**Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*)** ***e-*flash**

**Information for Water Industry Managers and Practitioners in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #412– 8 November 2019)**

**1.   New Reef regulations come into effect from 1 December 2019**

**2.   Live stream QWater Opportunity for *qldwater* members – Havelock North**

**3.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**1. New Reef regulations come into effect from 1 December 2019**
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The new reef protection regulations come into effect from 1 December 2019. The requirements under the new regulations principally concern primary producers, including: new requirements for record keeping, minimum practice agricultural standards, nitrogen and phosphorous budgets for sugarcane farmers and EAs for new cropping and horticulture activities.

However, the regulations also include specific requirements for "New, expanded or intensified industrial development" that will apply to new sewage and water treatment plants, and upgrades to existing plants.

Under the regulations, new, expanded or intensified ‘environmentally relevant activities’ (ERAs) must not increase nutrient or sediment pollutant loads. If this cannot be achieved through design or operation conditions – which will often be the case, the Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy (which has yet to be finalised) will guide what offsets can be used to avoid a net residual impact.

DES are holding informal drop-in sessions targeted at producers in regional locations providing an opportunity to talk with staff about the new requirements. The initial sessions will be from 2–7pm at the following locations:

* 13 November – CWA Hall, 5 Plumb Street, Tully
* 14 November – Innisfail Management Public Education and Training Centre, 70 Rankin St, Innisfail
* 19 November – Arthur Titley Centre, 70 Mosman St, Charters Towers

The dates and locations of additional sessions for 2019 and 2020 will be updated and available online at [www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/79404/18hm6/2882685/_1ykoDhMq5BBqss4Zlb1pLBTFrNjFaD_cGV0UKa8-1.html)

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**2. Live stream QWater Opportunity for *qldwater* members – Havelock North**
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 **Live Stream: Can we prevent Australia’s Havelock North? Learning lessons from other’s experiences.**

***qldwater*** has partnered with the Australian Water Association to make a highly topical live stream panel discussion available to our members. it’s a great chance to hear from some industry experts as well as someone who had first hand involvement with the Havelock North (NZ) incident in 2016, where around 5,500 people became ill with campylobacteriosis due to drinking water contamination. Twenty ***qldwater*** members have already registered! To register for the live stream event [click here](https://awa-asn.zoom.us/webinar/register/1015719478969/WN_12cvnKusQiOKSwOJWK4NcQ).

Supported by the Queensland Government, the panel session will take place at AWA’s [QWater Conference](https://www.awa.asn.au/Shared_Content/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=QLDQWTR19&WebsiteKey=9dc929a7-973a-452a-8ebd-7ac0870e5ba9) on Thursday 21 November at 9.10am.

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**3.   Water Security Forum with Presentation on Townsville’s WaterSmart Initiative**

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QCOSS is hosting a presentation by Inga Davis, Program Director of Water Security , Townsville Water and Waste on their innovative WaterSmart Package initiative on **Tuesday 26 November 2019 from 1.00pm to 3.00pm**. QCOSS invite SEQ Water providers, regional Councils and community representatives are invited to share their experiences of water conservation messaging after the presentation in an open forum.

Two years in the planning, this State-funded water conservation program was 86 per cent subscribed within its first two months of operation and has more than 21,450 participants register. The WaterSmart Package aims to be inclusive of the whole of community by offering water efficient devices and garden items to renters and concession card holders, as well as home owners and Body Corporates. Inga has generously agreed to give us a presentation on Townsville’s journey to achieving reductions in household water consumption at a critical time in that city’s history.

To join in the free event, please [register here](https://www.qcoss.org.au/civicrm/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm%2Fevent%2Fregister&reset=1&id=660) to either attend in person (Ground Floor, River Tower, 20 Pidgeon Close West End) or

via Zoom (for details, see ‘Workshop or webinar2’ on the registration page).

For further information, please contact Fiona Hawthorne at QCOSS on 07 3004 6901 or fionah@qcoss.org.au

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