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

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

**(Issue #215 – 14 November 2013)**

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***qldwater* November Update**

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As the end of the calendar year approaches, the frequency of e-flashes has been scaled back as there are fewer things to announce.  Here is a brief update on some key activities ***qldwater*** is undertaking leading into December:

*Advocacy*

* Regular meetings with the State including the new DEWS Director General with LGAQ, and participation in parliamentary hearings on water infrastructure assets.
* A workshop with DEWS with TRG members on 28 November to discuss implementation of the 30 year water sector strategy and draft Bill to facilitate the regulatory simplification initiative.  (Note, the strategy is hoped to be released before the end of 2013, however it is contingent on Cabinet consideration).
* Progress on the new KPI reporting framework, further investigation into Sunwater pricing.
* Plumbing Industry Consultative Group meeting.
* Progressing simplification of sewage pumping station environmental conditions.
* Finalising the draft Standard Conditions for STPs (ERA63)

*Governance*

* Management Committee meeting and TRG meeting late November.

*Skills*

* Phase 2 visits (North and South Burnett, Cherbourg, Banana Shire) for the Technical Assessment, Capacity Building and Mentoring Program WTP Operators.
* National Workforce Development Fund Application submitted.
* Meetings associated with the Drinking Water Operator Certification program, Water Industry Worker Evaluation and technical group and other activities endorsed by the Water Skills Partnership detailed in previous skills e-flashes.
* National Water Industry Skills Taskforce and Water Industry Advisory Committee meetings early December.

*QWRAP*

* Multiple meetings for each of the three pilot regions.
* Initiation of a fourth QWRAP region comprising Whitsunday, Mackay and Isaac Regional Councils.
* Partnership with LGAQ and DEWS on an extension of QWRAP until December 2014.
* Funding applications on behalf of two regions for IFMSS.

*SWIM*

* Ongoing refinement and QC of 2013 data lodgement, further development of SWIM*Local* and SWIM*Lite* products.

*Submissions*

* National Water Commission triennial assessment, Urban Water Policy review.
* Trade Waste Plans (removal).
* Parliamentary review of assets.
* Queensland Competition Authority SEQ Long Term Regulatory/ Pricing Framework and associated meetings.
* SEQ water strategy and level of service review.

*Other*

* 10th Anniversary Dinner and book launch end November.  Hopefully the books will be sent out in time for Christmas.
* Newsletter in December.

Thanks to those who responded to our member survey – the results will be considered by TRG at the end of the month. A random draw of responses was conducted and the lucky winners of the two $100 magazine subscriptions prizes are Croydon Shire Council and North Burnett Regional Council.

Our office will be closed from 25 December to 1 January, but for any urgent matters ring Rob Fearon on 0428 300 208 or Dave Cameron on 0407 761 991.

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