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

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

**(Issue #332 –  12 September 2017)**

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**1.   Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test – 2017 Winner!**

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The Queensland final of the 2017 Ixom Best of the Best Water Taste Test took place last week during the ***qldwater*** Annual Forum.  We congratulate Livingstone Shire Council whose water from their Capricorn Coast Scheme was selected as the state’s top drop  by around 60 forum delegates who participated in a blind taste test of six water samples from across Queensland.

Livingstone Shire Councillor for Water, Waste Management and the Environment, Adam Belut said the winning drop came from a pristine dual water system at Waterpark Creek and was treated at a conventional water treatment plant. “Our crystal clear water has long been recognised as being some of the purest water in Australia… and now it’s official! I would like to congratulate the dedicated and professional Council team who operate the Woodbury Treatment Plant. They are constantly striving to maintain the highest quality water for our residents and best practice treatment techniques and are doing a great job.”

The runner up was Seqwater with water from the Gold Coast's Tugun Desalination Plant.

Livingstone’s winning water will go on to compete in the Best Tap Water in Australia competition with the successful entry in that competition representing Australia at the International Water Tasting Competition to be held in the USA in 2018.

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**2.   *qldwater.com.au* - Website Upgrade**

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The [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au) website has undergone a recent upgrade to make the site more user friendly and to improve functionality on mobile devices.

The upgrade means that in order to access the members area of the website, members must reset their log in passwords.   Here’s a step by step guide on how to change your password:

<http://www.qldwater.com.au/reset-password>.

Some log in issues may be experienced - if you have still problems logging into the members area, please let us know – enquiry@qldwater.com.au.

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**3.  Central Queensland Trade Waste Interest Group – Date Change – 6 October 2017**

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There has been a change of date for the first meeting of the newly formed Central Queensland Trade Waste Interest Group (CQTWIG), with the meeting now taking place on Friday 6 October at 9.00 a.m. The purpose of the CQTWIG is to discuss Trade Waste (Source Control) matters & related experiences plus networking opportunities, with the attendees including Trade Waste Officers, Plumbing Inspectors and other interested parties.

Col Hester from Queensland Urban Utilities will be the keynote speaker at this inaugural meeting to be held in the Main Training Room, Livingstone Shire Council, Cordingley Street, Yeppoon.     For those interested there will be an informal dinner (optional attendance - own cost) commencing at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 5 October at The Strand Hotel, Yeppoon.

Please forward your expressions of interest in attending and any suggestions for agenda items to be raised at the meeting, to Michael Dalton at Livingstone Shire Council via email:  michael.dalton@livingstone.qld.gov.au or telephone 07 49 135 000.

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**4.   Solomon Water Twinning Partnership Opportunity**

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Our Affiliate Member, Solomon Water is currently looking to form an agreement with a water utility partner to work in collaboration to support their staff in building capacity and increasing technical skills and competencies, contributing to the creation of a sustainable organization that can deliver on its full range of commitments and projects.

This twinning arrangement is an innovative one, and will require a partner who is happy to work with Solomon Water on a program to suit current needs and develop as the relationship and in progress learning unfolds.   This is not a paid consultancy (the Asian Development Bank will support costs associated with travel, accommodation and per diems only), but an opportunity to make an invaluable contribution to the water industry, The Solomon Islands and to use this as an organisational developmental opportunity for the Partner and their selected staff.

It is expected that the Partner will provide support and mentoring on a monthly basis for up to two years with the arrangement coming into effect by November 2017.    More information is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=233133).

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Solomon Water’s General Manager, Ian Gooden on +677 8960777 or +677 24028 for a full Terms of Reference.    To apply please send your response addressing the Terms of Reference to Ian Gooden - General Manager at igooden@solomonwater.com.sb.   Applications close on Wednesday 4 October 2017.

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**5.   Public Consultation – Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is seeking public comment on the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011* (ADWG) draft chemical fact sheet and health based guideline values for per- and poly-fluoro alkylated substances, also known as PFAS.  The term ‘PFAS’ includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS).

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in a range of specialty applications such as some types of fire-fighting foams. Recently, PFAS contamination has been found on a number of sites, including where fire-fighting foams containing PFAS have been used. Their use has resulted in the identification of a number of contaminated sites around Australia where they have been found in water sources (surface and ground) and on adjacent land. This is a concern as their chemical

All stakeholders are invited to make a submission to NHMRC about the proposed changes. The draft fact sheet and information on how to make a submission can be obtained from the NHMRC public consultation website at [http://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/](http://nhmrccommunications.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jlthtukk-kjjdluutik-t/).

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**6.   Department of Environment and Heritage Protection - Newsletter**

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Members are encouraged to subscribe to the department’s newsletter to keep up to date with EHP related matters. It is currently sent out to approximately 3200 subscribers.

The purpose of the newsletter, as a direct engagement tool, is to provide links to departmental information that’s published on our website on matters relating to:

•                    new or amended policies and/or guidelines

•                    major initiatives and/or consultations

•                    recent prosecutions

•                    legislative changes

Subscribe here:  <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/management/compliance-enews.html>

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**7.   Reef Protection Regulations – Impact Statement open for consultation**

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The Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for broadening and enhancing reef protection regulations <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-regulations> is now open for public consultation, until 3 November, 2017.

The regulatory proposals were outlined in a public discussion paper in March 2017. Feedback from the discussion paper and the latest science has helped refine the regulatory proposals and preparation of the RIS, which assesses the costs and benefits of the proposals. Submissions received on the RIS will help inform any decision the Queensland Government makes on whether to move forward with changes to the existing reef protection regulations. For more information go to <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef-regulations> .

Submissions must be made in writing and close on Friday, 3 November. All queries and submissions should be directed via email to officeoftheGBR@ehp.qld.gov.au.

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**8.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS ANNOUCEMENTS**

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The latest Security Forecast provided by the Queensland Police Service is available for members to view [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=233134).  The information contained in this document may be viewed and circulated internally, however it should not be provided to the public / media or forwarded to external third parties.  Members must log in to access this document.

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

**To add your name** to the distribution list, email “subscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

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