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

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

**(Issue #233 – 23 June 2014)**

**1.   Release of WaterQ, Minister visits Longreach**

**2.   Release of *qldwater* Voluntary Benchmarking Report and Other SWIM news**

**3.   WSAA / *qldwater*****MoU and SAT Webinars**

**4.   Revised Asbestos Cement Pipe Cutting Guidelines**

**5.   Building Codes Queensland Roadshows, review of QDC MP1.4, Building Certification and Plumbing Legislation**

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**1.   Release of WaterQ, Minister visits Longreach**

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WaterQ: a 30-year strategy for Queensland’s water sector has been released today and is available [here](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/176344/waterq-strategy.pdf).

Minister for Energy and Water Supply the Hon. Mark McArdle MP said WaterQ provided a long-term vision for a water sector that supported increased productivity, economic growth, healthy communities and the environment, by focusing on seven (7) key priorities:

* Empowering customers and educating the community;
* Providing equitable and affordable water;
* Promoting efficient and productive water use;
* Encouraging responsible and productive water management;
* Developing a skilled and sustainable workforce;
* Developing smart regulation that encourages private sector investment; and
* Adopting innovative technology and infrastructure.

Minister McArdle will visit Longreach on 25 and 26 June, touring water infrastructure and meeting with members of the Outback Regional Water Group, which is convened by the Remote Area Planning and Development Board.

The tour provides an opportunity to showcase progress with the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program led by ***qldwater*** and LGAQ, as well as to discuss WaterQ.

For further information, contact Rob Fearon (0428 300 208 or rfearon@qldwater.com.au).

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**2.   Release of *qldwater* Voluntary Benchmarking Report and other SWIM news**

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**Release of Queensland’s Urban Potable Water and Sewerage Benchmarking Report – 2012/13**

Queensland’s [third public water and sewerage benchmarking report](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_168513/2012-2013_Benchmarking_Report) has been completed using 2012/13 data with 41 members participating in the report, up from 28 last year and 17 the previous.  This significant growth in participation is a significant achievement and reflects the commitment of our industry to improved transparency.

Benchmarking is crucial for our industry and these public reports have gone a long way towards preparing members for comparative reports to be published by DEWS from 2015.

**Annual water and sewage data reporting via SWIM for 2013-14**

It is coming up on that time of year again when annual water and sewage data is collated by Water Service Providers across the State and sent to BoM, NPR, ABS and the Qld Govt.

In the next month ***qldwater*** will be sending your SWIM representative information regarding accessing and using the SWIM system. If you have had staff changes and the SWIM reporting person from last year is no long working in this role please contact swim@qldwater.com.au.  There will be no changes to the indicators from last year and as such we will be able to release the SWIM data templates on July 1 this year.

We are not proposing to hold any immediate training sessions as the indicators and templates haven’t changed.  For next year’s reporting, the release of SWIM*Annual* (the new SWIM data entry point to replace spreadsheets and webforms), the new DEWS KPIs, and certain change to the NPR will mean several training workshops across the State.  However, this said if you would like SWIM training please contact us to discuss the best way to do this.

**New version of SWIM*Local* available (including new Task module)**

SWIM*Local* is data management software designed to assist you to efficiently obtain, collate, export, synchronise and translate your water and sewerage data across dispersed locations via a ‘cloud-based’ system across the internet. The system includes the flexibility for organisations to create and manage new indicators relevant to you, while seamlessly linking to the SWIM database and indicators.

A new version of SWIM*Local* (with optional Task module) has been released. This new version is a major update, including:

* improved sync functioning
* better validation rules
* includes text indicators
* a new ‘Task’ user that can only see tasks and not data
* email and mobile contact details for ‘Users’
* printing functionality, and
* scripting to prevent common issues people have previously come up against (like entering data in the future, having active sites within inactive schemes, etc.).

If you are interested in trialling the SWIM*Local* software and/or the new Task module please contact David Scheltinga (dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au or 0415 881 195).

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**3.   WSAA / *qldwater*****MoU and SAT Webinars**

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On Friday 20 June, ***qldwater*** entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Services Association of Australia for a period of two years.  The MoU is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_168515/WSAA_qldwater_MOU)**.** Under its terms:

* ***qldwater*** will receive access to the WSAA members’ portal;
* ***qldwater*** members with 20,000 connections or less will receive a discount of 50% on WSAA codes and standards;
* ***qldwater*** will establish a means of regularly communicating details of new WSAA projects and initiatives and promote benefits of WSAA membership where appropriate;
* both ***qldwater*** and WSAA will seek collaborative opportunities.  Planning for an innovation event in November this year is underway.

The MoU is designed to recognise the complementary roles of our organisations and commitment of both to improving water and sewerage services on behalf of their members.  WSAA has an extensive library of resources and tools, reflecting a significant current and historical investment, and smaller ***qldwater*** members now have improved access to those resources.  For further information on the MoU, please contact Dave Cameron on 0407 761 991 or dcameron@qldwater.com.au.

The first opportunity to be promoted is a series of lunch-time webinars, details available [here](https://www.wsaa.asn.au/NewsAndMedia/WSAAUpdate/Documents/2014%20SAT%20Water%20Innovation%20Series%20-%20Calendar.pdf).  The SAT Water Program is funded by the Australian Department of Industry. SAT Water gives WSAA and ***qldwater*** members an opportunity to review cutting edge commercialised technologies from SMEs (Small to Medium Enterprises).

To register for one or more webinar email SAT-Water@isleutilities.com.  Once registered you will be provided with access details for the webinar.

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**4.   Revised Asbestos Cement Pipe Cutting Guidelines**

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***qldwater's*** “Cutting, Handling & Disposal of Asbestos Cement (AC) Pipe Guidelines” have been reviewed to reflect changes to workplace health and safety legislation.  The revised guidelines are available to members [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=168296).

***qldwater*** wishes to thank our technical reference group members who assisted in the review process, and particularly acknowledge the efforts of Rockhampton Regional Council and Mackay Regional Council who also provided sample documents to assist other members in managing their compliance requirements:

[Mackay Regional Council SOP Asbestos](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_168518/Mackay_Regional_Council_SOP_Asbestos)

[Rockhampton Regional Council Asbestos Management Procedure](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_168522/Rockhampton_Regional_Council_Asbestos_Management_Procedure)

[Rockhampton Regional Council Safe Work Method Statement Asbestos](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_168523/Rockhampton_Regional_Council_Safe_Work_Method_Statement_Asbestos)

For further information please contact Dave Cameron on 0407 761 991 or dcameron@qldwater.com.au.

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**5.   Building Codes Queensland Roadshows, review of QDC MP1.4, Building Certification and Plumbing Legislation**

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Building Codes Queensland has announced a number of regional events across June/ July to promote and gather feedback on a number of reform initiatives. Details of the visits are available [here](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/aboutus/events/BuildingCodesQueenslandEvents/Pages/Default.aspx).

The proposed reforms raise a number of potential issues for Water Service Providers.

1. **Queensland Development Code Mandatory Part 1.4 – Building Over or Near Relevant Infrastructure**

BCQ is currently proposing two amendments to the [Part](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/QDCMP1.4BuildingOverOrNearRelevantInfrastructure.pdf) which was published in November 2013, both designed to reduce the number of concurrence requests received by some service providers.  The most recent e-flashes dealing with this document are #213 and #217.

The new draft sections are supposed to be available shortly on the Housing and Public Works web site.  They propose to deal with two matters by including:

* Wording which allows a proximity exemption (currently 2m) for class 1 and 10 buildings (5m for class 2-9 buildings)
* Wording which allows the construction of “lightweight structures” (like decks etc up to 36m2) over sewers – with the concession that they would need to be certified by an RPEQ or have foundations in accordance with AS2870.

Some members have indicated significant concern with both of these proposals, and much of this feedback has been ignored.  We encourage all members attending the roadshow events to raise concerns with BCQ, while our TRG considers how best to achieve workable solutions.

1. **Review of the Plumbing and Drainage Act**

[This page](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/construction/BuildingPlumbing/Plumbing/Pages/PlumbingLegislationReview.aspx) includes a link to a discussion paper on the future of plumbing and drainage legislation in Queensland.  Submissions close on 25 July and there are a few matters of potential interest to members.  Ignoring the broad discussion on deregulation which seems unlikely to ever happen:

* 4.1 details a series of options for on-site sewage treatment plants.  While not typically service provider assets, members may offer contract maintenance or testing services for these systems and the management of these systems may also have groundwater impacts.
* 4.5 proposes that service providers take ownership of existing combined sanitary drains.  This is a big issue in Brisbane, and presumed issue in several other local government areas (see P22).
* 4.7 considers backflow prevention devices, specifically in relation to rainwater tanks and the potential impact of contaminated water entering a potable network.
1. **Review of Building Legislation**

[This page](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/construction/BuildingPlumbing/Building/Pages/BuildingLegislationReview.aspx) includes a link to a discussion paper reviewing the future of private certification in Queensland.  While there are not specific water and sewerage issues identified, the role of Certifiers including quality control have been hot topics among members for a number of years.

***qldwater*** is interested in any member feedback relating to the proposed changes to the Queensland Development Code and plumbing legislation, for consideration in our likely submissions.  Please contact Dave Cameron (0407 761 991 or dcameron@qldwater.com.au).

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