

# Local Government Weekly

Issue 17/05

Friday, 29 April 2005-05-02

**Cr Phyllis Miller**

President

Shires Association of NSW

**Cr Genia McCaffery**

President

Local Government Association of NSW

## Coming Events

- Cultural Awards 6 May Parliament House  
<http://www.lgsa.org.au/site/policy/1000074/2000550.html>
- Shires Conference 6 – 8 June, Wentworth Hotel  
<http://www.lgsa.org.au/site/about/aboutshires/1000192/2001541.html>
- HR Conference 23 – 25 November, Sydney  
<http://www.lgsa.org.au/site/services/1000147/1000040/2001539.html>

LGSA NSW Events Calendar available at:

[www.lgsa.org.au/site/events.html](http://www.lgsa.org.au/site/events.html)

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## Stop press

Remember – registrations for the Shires conference close on Friday 6 May. Go to [www.lgsa.org.au](http://www.lgsa.org.au) for more information.

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*Details of our regional workshops in Lismore, Port Macquarie, Wagga, Dubbo, Bathurst and Sydney in May/June. Please use the item to schedule your training needs.*

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*The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) issued a discussion paper in April on the future of local services regulation. The discussion paper marks the start of a full review of local call regulation in Australia. Submissions are due by 3 June.*

#### **ITEM 8: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS**

*Amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 were passed by Parliament on 26 October 2004 and will come into force on 2 May 2005.*

### **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

#### **ITEM 9: LOAD-BASED LICENSING TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

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*The Australian Government has recently released the funding guidelines for the Water Smart Australia Programme, which is a component of the Australia Water Fund. This is a large project programme, to which Local Government is eligible to apply.*

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#### **ITEM 11: ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW – INTERIM REPORT RELEASED**

*The Chair of the NSW Road Classification Review Panel has forwarded copies of the panel's interim report to all councils for information and comment.*

#### **ITEM 12: WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY FRIDAY 6 MAY**

*The Department of Local Government has produced a Circular to councils promoting Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD), an initiative of the Pedestrian Council of Australia (PCA) supported by the NSW Government.*

## GENERAL INTEREST

### ***Item 1: FACILITY MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICE EXEMPLAR PROJECT***

Contact: see item

**The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Construction Innovation will be running the Sydney Opera House Facility Management Exemplar Project to identify best practice in service, delivery, procurement and performance using one of the world's iconic buildings as a model.**

The CRC for Construction Innovation is a national research, development and implementation centre focused on the needs of the property, design, construction and facility management sectors.

There are not many building owners that have to put aside \$20 million a year for their maintenance and cleaning bills. However, for the Sydney Opera House these costs are standard and the project will evaluate whether they are not only getting their money's worth but that knowledge gained can be of benefit to all facilities managers.

What makes this project unique is the dual advantage of its objectives, being both directly advantageous to Sydney Opera House and to the wider facility management industry. For facility managers, the dissemination of this new best-practice information will increase their skill base and have a run-on effect for both industry and government.

The research areas being investigated are digital interface modelling, procurement and benchmarking and their integration into the Strategic Asset Maintenance Plan and the Business Objectives of Sydney Opera House. The aim is to highlight how the interaction between business objectives and the effective delivery of facility management services can act as a business enabler.

Over the next two years information on the project and its research outcomes will be available from the CRC for Construction Innovation website [www.construction-innovation.info](http://www.construction-innovation.info) or email [klegge@m-arch.com.au](mailto:klegge@m-arch.com.au) to receive quarterly newsletters on the project.

R95/0069

## COMMUNITY

### ***Item 2: ABS DISCUSSION PAPER ON DEVELOPING LONGITUDINAL VIEW OF CENSUS***

Contact: See item

**The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has released a discussion paper *Enhancing the Population Census: Developing a Longitudinal View*. This paper is about a proposal to enhance the value of 2006 Census of Population and Housing data by combining it over time with data from other censuses.**

The closing date for submissions is 10 June. The paper is available on the ABS web site at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au). It includes specific information on key issues, as well as providing examples of possible cases where the enhanced data could provide valuable statistics that would assist in planning and provision of services to the community.

Head of the ABS census program, Paul Williams, made the following points:

- The ABS sees this as an important investment in our future.
- It has the potential to provide richer information about Australian society and improve policy development and community decision making.
- It would make fuller use of the substantial wealth of information we bring together each five years in the census.
- In its present form the census only provides a snapshot about Australian people and households once every five years.
- If it proceeds, the proposal would provide the means to analyse patterns in the pathways people and families take over time.
- Insights might be gained into the relationship between people's social and economic situation over their life, their health outcomes, or the educational and economic outcomes of their children.

The central feature of the proposal is the creation of a Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD) – this involves combining the information provided in the 2006 population census, with information provided in future censuses, using statistical methods. Other parts of the proposal outline use of the census data in combination with other data sets such as ABS household surveys and birth and death register data.

The proposal does not involve the ABS keeping name and address information from the census. As in past censuses, the ABS will destroy any records containing name and address information once census processing is completed. The ABS will continue to provide the same level of protection for the confidentiality of people's information as it has done for the past 100 years.

No decision on this proposal has been made. ABS wants to hear the views of the Australian community before making a decision.

Submissions can be made online through the ABS website or on a form available with the discussion paper.

R90/0488

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### ***Item 3: ELECTRICAL HAZARDS FOR PLUMBERS***

Contact: John McConnell, Workplace Solutions

#### **WorkCover NSW has released a Safety Alert – Electrical Hazards for Plumbers following the recent electrocution of a water utility employee.**

The safety alert was prepared to highlight and reinforce recommended safe practice for plumbers and other related workers who carry out work on a customer's water service. This work can result in serious or fatal electric shock when removing water meters, cutting through or disconnecting metallic water pipes or carrying out other work to the customer's water service on the premises. Country Energy has previously contacted the Associations concerning council plumbers and electrical safety and suggested the development of a code of practice to provide guidance to employees and councils. The safety alert and the request from Country Energy have been considered by the Council Safe Advisory Network ([www.lgsa.org.au/services/councilsafe](http://www.lgsa.org.au/services/councilsafe)) who has sought to ascertain the views of councils and the interest in participating in the development of a code or guidance note.

WorkCover NSW has posted the safety alert on the WorkCover website:

[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publication/Industry/Electrical/safety\\_alert\\_electrical\\_hazards](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publication/Industry/Electrical/safety_alert_electrical_hazards)

Councils are encouraged to peruse the safety alert, examine their current practices and advise the Associations if they consider there is a benefit in the development of a code of practice or guidance note.

I02/0025

# LEARNING

## **Item 4: REMINDER: THE COUNCILLOR WEEKEND IN COFFS HARBOUR**

Contact: Darryl Rubiolo, Local Government Learning Solutions

### **Councils in the Coffs Harbour area should note that the next Councillor Weekend will be held on 8/9 July.**

The Councillor Weekend will explore the following topics:

- Who's really in charge?
- Connecting with the Community
- Conflict of Interest
- Meeting Skills for Councillors
- Change Management and Local Government Reform.

These modules include core skills and knowledge needed by a new councillor.

We have gathered together a team of experienced Local Government facilitators to present this two day program to you on 8/9 July in Coffs Harbour.

#### **DAY ONE – Essential Skills for Councillors**

Introduction – Your expectations and administration issues

Who's really in charge? – An exploration of the elected member roles and responsibilities. Presented by Greg Hawken of Greg Hawken Consulting.

Connecting with the Community – this session will cover community consultation and lobbying issues. Through case studies and general discussions, the session will explore how to get the most out of your community, dealing with difficult issues, the community consultation strategies available to mayors, councillors and Local Government managers, public opinion analysis and evaluating the use of polls and referenda and how to achieve appropriate solutions.

Conflict of Interest and the New Disciplinary Regime – explore the issues of how to avoid conflict and pecuniary interest and be updated about the New Disciplinary Regime for Councillors.

Dinner – enjoy dinner at a local restaurant – an opportunity to relax and network with your peers from around the state.

#### **DAY TWO – More Essential Skills**

Meeting Skills for Councillors – learn some quick tips about how to effectively represent your ideas and suggestions at council and committee meetings. Presented by Diana Bennett from DHB Consulting.

Councillors and Change Management during Local Government Reform – Local Government is going through a tremendous amount of change. This workshop will enhance your role in it as change agents. Presented by Darryl Rubiolo from Local Government Learning Solutions.

Panel Discussion and Open Forum – this is an opportunity for participants to question the panel or other attendees, to explore issues which have not been addressed before, and to clarify issues which may be of concern.

Dates: 8/9 July

Venue: Coffs Harbour

Cost: \$770 inclusive of GST which includes the presentations, comprehensive training manuals, and a delicious dinner.

To book – complete a registration form or contact us on 9242 4181/3 or [learning@lgsa.org.au](mailto:learning@lgsa.org.au). Ruth Stevenson or Darryl Rubiolo are happy to answer questions about this exciting professional development opportunity call 9242 4180/2.

R95/0084

### **Item 5: CHANGE MANAGEMENT TRAINING – WHAT IS AVAILABLE?**

Contact: Darryl Rubiolo, Local Government Learning Solutions

**In the current climate change management training at all levels is very important. This item covers the types of change management training initiatives available to you.**

**Change Management Training for Senior Executives and Councillors.** As the initiators of change, senior staff and councillors need to understand the strategic reform issues in NSW, the phases of change and their impact on employees, stakeholders, suppliers and the community and how best to lead people through them.

**How to establish a Change Implementation Team (CIT).** There has to be a central point of control during the change process. A CIT may be the appointed control agency for your change. A training module is available to assist you to set up this team.

**Project Reform Right Start – Skilling the Change Implementation Team.** CIT members need skills in strategic alignment, setting objectives, identifying deliverables, time frames, HR issues, risk analysis and measuring success. A one day program, such as the training module called Project Reform Right Start, may set your change program on a firm footing for success right from the start.

**Leading Change and Uncertainty (Leaders' program).** Managers, team leaders, supervisors, gangers – these are all important people with responsibilities to plan, communicate and implement changes as they happen. But do your people leaders have the skills to do this? Your planning should include skilling people leaders in change management.

**Managing Change and Uncertainty (Employees' program).** The uncertainty of change can make employees feel threatened and insecure. Teaching employees about the phases of change and how to manage their own resistance impulses, or those of fellow team members, can have a positive effect on the successful implementation of a change.

**Developing High Performance Teams.** Once new teams have been established, managers will want to move them into high performing teams as quickly as possible. Team development training can show teams what stage of development they are at now, and what stage to aim for. This training can move them quickly through the stages, a process not necessarily achieved through natural development.

**Revisiting Change Management.** This NEW managers' program will expose you to six change models and ways to handle active and passive resistance. By the end of the workshop participants will have developed a Local Government specific change model which can be used immediately back in the workplace.

**Win that Job – Effective Resume Writing and Interview Skills.** This program aims to assist employees with their ability to prepare an application to suit the job advertisement and to interview confidently and effectively for positions for which they are appropriately qualified and skilled.

**Executive/Manager Corporate Coaching.** What if an individual director or manager needs more than just a course? Some people leaders will struggle to lead others through the changes, let alone themselves. In these cases, using a qualified executive/manager corporate coach may be effective. Just as a sports coach or fitness coach assists individuals to achieve their sporting or health and fitness goals, a corporate coach can assist people leaders to achieve success during major change.

**Change Management Training on the Internet.** To whet your appetite for change management training, there is a "Managing Change and Uncertainty" e-Learning program on our web site [www.lgsa.org.au](http://www.lgsa.org.au). It is also available as a CD Rom from Local Government Learning Solutions.

For more information about change management training, or to receive a formal proposal to include this training in your planning, please contact Ruth Stevenson or Darryl Rubiolo at Local Government Learning Solutions 9242 4182/0 or [darryl.rubiolo@lgsa.org.au](mailto:darryl.rubiolo@lgsa.org.au).

I02/0012



## **Item 6: PUBLIC TRAINING COURSES BY REGION IN MAY/JUNE**

Contact: Ruth Stevenson, Local Government Learning Solutions

**Details of our regional workshops in Lismore, Port Macquarie, Wagga, Dubbo, Bathurst and Sydney in May/June. Please use the item to schedule your training needs.**

### **Wagga Wagga Area Workshops**

17 May – Building Successful Partnerships (NEW)

24 May – The New Disciplinary Regime for Councillors and Council Staff (EXTRA course scheduled in response to local requests)

### **Port Macquarie Area Workshops**

12 May – Mentoring Skills for Managers

13 May – Time Management for Managers

### **Lismore Area Workshops**

26 May – Fraud Awareness Training for Senior Managers (half day)

### **Dubbo Area Workshops**

30 May – Report Writing

31 May – Influencing Others with Confidence

10 June – Fraud Awareness Training

16/17 June – Consultative Committee Training for New Members

### **Bathurst Area Workshops**

2 June – Writing Powerful Proposals, Submissions and Grant Applications

3 June – Time Management for Managers

### **Sydney Area Workshops and Network Meetings**

11 May – Time Management for Managers

12/13 May – Heritage Planning in Practice

16/17 May – The Leader Series (Modules 1 – 4)

18 May – Dynamic Presentation Skills

20 May – Policy and Procedure Writing

24 May – Triple Bottom Line

25 May – Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills

30 May – Event Management

2 June – Verbal Judo for Contact Professionals

6/7 June – Improving Your Business Writing

8 June – Workshop for Local Government Professionals both as Sponsors and Seekers of Sponsorship

9 June – Time Management – An Introduction

10 June – Development Approvals – The Heritage Perspective

10 June – Aboriginal Cultural Awareness

10 June – Writing Powerful Proposals, Submissions and Grant Applications

14 June – Building Successful Partnerships (NEW)

14 June – Managing Effective Emails

15 June – Networking

16 June – The Proactive PA

20/24 June – Rangers Two

For bookings or more information, contact Learning Solutions on 9242 4181/3 or [learning@lgsa.org.au](mailto:learning@lgsa.org.au) or download a course information sheet from our web site [www.lgsa.org.au](http://www.lgsa.org.au).

I02/0012

# LEGAL, FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **Item 7: ACCC REVIEW OF LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

Contact: See item

**The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) issued a discussion paper in April on the future of local services regulation. The discussion paper marks the start of a full review of local call regulation in Australia. Submissions are due by 3 June.**

The review is primarily a reconsideration of the Local Carriage Service (LCS) declaration and pricing. The LCS is a declared wholesale service for end-to-end local calls. It allows competitive entrants to provide local calls without deploying substantial alternative infrastructure.

The ACCC is obliged to review the declaration before June 2006. However, ongoing concerns about the competitive impact of local call pricing have led the ACCC to bring the review forward by several months. Specifically, there are continuing concerns about the impact of aggressive bundling of other voice service and broadband on the local call market and the increasing inability of other service providers to compete when selling local calls.

There are also questions about whether the local call declaration is still needed to act as a catalyst for facilities-based competition or whether there are now feasible alternatives for fulfilling that objective.

In considering these issues, the inquiry will also look at the desirability of declaring a wholesale line rental service.

The ACCC states that the review is a complete reappraisal of local call and local service regulation against the background of significant changes to the form and nature of telecommunications services being supplied to end users. The review is designed to ensure that any regulation of local services provides the necessary incentives for growth in facilities-based competition while at the same time continuing to ensure that all Australians benefit from a choice of local call providers.

The discussion paper will be available on the ACCC website. Interested parties are requested to make submissions by 3 June. Details of the submission process can be found in the discussion paper.

### **Media inquiries**

Mr Ed Willett, Sydney, ACCC Commissioner, 9230 9106

Ms Lin Enright, Director, Public Relations, 6243 1108 or 0414 613 520

### **General inquiries**

Infocentre 1300-302-502

### **Links**

Local services review 2005: <http://www.accc.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/605440/fromItemId/58>.

R90/0954

## **Item 8: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS**

Contact: Frank Loveridge, Policy & Research

### **Amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 were passed by Parliament on 26 October 2004 and will come into force on 2 May 2005.**

The Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW has issued a factsheet on recent amendments to the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*.

The most significant amendment is the extension of the time limit for lodging a complaint. Complainants will now have 12 months to lodge a complaint where as previously the time limit was six months unless there was "good cause" for an extension of time. The President of the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW will be given discretion to decline a complaint that is more than 12 months old.

The President will now be able to accept a part complaint where as previously a complaint had to be accepted in total. This allows a situation where there are a number of complaints of which only some are warranted in terms of the legislation. If the President declines all or part of a complaint there will be no avenue for review by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

Under the amendments the Board will have a positive obligation to assist people to lodge a complaint where it is difficult or impossible for them to do so, for example, where there is an intellectual or cognitive disability.

The Board will be able to compel parties to provide documents that may be relevant to a complaint and people will now be able to amend complaints after they are lodged. New powers will be given to the President to decline and terminate complaints during an investigation, for example, where there may be a more appropriate remedy like proceedings in the Industrial Relations Commission.

Complainants will no longer have an automatic right to commence proceedings in the ADT where the President has declined to investigate and a request has been made for a referral to the Tribunal. The complainant will have to seek leave and have it granted for the Tribunal to hear the matter.

There are also a number of procedural changes that are to be found in the amendments.

For further information on this matter please contact the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW on 9268 5544 or 1800 670 812 or refer to [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb), or contact the Associations' Legal Officer, Frank Loveridge, on 9242 4125 or [frank.loveridge@lgsa.org.au](mailto:frank.loveridge@lgsa.org.au).

R92/0017

## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

### ***Item 9: LOAD-BASED LICENSING TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST***

Contact: See item

#### **The Department of Environment and Conservation is seeking Local Government representation on the Load-Based Licensing Technical Review Panel, to advise on Pollution Load Calculation Protocols.**

Load-Based Licensing (LBL) controls emissions from NSW's largest potentially polluting activities. Under the scheme emission load limits are set for licensed premises and licence fees are linked to the total amount of emissions (loads) from each licensed source.

Local Government's most common involvement as a licensee under this scheme is as an owner/operator of sewage treatment facilities.

The LBL Technical Review Panel advises the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation on the Load Calculation Protocol, especially emission factors and load calculation methods.

Panel members are appointed by the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Bob Debus, for up to three years. Members are required to have appropriate technical or scientific qualifications and experience.

The panel includes representatives of licensees, environment groups, local government and an independent scientific adviser.

Expressions of interest are invited for a Local Government representative. The person to be appointed will demonstrate strength in one or more of the following:

- experience in emissions monitoring and estimation processes
- understanding of NSW environmental legislation and regulatory issues
- ability to represent a broad range of stakeholders
- a commitment to maintaining robust, cost-effective pollution load calculation methods as part of NSW's core environment protection legislation.

The Government is strongly committed to increasing diversity on its government boards and committees and encourages women, people of non-English speaking background, people with a disability, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and young people to apply.

Please note that applications close 20 May.

For nomination packages and inquiries contact: Owen Pascoe, [TRP@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:TRP@environment.nsw.gov.au) or 9995 6014.

R90/0147

## ***Item 10: ANNOUNCEMENT OF WATER SMART AUSTRALIA FUNDING PROGRAMME GUIDELINES***

Contact: see item

**The Australian Government has recently released the funding guidelines for the Water Smart Australia Programme, which is a component of the Australia Water Fund. This is a large project programme, to which Local Government is eligible to apply.**

The Water Smart Australia Programme has been established to accelerate the development and uptake of smart technologies and practices in water use. It is a large project programme that aims to support on-ground water resource projects that will make a significant contribution to the sustainable and efficient management of Australia's water resources in rural, regional and urban areas.

The Programme, to be administered by the National Water Commission, is one of three funding programmes under the Australian Water Fund. The other two are the Community Water Grants and Raising National Water Standards. \$1.6 billion is to be allocated to the Water Smart Australia Programme.

Examples of projects and activities which are suitable candidates as Water Smart Australia projects include, but are not limited to, those which:

- improve river flows for better environmental outcomes
- return groundwater aquifers to sustainable levels
- lead to water savings through improvements in irrigation infrastructure
- encourage or advance on-farm water use efficiency improvements
- desalinate water for use in cities and towns
- recycle and reuse stormwater, 'grey' water and wastewater from sewage
- provide more efficient storage facilities, such as underground aquifers
- provide alternatives to ocean outfalls and the better management of sewage in our coastal cities
- develop water efficient housing design.

Priority will be given to projects which result in on-ground water management improvements and which produce a significant public benefit. As a general guide, the minimum project contribution from the fund is of the order of \$1 million and the maximum funding duration is four years. Nonetheless, highly relevant projects that seek less than this level of funding may be considered for assistance; these might include a project definition phase of a larger eventual project.

Partnerships and consortia are encouraged. Individuals or commercial entities may be included as part of a consortium. It should be noted that projects seeking to support activities that are primarily responsibilities of a state or territory government are unlikely to be recommended, unless they can establish significant innovation or national demonstration value. In particular, proposals from Local Government for projects that have already been rejected by state governments would need to indicate why they were unsuccessful. There is no predetermined cost-sharing formula for Water Smart Australia funding of a project. Co-contributions are expected from applicants (but not necessarily all consortium members).

The Associations hope to hold discussions soon with the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability as to how the funding program can best be coordinated state-wide and to ensure Local Government applications are recognised in line with other NSW State Government funding bids.

Applicants who consider that they have a project that has merit and is worthy of funding through Water Smart Australia are encouraged to contact the National Water Commission on 6271 5500 to discuss its suitability. The guidelines can be downloaded from [www.nwc.gov.au](http://www.nwc.gov.au).

R93/0154

# ROADS AND TRANSPORT

## ***Item 11: ROAD CLASSIFICATION REVIEW – INTERIM REPORT RELEASED***

Contact: See item.

### **The Chair of the NSW Road Classification Review Panel has forwarded copies of the panel's interim report to all councils for information and comment.**

The review of the classification of state and regional roads provides an opportunity to adjust the make up of the road network to ensure that resources are targeted to the most important and up to date set of roads that best meets the social and economic needs across New South Wales.

The panel received submissions from 138 councils which, together with submissions from the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), contained over 380 proposals for roads to be considered for classification change.

The interim report lists all the proposals and gives the panel's initial thinking on whether it proposes to agree to or reject each reclassification proposal. The panel has attempted to be consistent and equitable in its assessment of all proposals in line with the classification criteria.

The chair has stressed that these are not the panel's final recommendations but an initial view only. The panel will provide the opportunity for further consultation with councils before recommendations for specific road reclassifications are finalised in late 2005.

Councils are therefore invited to consider the panel's initial position and provide any formal response back to the panel by 30 June. The panel will also be available to meet with councils to discuss any issues councils may have.

It is to be emphasised that the views expressed in the report are those of the panel only. Therefore any concerns or issues councils may wish to raise should be directed initially to the chair of the panel, rather than to the RTA, the Minister or their local MP.

Submissions on the interim report should be made in writing to the panel:

Mike Montgomery  
Chairman  
Road Classification Review Panel  
C/- Panel Secretariat  
Roads and Traffic Authority  
Infrastructure Maintenance Branch  
PO Box K198  
HAYMARKET NSW 1238

or: [Road\\_Review\\_Panel@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Road_Review_Panel@rta.nsw.gov.au)

The Associations would also appreciate any feedback from councils on the findings of the interim report, and also copies of any submissions made to the review. These may be sent to our Roads and Transport Policy Officer, Richard Connors at [richard.connors@lgsa.org.au](mailto:richard.connors@lgsa.org.au) or 9242 4073.

R90/0441

**Item 12: WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY FRIDAY 6 MAY**

Contact: see item

**The Department of Local Government has produced a Circular to councils promoting Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD), an initiative of the Pedestrian Council of Australia (PCA) supported by the NSW Government.**

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of public transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

The PCA will be sending promotional material (posters and stickers) to all councils and primary schools in mid April.

The event will be supported by a statewide TV, radio, press and poster campaign. The PCA will employ PR consultants, Verve, who will be available to assist councils where required.

Councils can support this important campaign in some of the following ways (please consult the respective school principal first):

- Sending a copy of this correspondence to your Road Safety, Health and Environment officer and ask them to contact the primary schools in your area to encourage registration (by fax or internet) and participation.
- Contacting your local newspapers, TV and radio stations and arranging media opportunities with local identities who have primary school aged children.
- Organising healthy breakfasts in conjunction with the schools and P&Cs.

More information, including the contact details of the PR consultants, can be sourced from the PCA's website at [www.walk.com.au](http://www.walk.com.au).

Contact: Michael Fleming on 9289 4041 or [Michael.Fleming@dlg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Fleming@dlg.nsw.gov.au).

R90/1244