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

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

**(Issue #217 -  13 December 2013)**

**1.  Changes to building requirements for building over or near relevant infrastructure**

**2.  *qldwater* Updated MoU with WIOA**

**3.  Updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines now available**

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**1. Changes to building requirements for building over or near relevant infrastructure**

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Some urgent amendments have been made to the [*Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 1.4—Building over or near relevant infrastructure* (MP 1.4)](http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/40202/1nrcx/1646632/b5a846n7w.html) based on feedback from key stakeholders.

From 13 December 2013, the revised version of MP 1.4 includes the following changes:

* **Removal** of restriction under A2 of MP 1.4 that meant the acceptable solutions only applied where relevant infrastructure (sewers, water mains, and stormwater drains) was located less than 1.5 metres below the finished surface level. This means that there will no longer be unnecessary referrals to a concurrence agency for this part.
* **Clarification** that MP 1.4 does not apply to any internal alterations or repairs to existing buildings that do not involve an increase to the building's floor area or affect the building’s footing system or sub-structure.

The Department of Housing and Public Works' [building over infrastructure factsheets](http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/40202/1nrcx/1718548/b5a84fzrx.html) have been amended to reflect these changes.

Building Codes Queensland will continue to closely monitor the implementation of MP 1.4. Any additional feedback from stakeholders will be registered to inform future refinements of the code. You can forward feedback directly to buildingcodes@qld.gov.au

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**2. *qldwater* Updated MoU with WIOA**

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***qldwater*** has recently signed off a reviewed and updated MoU with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia.  The MoU was initially implemented in 2010 and since this time our relationship with WIOA has been building strongly with a number of initiatives being developed, including current work progressing operator certification.

Sharing a strong focus on operator development and training initiatives, we have delivered training seminars in a number of Queensland locations as well as technical plant reviews and mentoring of operators.   The annual ***qldwater*** sponsored Young Operator of the Year and the Operator of the Year (Civil / All-rounder) Awards at the WIOA  annual conference is another positive outcome of the relationship.  We look forward to continuing to work proactively with WIOA in 2014.

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**3. Updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines now available**

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released an update to the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) as part of its rolling revision of the guidelines. The recent update of the ADWG includes:

* New Information Sheets for Water Treatment Operators, which replaces Information Sheets on Disinfection;
* An update of the 1996 Chemical Fact Sheets on benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes; and
* A new resource – Guidance for issuing and lifting boil water advisories.

Further information is available on the [NHMRC website](http://nhmrccommunications.createsend1.com/t/r-l-nujhkut-ttgdyirx-j/).

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**4. Problems with Pipes – Drinking Water Networks Master Class**

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Delivering water to peoples’ homes and businesses is a core service for water utilities, contracted service entities and local government instrumentalities. Maintaining the distribution system of pipes, pumping stations and service points in optimal condition is the key to minimising breakages, equipment failure and customer complaints. This Australian Water Association Master Class being held in Sydney on 18 & 19 February 2014 focuses on what can go wrong with pipes and troubleshooting the problem. Issues to be covered in this Class include planning and design to address unstable geo-strata or acid sulphate soils, selection of materials to minimise corrosion, dealing with leaks, catastrophic failure, pressure management and smart metering systems.

For the full program visit the AWA website   <http://www.awa.asn.au/problemswithpipes/>

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