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LONG SERVICE LEAVE – AMENDING REGULATION

The Local Government (General) Amendment (Long Service Leave) Regulation 2011 commenced on 18 February 2011. The Regulation was published on the NSW legislation website at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au on 18 February 2011.

The Amending Regulation inserts clause 406B into the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The effect of this is that council employees, with the consent of the council, may take long service leave at half pay or double pay. These entitlements are in addition to the provisions of state awards applying to council employees.

The purpose of the amendment is to reduce councils' growing liability for untaken long service leave and to bring council employee long service leave entitlements in line with those of NSW public servants.

The Amending Regulation is consistent with the focus on the development and retention of skills in the local government sector as flexibility in the provision of long service leave entitlements provides an incentive for skilled council employees to remain in the industry.

In the process of drafting the amendment the Division of Local Government consulted extensively with the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, the United Services Union and NSW Industrial Relations.

Councils are advised to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the amended Regulation and to notify employees of the changes.



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