**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #29**

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

**(Issue #29 – 16 April 2014)**

**1.     Delivering Sustainable DWQMPs -  Capacity Assessment and Building Workshop**

**2.      National Workforce Development Funding Application on hold**

**3.   Upcoming ICE WaRM Courses**

**4**.     ***qldwater* Sponsored WIOA Operator Awards – Nominate your staff!**

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**1.      Delivering Sustainable DWQMPs -  Capacity Assessment and Building Workshop**

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 Sarah Lunau, Water Quality Manager at Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) and International Water Centre (IWC) student in the Masters of Integrated Water Management programme, invites industry members to participate in:

Delivering Sustainable DWQMPs -  Capacity Assessment and Building Workshop

Wednesday, 30th April

10:15am – 12:15pm

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Sarah’s final year Masters project has grown out of her role as manager of the Operations Group at GAWB and her professional interest in finding ways to build their capacity to ensure the sustainable delivery of GAWB’s Drinking Water Quality Management Plan. GAWB is not unique in facing issues of capacity within its Operations Group – extensive leave accumulations within a small group of dedicated operators, some approaching retirement and with difficulty in recruiting trained operators and even trainees – is a common story across regional and remote Queensland and in smaller utilities. The benefits of developing a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan (DWQMP) are without dispute, however utilities are left with the burden of finding the capacity to develop a suitable plan and then operationalise that plan - implement and deliver the conditions of that plan to ensure that a sustainable supply of safe drinking water is delivered to the communities which they serve.

This workshop is designed to gather key data for this project, namely information on how other organisations tackle the types of issues GAWB are facing; what has worked well, what hasn’t worked and lessons that have been learned.

The outcomes of this project are to  document good practice in the above areas of capacity building, contributing to the industry-wide discussions on people, knowledge and skills. It will also develop a user-friendly approach to tackling questions of capacity within a water business or organisation.

Sarah can be contacted via email  [slunau@gawb.qld.gov.au](mailto:slunau@gawb.qld.gov.au) or mobile 0427 117 251 for more information on the workshop and to register your intention to attend.

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**2.      National Workforce Development Funding Application on hold**

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A second National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF) application submitted on behalf of eight ***qldwater*** members in late 2013 was endorsed by the Government assessment panel in February 2014.

There are now some delays in Ministerial sign off of the application due to the Commission of Audit currently being undertaken, with all NWDF applications on hold until after the Federal Budget is released in May.

The existing ***qldwater*** NWDF funding program (approved in 2013) continues and includes six water service providers with a total of 63 participants and a funding value of $114,398.68 ($331,886 total project value).

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**3.      Upcoming ICE WaRM Courses**

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| **3rd Water in Coal Mining School:** Policy, Regulation, Surfacewater and Groundwater issues |  | Mackay | Thu 08 May - Fri 09 May |  |
| **7th Hydrology and Hydraulics for Non-Engineers** Water Science for Practitioners, Managers and Policy Makers **6th Australian Water School:**  Fundamentals of Water Science, Technology and Governance |  | Gold Coast  Melbourne | Wed 14 - Fri 16 May  Mon 2 – Wed 4 Jun |  |

For more information on these and other upcoming courses visit the ICE Warm website - <http://www.icewarm.com.au/userfiles/File/2014/Annual.pdf>.

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**4.       *qldwater* Sponsored WIOA Operator Awards – Nominate your staff!**

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Nominations for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards are open.  Applications close on the **10th May.**

Established in 2010 by ***qldwater*** in conjunction with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA), these awards will again recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.

The two categories available for nomination this year are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
  2. Operator of the Year (Civil / “All Rounder”)

The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees, and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.

The awards will be presented at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop Conference Dinner at Logan on 4 June 2014.   The winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip (value $2,000+ each) to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group NZ conference in May 2015, a perpetual plaque which their employer keeps for 12 months plus an individual trophy which is kept by the winner.

This is a great way to recognise and reward your hard working water staff.   It’s easy to nominate - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.

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**This message may be passed on to interested individuals and organisations.**

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