**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #44**

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

**(Issue #44 –  4 December 2015)**

1. **New National Water Training package endorsed (NWP15)**
2. **Industry comment sought – amendments to National Certification Framework for Drinking Water Operators**
3. **STP Operator Certification Framework – amendments**

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**1. New National Water Training package endorsed (NWP15)**

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An updated version of the National Water Training package (now NWP15) was endorsed by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee on the 1st of December. The new version is the result of a review process that has been undertaken over the past couple of years coordinated by Government Skills Australia.

A simple information sheet outlining some of the key changes in the new National Water Training package has been developed by ***qldwater*** and is available on our website[**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_206613/Info_Sheet_-_Changes_to_National_Water_Training_Package). The full training package can be viewed on the Government Skills Australia website [**here**](http://governmentskills.com.au/water/28-training-package/332-final-nwp-training-package-material)**.**

There will be a twelve month transition period whereby learners currently enrolled in old NWP07 qualifications will be able to complete their qualification or transition to the new training package.

The RTO (water operations delivery) page on the ***qldwater*** website will be updated in due course to include details on the new qualification offerings by RTOs in Queensland.  ***qldwater*** is also in discussions with the Department of Education and Training (DET) to ensure that current funding programs are updated to reflect the new training package qualifications.

If you have any queries related to the changes to the training package, please speak to your training provider or contact Michelle Hill at ***qldwater*** (mhill@qldwater.com.au, (07) 3632 6853).

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**2. Industry comment sought – amendments to the Proposed National Certification Framework for Drinking Water Operators**

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The Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST) met in Brisbane on 9th October and considered a number of amendments to the *Proposed National Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems.* The proposed amendments relate primarily to issues that have been raised through the Queensland and New South Wales certification implementation pilots.

Further details on all of the proposed amendments are outlined in the documents available on the ***qldwater*** website [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_water_operator_programs) (there is a [marked up/tracked changes version](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_206648/Proposed_Certification_Framework_Amendments_-_tracked_changes) of the original Framework as well as a document in [table format](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_206649/Proposed_Certification_Framework_Amendments_-_Table_Format) outlining each of the proposed amendments). Industry feedback and comments on the proposed changes is encouraged. Please email any feedback or comments to skills@qldwater.com.au **by Friday 22nd January.**

Further changes to the Framework to update the training requirements in line with the new National Water Training package (NWP15) will also be made.

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**3. STP Operator Certification Framework - Amendments**

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A *Sewage/wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification Framework* was developed through and formally endorsed by the Industry Leaders’ Group (ILG) of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership on the 27th May this year. The Framework seeks to set minimum standards for training, education and professional development with a view to improving consistency, portability of skills, access to professional development and career paths for these critical staff and to assist employers to manage risks around their environmental duty with greater confidence.

A number of amendments to the Framework have been made and an updated Framework is now available on the ***qldwater*** website [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_194129/STP_Operator_Certification_Framework_Final_V2)**.** The changes relate primarily to the professional development requirements and aim to establish more rigour.

The Framework has also been updated to reflect recent changes to the National Water Training package.

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