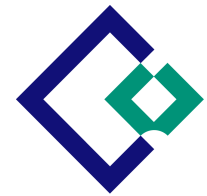


Public Services Bulletin



A•S•U

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

[Constitutional Recognition of Local Government](http://www.asu.asn.au/localgovt/constit-recog-localgovt) <http://www.asu.asn.au/localgovt/constit-recog-localgovt>

Post the ASU national executive and local government industry division meetings last week, we have now published an ASU web page in support of the Local Government Constitutional Recognition Referendum. This is an important referendum, with the outcome of bringing greater community spend to local govt, more long term funding security and the ability for local govt to do more for its communities. The ASU web link is at <http://www.asu.asn.au/localgovt/constit-recog-localgovt> - from this page you can access both ASU and ext... [more »](#)

[The qualification charts would be valuable to Local Government Industry Branch Vocational Advisory Committees covering the relevant Local Government Employment Areas](#)

The below e-links to qualification charts recently published by Services Skills Australia, are excellent examples of the qualifications, needed and or available to workers, working in the Local Government areas of - (Local government employed) *Aquatic technical operator and Pool lifeguard *plus more -

http://www.serviceskills.com.au/sites/default/files/Community%20Recreation_0.pdf (Local government employed)

events management qualifications plus more

http://www.serviceskills.com.au/sites/default/files/SIT12%20Job%20role%20poster%20Events_0.pdf (Local government employed) *Gym,... [more »](#)

[Australians back skills and education as best path to productivity growth](http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/07/australians-back-skills-and-education.html)

<http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/07/australians-back-skills-and-education.html> Australians believe investing in skills and training is a better way to improve productivity than greater management flexibility in hiring practices, new polling shows. ACTU Secretary Dave Oliver said today. Essential polling showed many Australians took the common sense view that improving skills and training would deliver better outcomes. A majority of voters (55% - including more investment in skills and education 32%, more input from workers 15% and invest more in technology and innovation 8%... [more »](#)

[It Shouldn't Happen to our VET Join Dr Russell Docking on the IBSA VET Community](#)

IBSA's Latest Discussion on the IBSA VET Community is from Russell Docking. His paper, "It Shouldn't Happen to our VET", reflects on the evolution of VET since the 1980s in comparison to changes in educational thinking and practice over the same time period whilst considering what will be the future of the VET system. Russell poses several questions including "are we in danger of reverting to the pre-competency paradigms?" and "how can we maintain the vigour of the evolution of VET?" Join the discussion here. Live discussion! Russell Docking will be joining us live on the IBSA VE... [more »](#)

[Marles vows not to cave to US pressure Sydney Morning herald July 15, 2013](http://www.smh.com.au/business/marles-vows-not-to-cave-to-us-pressure-20130714-2py8r.html#ixzz2Z5YXAzv2)

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/marles-vows-not-to-cave-to-us-pressure-20130714-2py8r.html#ixzz2Z5YXAzv2>

Negotiations over what is set to be the world's biggest free trade agreement resume in Malaysia on Monday with Australia under pressure to relax its opposition to the US proposal that would allow foreign companies to sue sovereign governments. Japan will join the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations for the first time, meaning that with Australia, Brunei, Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the US and Vietnam, the agreement would cover natio... [more »](#)

[GENERATOR SALE THE LATEST IN A LONG LIST OF PRIVATISATION BROKEN PROMISES FROM O'FARRELL - NSW Shadow Treasurer](#)

The O'Farrell Government's decision to sell off the State's Mt Piper and Wallerawang power stations for just \$160 million is the latest in a long line of privatisation broken promises, the NSW Opposition said today. The sale is the next step towards full scale electricity privatisation in NSW, which will send bills skyrocketing for households and businesses. The public shouldn't forget Barry O'Farrell and

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

Mike Baird voted against selling off the State's power generators in 2008, Shadow Treasurer Michael Daley said today. In 2011, the Premier said he had absolutely no plan to privat... [more »](#)

[2013 Industry Skills Councils' Joint Conference on Skills for Productivity](#) 2013 Industry Skills Councils' Joint Conference on Skills for Productivity The 2013 Skills for Productivity conference held on 25 June at Parliament House, Canberra, explored industry's skills development and workforce planning challenges. The Conference provided a forum for ISCs' board representatives and delegates to engage in strategic debate on critical skills and workforce development issues concerning Australia's industries. advice from Service Skills Please click below to view the media releases from the day. Industry Skills Councils' joint conference - Skills for Productivit... [more »](#)

[Innovation, training, better management: time to address the real drivers of productivity](#) A national productivity agenda must include better training for Australia's corporate executives in identifying and implementing measures to genuinely boost productivity, the ACTU said today. With rising company profits over the past decade many employers have taken their eye off the ball when it comes to genuine commitment to lifting productivity, said ACTU Secretary Dave Oliver. We are concerned there has been a loss of skills in the ranks of Australian management in identifying measures to genuinely improve productivity and in engaging employees in finding solutions to busines... [more »](#)

['The Facts Say Yes' Referendum campaign PR kits hit council inboxes](#) Last Friday, councils should have received the electronic PR briefing packs from our YES campaign team and be in the process of pulling together and submitting the information requested. The pack is designed to help brief referendum spokespeople and the communications team in each council with campaign messaging and help councils to start planning their own communication in the lead up to election day. The local media campaign for a YES vote is intended to be driven by local councils and is essential to garnering awareness and support. It's the local projects and initiatives that wi... [more »](#)

[Women in male-dominated industries: More women means an improved economy](#) <http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/women/130711-women-in-male-dominated-industries> Recently the Australian Human Rights Commission released a new resource to assist women with entering male-dominated industries. The ASU has many members in this situation, so we participated in the launch. We encourage our interested members to have a look at the new Toolkit. ASU Assistant National Secretary Greg McLean attended the launch and raised the prospect of using work redesign to encourage a broader group of workers to participate in the trades. By examining the way work is done, adjust... [more »](#)

[Women in male-dominated industries: A toolkit of strategies](#) The toolkit's interactive discussion forums can be accessed at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/women-male-dominated-industries-toolkit-forums> The toolkit is also available online at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/women-male-dominated-industries-toolkit-strategies-2013> .

[Have your say on the Trans-Pacific trade agreement before the election! Send the Minister for Trade and the Opposition Trade Spokesperson a message, or see your local MP](#) The Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement (TPPA) is being negotiated between Australia, the US, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Chile, Peru, Brunei, Singapore, Malaysia Vietnam and Japan. The agenda is being heavily influenced by US corporations which regard many areas of Australian public interest regulation as barriers to trade. As pressure mounts to finish the negotiations and the federal election looms, email Richard Marles and Julie Bishop directly to tell them your concerns about the TPPA and its corporate-influenced agenda. Send an email to the Trade Minister Send an email... [more »](#)

[Australian Unions welcome the Prime Minister's high road to economic prosperity](#) Australian unions welcome the vision for Australia's economic future outlined by Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, at the National Press Club today. ACTU Secretary, Dave Oliver, said the Prime Minister's emphasis on investment in skills and innovation was a stark contrast to the slash and burn, let-the-market-rip policies of Tony Abbott and the Coalition. Mr Oliver also welcomed Mr Rudd's call for government to work with both unions and business to increase genuine productivity. Australians know that our continued prosperity rests on good jobs, smart investment and sharing the benefits... [more »](#)

[Benefits to potential electrical apprentices explained - Energise Oz is a new electrical apprenticeship trial program designed to improve your chances of successfully completing.](#) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rSQ64HB4lw> - With 4 out of 10 apprentices not completing their trade qualification, Energise Oz is tackling this head on by offering ample support services to guide apprentices through

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

their training. Learn in two minutes how Energise Oz supports individual learning for apprentices
.....<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rSQ64HB4lw> We understand that your learning style and pace may be different to others, similarly your onsite work exposure may vary from your peers. Our range of support services identify the level that you're at and help keep you on tra...[more »](#)

[Water Industry Operators Association - latest bulletin](#)

<http://www.wioa.org.au/documents/WIOAWordsJul13.pdf>

['Yes' campaign builds among grassroots](#)

http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters_alganews12july2013#Article10447 As Australians wait for a firm election date, the local government sector is moving ahead with its national campaign to convince voters to say 'yes' when they are asked whether local government should be included in the Constitution at a referendum to be held in conjunction with this year's federal election. The Australian Government has given every indication that the referendum will proceed and this week it again reinforced its absolute commitment to holding a referendum on recognising ... [more »](#)

[PSI expresses its solidarity, support and sympathy to the people and to the workers delivering essential public services in the affected areas.](#)

http://www.world-psi.org/sites/default/files/attachment/news/state_of_uttarakhand_india_-_solidarity_message_july_2013.pdf Pledge by PSI local govt , state and national affiliates from India http://www.world-psi.org/sites/default/files/attachment/news/letter_to_cm_uttarakhand_india.pdf

[Unions remind workers to check their pay today to make sure their boss is paying them correctly](#)

Unions will today be reminding Australian workers to check they are not missing out on wage increases which should have automatically come into effect at the start of the new financial year. ACTU President Ged Kearney said unions have declared Friday, 12 July as National %Check Your Pay Day+to educate workers about the new annual pay rates which flow on from the effects of an increase in the minimum Award wages. Workers with any doubts about whether they are being paid correctly can call the free advice service on *1300 4 UNION (1300 4 86466)*. From 1 July, about 1.5 million workers ...[more »](#)

[Pregnancy discrimination inquiry called after evidence of widespread abuse](#)

<http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/securejobsbetterfuture/130628-pregnancy-discrimination> The ASU urges employers to co-operate with the upcoming national inquiry into pregnancy discrimination, commissioned by the Australian Government. Driving the inquiry are alarming figures indicating that too many working women are leaving work permanently because they are offered full-time work or nothing after having a child. The results of our own recent survey into parental leave and partner pay indicate that there are entrenched problems around pregnancy and post-natal leave that need to ...[more »](#)

[Further to the recent FW Act amendments re: Workplace Bullying please note the web article](#)

<http://www.asu.asn.au/news/categories/ohs/130710-workplace-bullying> Changes to workplace laws that recently passed the Parliament will make it easier, faster and cheaper for victims of bullying at work to have it stopped. Unfortunately, these provisions do not take effect until 1 January 2014. It is not known if there is an Abbott Government after the next election whether it will seek to undo these changes to the Act.

[Local government prepares 2013 State of the Assets Report](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANews5July2013#Article10443> Councils are being reminded to contribute data about the quality, functionality and capacity of roads and bridges infrastructure to a national survey which will inform a national assets report on the standard of community roads and infrastructure. ALGA has commissioned Jeff Roorda and Associates (JRA) to develop the 2013 National State of the Assets Report. The Report represents a major advocacy program by ALGA on behalf of all local governments and it is important that the program receives a... [more »](#)

[RDAF funding guidelines released](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANews5July2013#Article10444> Councils are being reminded to apply for Round Five of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF), which will provide \$150 million to local governments for capital infrastructure projects. The funding is intended to be used to build and renew community infrastructure and local councils and shires will be expected to outline the projects they intend to put this funding towards. Sporting facilities, libraries, town halls, playgrounds and essential community services such as child care facili... [more »](#)

[Training locals good for business](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANews5July2013#Article10435> Minister for Employment, Skills and

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

Training Brendan O'Connor has welcomed comments made by WorleyParsons chairman, John Grill, that Australian businesses should train people locally rather than rely too heavily on temporary visas. Mr Grill said the number of people entering Australia on temporary skilled worker visas could be cut if better training was available to the domestic workforce. "The Federal Labor Government will always support local workers and training for our young people over bringing in overseas...[more »](#)

[Best Practice Guidelines for planning and development of child care facilities](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANNEWS5July2013#Article10433> The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has engaged the University of Technology Sydney: Centre for Local Government, to develop Guidelines to enable local governments to plan better for the future child care needs of their community. These Best Practice Guidelines will be an important tool for local governments trying to expand child care services in their communities. The Guidelines will provide real examples of successful approaches which could be adopted by other local governments. F...[more »](#)

[Reminder advice IBSA consultations , would cover ASU local govt, libraries, art galleries, community arts officers and local govt museums , and LG cultural areas etc](#)

IBSA Escan 2014 annual industry consultations will commence shortly. Thank you to those that have rsvp'd; for others you would be very welcome to attend one of the following; please register by following the link below or by reply email. The consultations details are: · *Melbourne: Tuesday 09 July 2013* Stradbroke & Huntingfield Rooms, Level 1, Hilton on the Park, 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne · *Hobart: Thursday 11 July 2013* Chancellor Room 6, Hotel Grand C... [more »](#)

[Pizza for pay: workplace flexibility in action](#) <http://gregmclean.blogspot.com.au/2013/07/pizza-for-pay-workplace-flexibility-in.html>

A case of underpaid young hospitality workers having their wages topped up with pizza and soft drink exposes the consequences of the push from business and the Coalition for more workplace flexibility, the ACTU said today. The Fair Work Ombudsman revealed today over 100 mostly teenaged employees of a pair of Melbourne pizza restaurants had been underpaid by over a quarter of a million dollars. It has been reported the restaurant owner believed he could top up their sub-minimum wage pay packets b... [more »](#)

[2nd National Joint ISC meeting, in Canberra](#) Recently I attend the 2nd National Joint ISC meeting, in Canberra The form was attended by all ISC's and I would think most of the ISC directors , Ministers, and related industry players The day was very useful for local government and an opportunity for great cross ISC discussion, and a good update on the critical skills shortages, in various employment areas for local government some good messages around our key areas of skills shortages including our local government trades, and trade based qualifications and other classifications affected directly and indirectly by the mining ... [more »](#)

[Applications open to upgrade remote community airstrips](#) Some of Australia's most remote communities will share in \$9.1 million of federal funding for airstrip upgrades, improving safety and ensuring year-round supply of vital goods and services. Minister for Regional Services, Local Communities and Territories, Catherine King, this week announced that applications are now open under the * Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program*. Minister King said that safe, operational aerodromes were vital in providing remote communities with regular air access to essential goods and services, including health care from the Royal Flying Doctor Service. "Many rem... [more »](#)

[Councils urged to apply for child care funding](#)

<http://alga.asn.au/newsletter/newsletters.ALGANNEWS28June2013#Article10415> The Australian Government has established a \$5 million Child Care Accessibility Fund to assist local governments to address any child care supply shortages in areas of high demand. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is responsible for administering the Fund. The Fund will provide one-off grants of up to \$250 000 to around 12 local governments who successfully demonstrate innovative strategies to address critical child care supply shortages in their communities. The grants available u... [more »](#)

[Work + Family Policy Roundtable - includes JUST RELEASED Work, Care and Family Policies: Election Benchmarks 2013](#)

<http://www.workandfamilypolicyroundtable.org/> Work, care and family issues have been key areas of electoral interest over the last four national elections and in 2013, these issues are still of major importance for all Australians. The W+FPR has proposed benchmarks in recent elections against which policies for improving paid work, care and family outcomes in Australia can be assessed. The Work and Family Policy Roundtable (W+FPR) is made up of 31 researchers from 18 universities and research institutions with expertise on work, care and family policy. Its goal is to propose, c... [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