**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #76**

**Information for Water Industry Managers, Human Resources Personnel and Employees in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #76 – 16 May 2019)**

1. New Technical Competency Handbook for the Water Industry
2. WIOA Conference, Bundaberg, 5-6 June 2019
3. ***qldwater*** Scholarship nominations closing soon!

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1. **New Technical Competency Handbook for the Water Industry**

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***qldwater*** has been supporting WIOA and the VicWater Learning and Development Network in developing a guide to assist water utilities develop processes and practices to deliver a technically competent operational workforce.

[The Technical Competency Handbook](https://wioa.org.au/technicalcompetency/) explores options for the planning and delivery of learning and development programs to achieve technical competency and manage ongoing professional development. It includes a number of case studies, including two Queensland examples of best practice with the Water Industry Worker Program and Seqwater’s Site-based Operator Competency Assessment and also provides information about implementing Operator Certification.

The guide has been written to have relevance nationally and is intended to be used by HR, L&D practitioners and direct line managers tasked with the creation and implementation of L&D programs for water industry operations staff.

Thank you to Kent Weeden, Brad Milfull, Kim Moore and Angela Robinson for their support in developing the Queensland case studies.

You can download the handbook at: <https://wioa.org.au/technicalcompetency/>. If there is sufficient interest, ***qldwater*** will host a webinar to provide an overview for using the handbook. Please contact Carlie Sargent on [csargent@qldwater.com.au](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au) if you’re keen to participate.

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1. **WIOA Conference, Bundaberg, 5-6 June 2019**

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Registrations are open to attend the **WIOA Queensland Operations Conference and Exhibition** to be held in Bundaberg from 5-6 June, 2019. A program and registration form is available on the [WIOA website](https://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2019/qld-delegates/).

The conference includes technical presentations from a variety of organisations and a trade exhibition with more than 80 exhibitors showcasing the very latest products and technologies available. The multiple social events offer fantastic opportunities for networking with other water industry personnel from across Queensland.

The Queensland Mains Tapping Competition is always a highlight of the event and a number of Queensland teams have already nominated to participate. If you have a team of two to compete against teams from the Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Cairns and QUU, please contact Craig Mathison on 0457 846 008 or [craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au).

***qldwater*** will be there supporting Mackay Regional Council and its winning water in the battle for the Ixom Water of Origin Taste Test and will be looking forward to the announcement of winners of the ***qldwater*** awards for Young Operator and Operator of the Year (Civil/All-Rounder), and AWA’s Operator of the Year award.  We also look forward to meeting some new trainees from councils in the region – we have been able to support registrations for four new assistant operators through the Water Skills Partnership with WIOA’s help.

We will have a booth and hope to chat to as many people as we can as we undertake some research around operator workforce planning.

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1. ***qldwater* Scholarship nominations closing soon!**

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Nominations close at the end of this month to be considered for a 2019 ***qldwater*** Scholarship.

The Queensland Water Regional Communities Innovations Program (QWRCIP) will provide up to four scholarships to employees of ***qldwater*** full member organisations with 10,000 or fewer connections to attend ***qldwater’s*** Annual Forum (September) at Logan City and participate in other activities during that week, including spending time with a technical specialist at an SEQ utility and participation in the ***qldwater*** Technical Reference Group meeting.

This year, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) is also providing support for an additional two scholarships, funded through QWRAP. These scholarships will include time with technical experts at a regional council and participation either in a ***qldwater*** regional event, QWRAP meeting or a range of training activities. More information about the scholarships and application conditions are available [on our website](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-Scholarships).

Nominations are due by **31 May 2019** to [csargent@qldwater.com.au](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au). For more information please contact Carlie Sargent on 3632 6853.

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