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

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

**(Issue #207 - 20 August 2013)**

**1.   SWIM 2012 /13 Annual Water and Sewerage Data Due Dates**

**2.   Changes to Building Over Infrastructure Legislation**

**3.   AWA North Queensland Regional Conference – Townsville 29 & 30 August**

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**1.   SWIM 2012 /13 Annual Water and Sewerage Data Due Dates**

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All Water Service Providers in Queensland have been asked to collate and submit their annual 2012-13 water data report to SWIM. SWIM is now the main method for Queensland Water Service Providers to submit their annual water data to the ABS, BoM, Queensland Government and NPR. Last year more than 88% of councils reported data through SWIM, which is not only providing valuable information to the State and Federal Governments, but also back to you in the form of the benchmarking report and your individual comparative reports.

Every Water Service Provider in Queensland should have received information from ***qldwater*** in the past month regarding accessing and using the SWIM system to submit water data. Please contact ***qldwater*** at swim@qldwater.com.au, or 4124 3723 if you have any queries regarding your SWIM reporting – we appreciate reporting can be a complicated task and are happy to assist you in any way we can.

**Important dates** – SWIM annual water data submission is due by:

* **BoM** reporting WSPs (just the BoM relevant data): **31st August**
* **NPR** reporting WSPs (those with over 10,000 connections): **30th September**
* **All other** WSPs (ABS and Qld Govt data): **21st October**

***qldwater*** would appreciate receiving the data as soon as possible, (at least 5 days before this deadline if possible), so that we can run it through our quality control checks before submitting it to the relevant people on the dates provided above. If you need an extension please contact us immediately.

SWIM was developed by ***qldwater***, on behalf of Water Service Providers, to simplify the task of water data reporting. With your support and use of SWIM, we can continue to encourage government water data reporting to be rationalised and streamlined through systems such as SWIM. We urge you to submit your annual water data through SWIM on time so that its future as a water-industry-driven system is assured.

We welcome your feedback on SWIM. For more information please contact David Scheltinga (dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au or (07) 4124 3723; or visit [www.swim.qldwater.com.au](http://www.swim.qldwater.com.au)).

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**2.   Changes to Building Over Infrastructure Legislation**

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The Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 6 August 2013, resulting to changes in the way development approval processes work when building over or near a sewer, water main or stormwater drain.  The changes are likely to take effect from 1 November 2013.  The Bill is available [here](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/ACTS/2013/13AC030.pdf).

***qldwater*** convened a technical reference group in 2012 to review the draft changes to MP1.4 of the Queensland Development Code.  The group in general did not support the justifications used for the Code fearing a reduction in the power of water service providers to be able to assess new developments with the potential to impact infrastructure.

The draft Code does feature specific “concurrence” conditions which do allow service providers to review applications in certain circumstances – largely based on proximity and types of assets.

BCQ has held a number of targeted consultation sessions involving SEQ councils and service providers during 2013 to refine the document.  Thus, the Code is still going through final amendments. The last publicly available version (dated June) is available [here](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/THLGC/2013/INQ-BOLA/130501-tabledpaper3.pdf) and there are no plans to make it available more broadly to check prior to release.

There are other enabling documents currently being drafted, including a regulation which extends the concurrence power to all asset owners and prescribes a form based on acceptable solutions in the Code which certifiers must use to notify asset owners.  BCQ also advises that they are preparing a fact sheet to assist service providers and councils in implementing the Code.

The published version of these will be forwarded when they are available.

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**3.   AWA North Queensland Regional Conference – Townsville 29 & 30 August**

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Registrations are closing for the AWA North Queensland Regional Conference being held in Townsville on 29 & 30 August.   The conference will focus on efforts at maintaining services and water businesses in North Queensland under the impact of constrained budgets, revised legislation and stakeholder pressures.   For more information and registration please click here:  <http://www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294976221>

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