Over last weekend the NSW public interest advocacy centre released a number of items around electricity (utility) disconnections, these are in the attached word doc and also available at <http://www.piac.asn.au/news/2013/04/utilities-urged-help-not-punish-strugglers> <http://www.piac.asn.au/news/2013/04/report-reveals-impact-electricity-disconnections> <http://www.piac.asn.au/news/2013/04/report-reveals-impact-electricity-disconnections> I had thought this might be an ideal opportunity to remind our selv... [more »](#)

[The following link has been passed onto me by the PSI AP region, and covers resources for organising workers in the informal economy, the resource books are available for download at the Global Labour Institute \(GLI\) website.](#) <http://global-labour.net/education-materials/>

Please feel free to recirculate as you wish .

[Councils need increased Natural Disaster Mitigation Funding](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters...algaNews12April2013#Article9159> A Senate Inquiry into preparedness for extreme weather events has been told that councils need additional funding for natural disaster mitigation. In an appearance before the Senate Environment and Communications Committee in Canberra on 11 April, ALGA highlighted the need for an increase in the federal government's funding for natural disaster mitigation to ensure that local communities are better prepared in the face of more severe and frequent weather events. The current mitigation fundi... [more »](#)

[Privatisation will mean a one-term government.- Queensland](#)

<http://www.reachtel.com.au/blog/largest-political-poll-in-australian-history> A new union poll shows that the Newman

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government (in the State Queensland Australia) would lose office in an election seeking a mandate for privatisation, and that Queenslanders are overwhelmingly opposed to any privatisation of public services. For the full story visit <http://www.together.org.au/stay-informed-news/member-emails/privatisation-will-mean-a-one-term-government/> Together members will be fighting to protect quality public services from privatisation alongside members of other unions and the ...[more »](#)

[Parental Leave update from Unions NSW](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Unionsnswpp1) <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Unionsnswpp1> Have you or your partner had a baby? Were you able to access any paid time off work to spend time with your child in those important first weeks and months? Working people and unions fought hard for the right to take time off work when you have a child. We won our first universal Paid Parental Leave scheme in 2011 and Paid Dad and Partner pay in 2012. We are proud of these achievements and the difference they make in working families' lives. But improvements are still needed. Tell us your story and experiences by filling out this short onl... [more »](#)

[Help us secure an appeal mechanism for situations where flexible working is unreasonably refused](http://unitedmums.org/unreasonable-refusal-right-to-request/) <http://unitedmums.org/unreasonable-refusal-right-to-request/>

[E-Oz Energy Skills Australia e-Bulletin April 9, 2013](http://www.e-oz.com.au/index.php/publications/publications/e-bulletin/25-e-bulletin/155-e-bulletin-9-4-13?utm_source=e-Bulletin&utm_campaign=9bbf17bdd2-e-Bulletin+9th+April+2013&utm_medium=email) http://www.e-oz.com.au/index.php/publications/publications/e-bulletin/25-e-bulletin/155-e-bulletin-9-4-13?utm_source=e-Bulletin&utm_campaign=9bbf17bdd2-e-Bulletin+9th+April+2013&utm_medium=email Includes Current Industry News New Reports Presentations Upcoming Conferences ; Expos Managing Apprentice Progression Pilot Update E-Oz Managers Reports Projects; Opportunities Advice from E-OZ

[Electricity unions launch campaign to keep NSW electricity network in public hands - Public Services International](http://www.world-psi.org/en/australia-electricity-unions-launch-campaign-keep-nsw-electricity-network-public-hands) <http://www.world-psi.org/en/australia-electricity-unions-launch-campaign-keep-nsw-electricity-network-public-hands> April 09, 2013 PSI Australian affiliates - ASU - USU Branch and ETU launched a multi-million dollar community campaign against a proposal by the O'Farrell Government to sell the state's electricity poles and wires monopoly to pay for unfunded election commitments. A state-wide poll of 1801 people - commissioned by the campaign partners - has revealed the community is overwhelmingly opposed to the plan, with 80 per cent of people saying the electricity network should be o... [more »](#)

[PSI - AP News of April 2013, please be free to download and share to your union members.](http://twitdoc.com/upload/indahbudiarti/psi-ap-news-april-2013.pdf) <http://twitdoc.com/upload/indahbudiarti/psi-ap-news-april-2013.pdf> *Advice from **Indah Budiarti - Organising and Communication Coordinator **Public Services International **Asia and Pacific Regional Organisation** ** indah.budiarti@world-psi.org

[Let's rethink childcare](http://www.world-psi.org/en/lets-rethink-childcare) <http://www.world-psi.org/en/lets-rethink-childcare> Children and families in Canada have a right to access quality, affordable childcare services. Yet, only 20% of young children today have access to a regulated space and, in many regions, childcare fees are the second highest expense for young families. A group of Canadian unions, including PSI affiliates CUPE, NUPGE and PSAC, and childcare advocates representing more than three million working people across Canada know that too many families are struggling to find decent childcare and are scrambling to piece together care they can ... [more »](#)

[Protecting Affordable Child Care](http://www.usu.org.au/usucampaigns/local-government/save-blacktown-childcare/479-protecting-affordable-child-care) <http://www.usu.org.au/usucampaigns/local-government/save-blacktown-childcare/479-protecting-affordable-child-care> The USU is currently running a campaign to save Blacktown Council Child Care. Includes an important excerpt from the NSW Parliament Hansard .

[Unions NSW Budget Submission 2013/2014](http://www.usu.org.au/news/483-unions-nsw-budget-submission-2013-2014) <http://www.usu.org.au/news/483-unions-nsw-budget-submission-2013-2014> One of the reasons New South Wales is a great place to live is because of our public structures owned by State Governments. These public structures include the physical structures (roads, schools, rail system and hospitals) and organisational structures (the police, fire brigade, community services) we need to function as a society, and the social support system that help to ensure the health and well-being of our communities. Well-functioning and supported public structures are essential to our State. In this ... [more »](#)

[ASU - Public Services Bulletin - March 2013](http://www.asu.asn.au/documents/doc_download/173-public-services-bulletin-march-2013) www.asu.asn.au/documents/doc_download/173-public-services-bulletin-march-2013 This edition contains the following items: Australia's net debt is dramatically lower than the net debt levels for every single major advanced economy; Creative Australia, 18 years after Creative Nation; Veolia loses

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its water contract in Nice, France; Building local government contact with New Zealand UNION (NZ PSA); Forced council amalgamations in NSW repudiated; plus more.

[27 Ways - Queensland Services Union](http://theservicesunion.com.au/27-ways/) <http://theservicesunion.com.au/27-ways/> - the Queensland Services Union has launched a new campaign to attack membership and remind members of some the important wins , outcomes and condition's Unions have achieved for Members more information at there web site <http://theservicesunion.com.au/27-ways/>

[Further to the USU news item two related articles where published in the Sydney Morning Herald over the past weekend.](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/power-price-revolt-20130330-2h06f.html> and <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/electric-shock-tax-windfall-hits-a-high-20130330-2h068.html>

[Launch of multi-million dollar campaign to keep NSW electricity network in public hands](#)

<http://www.usu.org.au/news/energy-a-utilities/481-launch-of-multi-million-dollar-campaign-to-keep-nsw-> Electricity unions will today launch a multi-million dollar community campaign against a proposal by the O'Farrell Government to sell the state's electricity poles and wires monopoly to pay for unfunded election commitments. [image: Not for sale] A state-wide poll of 1801 people · commissioned by the campaign partners · has revealed the community is overwhelming opposed to the plan, with 80 per cent of people saying the electricity network should be owned by the public and operated... [more »](#)

[Sixteenth round of Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement \(TPP\) negotiations FOR ASU Branches - Up Date Trans Pacific Partnership - advice to Stake Holders](#)

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/fta/tpp/130321-tpp-stakeholder-update-16.html> -The 16th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement negotiations were held in Singapore from 4 . 13 March 2013. At the close of the Round, Singapore as Chair of the round reported that there was "renewed focus and vigour in the negotiations" as well as "a distinct sense the negotiations were shifting gears", with the goal being to put the negotiations on an accelerated track toward conclusion of a comprehensive agreement in the 2013 timeframe. Parties succeeded in finding ways forward for many of the remai... [more »](#)

[Additional funding to local government to build and maintain thousands of bridges](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/old-bridges-and-limited-funds-pose-serious-problem-in-northern-nsw-20130331-2h1> <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/04/additional-funding-to-local-government.html> Two articles in the Sydney Morning herald on Monday the 1st April highlight the need for additional funding to local government , to employee bridge carpenters and trades persons, to build and maintain thousands of bridges across NSW and no other states . Rebuilding these bridges with council staff will also add more , spin off jobs to local communities and help grow our regional and country towns [more »](#)

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