

# Local Government News



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## HEADLINES

- ◀ [LOCAL GOVERNMENT SAFE SYSTEM PROJECT](#)
- ◀ [STATE PLANNING POLICY 4.1 STATE INDUSTRIAL BUFFER \(AMENDMENT DRAFT\)](#)
- ◀ [OFFICER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE](#)
- ◀ [OVERSEAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT](#)
- ◀ [CORPORATE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT \(CTM\) – SKYWEST DEAL](#)
- ◀ [INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYERS OF RESERVISTS](#)
- ◀ [STRATEGIC ELEARNING](#)
- ◀ [AUSTRALASIAN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE](#)

- ◀ [NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME](#)
- ◀ [VITAL PLANET SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS](#)

## MAILBAG

- ◀ ECONOMIC BRIEFING JULY 2009
- ◀ INFO PAGE – BUS STOP INFRASTRUCTURE
- ◀ INFO PAGE - MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING LEGISLATION AND PROCESSES
- ◀ AGM MATTERS OF SPECIAL URGENT BUSINESS (3)

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## ISSUES UPDATE

### INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYERS OF RESERVISTS

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP has announced that employers of Defence Reservists who claim financial assistance through the Employer Support Payment Scheme will now receive higher payments.

Employer Support Payments (ESPs) rose on Wednesday, 1 July from \$1123.30 to \$1183.10, for every week full-time equivalent Reservists are away from their civilian jobs, once the qualifying period of two weeks and other eligibility criteria are satisfied.

For part-time equivalent Reservists, a pro-rata amount of the applicable Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) is calculated based on their weekly working hours. ESP support is also available to self-employed Reservists whose business provides their main source of income.

In order for an employer to qualify for ESP payments, their Reservist employees must perform Defence service for five or more consecutive days after completing the qualifying period.

For further information, please call 1800 803 485, or email [esp@defence.gov.au](mailto:esp@defence.gov.au) or visit [www.defence.gov.au/reservists](http://www.defence.gov.au/reservists)