**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #71**

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

**(Issue #71 – 12 December 2018)**

1. Queensland Water Skills Forum 2019
2. National Water Package Qualifications Review
3. Emerging Skills for the Water Industry
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1. **Queensland Water Skills Forum – 7 March 2019**

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The program for the 2019 Queensland Water Skills Forum is looking great and we’re very pleased to confirm a number of presentations for the event:

Gavin Leckenby, Executive Director, Skills Investment and Market Strategy, Department of Employment, Small Business and Training will open the day with a keynote presentation with examples of industry and regional collaboration that are helping address skills shortages and opportunities for the water industry to address its skilling challenges.

We’ll hear the findings of WaterRA’s research into the value of Operator Certification and investment in programs to develop, support and continually grow operator competency and WIOA will congratulate newly Certified Operators.

Presenters from Townsville City Council, Seqwater, Western Downs, Bundaberg Regional Council will share their recruitment challenges and innovative strategies to find and keep operators and Dr Nicole Davis, Mackay Regional Council will discuss the business imperatives for Water Industry Workers. Marcus Champ from Unitywater will explore the workforce lifecycle and we’ll hear about QUU’s workforce planning experience.

A panel will explore the challenges of skilling contractors and how to ensure public health is upheld in maintenance contracts and you’ll have a chance to challenge your mates in a hands-on demonstration of Lutra’s new SCADA-simulator.

Neil Brennan, CEO of Seqwater is our special guest speaker for the optional dinner. Neil will share his experiences in running a Victorian water business and plans for Seqwater.

The Forum will be held at the Crosby Park Events Centre, Brothers Rugby Club, Albion from 9am to 4pm and will conclude with networking drinks and an optional (cost-recovery) dinner from 6pm.

A program will be available and registrations open in January 2019. Forum attendance is free for up to three delegates from each Water Skills Partner. ***qldwater*** members (who aren’t part of the Water Skills Partnership) will be able to attend at a heavily discounted rate. We have introduced sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 forum, please contact csargent@qldwater.com.au if you are interested.

We look forward to welcoming you to what will be a great development and networking opportunity.

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1. **National Water Package Qualifications Review**

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The Certificate II in Water Industry Operations, Certificate III in Water Industry Operations and Certificate III in Water Industry Treatment are all currently under review. Thank you to those who have provided comments on the Certificate II. The Technical Advisory Committee is working through all the feedback and has started looking at options for the review of the Certificate III qualifications. If you have any feedback about any of the qualifications and how they could be improved to support the skilling and training of your operators, please send them to csargent@qldwater.com.au. The revised Diploma of Water Industry Operations is in the final stages of review before it will be available for enrolments. We expect this to be very early in the New Year.

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1. **Emerging Skills for the Water Industry**

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Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is inviting input for the Water Industry Reference Committee 2019 Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work. The Skills Forecast identifies new and emerging skills and associated training needs with the Proposed Schedule of Work outlining the recommended four-year plan for developing and reviewing Training Packages to address issues identified in the forecast. You can provide your input via an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/skillsforecast> before 14 January 2019. ***qldwater*** participated in a workshop hosted by AIS to discuss barriers and opportunities to recruiting skilled employees and emerging skill needs. Water was included in a session with the maritime, rail, transport and logistics sectors and the challenges for skilling are consistent across all industries with an ageing workforce, difficulty competing with other sectors for staff and lack of understanding of the industry noted as the key issues.

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1. **Aqua Card**

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The ‘Aqua Card’, the commercial version of the [Water Quality Online Course](https://www.qldwater.com.au/water-quality) is expected to be available early in the New Year. The course is a simple overview of what contaminants are, the risks they pose, how they can enter a drinking water system and the responsibilities of those working on infrastructure to reduce that risk. It includes practical guidance – how to operate within work sites including good housekeeping and disinfection practices.

The [Water Quality Online Course](https://www.qldwater.com.au/water-quality) is currently freely available to Water Skills Partners or members of ***qldwater*** and the commercial version will be available for those who are not members or Water Skills Partners at a cost of $45 plus GST and will include a certificate of completion. Please contact csargent@qldwater.com.au if you have any queries in relation to the course.

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1. **2019 *qldwater* Events**

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7 March - Queensland Water Skills Partnership Forum, Brisbane

28 March - Regional Mini-Conference, Biloela

4 July - QWRAP meeting, site tour of Haughton Pipeline and dinner, Townsville

5 July - Regional Mini-Conference, Townsville

25 July - QWRAP alliance meeting, tour of a range of sites in Maryborough and Hervey Bay and dinner, Hervey Bay

26 July - Regional Mini-Conference, Hervey Bay

11 September - Annual Forum Day 1 including technical tour showcasing Logan Water Infrastructure Alliance activities, Logan

12 September - Annual Forum Day 2 – presentations, Logan

For more information visit <https://www.qldwater.com.au/Events_2019> or contact dkislitsyna@qldwater.com.au.

From all of us at ***qldwater*** we hope you have a very merry Christmas and a great start to 2019. We look forward to catching up at an event soon!

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