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

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

**(Issue #243 – 17 October 2014)**

1. **Register now for innovation event to ensure your field trip spot!**
2. **WaterQ discussion paper released for feedback**
3. **QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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1. **Register now for innovation event to ensure your field trip spot!**

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The [urban water industry innovation forum](http://www.qldwater.com.au/events#11-2014) to be held at The Pavilion, Allan Border Field on 27 November (with field trip on 26 November) is fast approaching.  The program and registration form is available [here.](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_174874/Queensland_Urban_Water_Industry_Innovation_Forum_Program_and_Registration)  It is supported by LGAQ, Trility (lunch sponsor), TaKaDu Ltd (dinner sponsor) along with Unitywater, Lonza Water Treatment Technologies and the Department of Energy and Water Supply as supporting sponsors.

**Only 50 seats are available to participate in the field trip to QUU’s Luggage Point Treatment Plant Innovation Centre so register early to ensure your spot.** Registrations after 14 November 2014 will incur a $100 late fee.

A reminder – LGAQ’s sponsorship supports attendance from our colleagues in small and remote councils for the forum.  ***qldwater*** will provide complimentary registrations and LGAQ will provide $500 grants to help offset the costs of travel and accommodation for up to 4 representatives from Queensland councils to attend the forum.  The grants are targeted at councils with fewer than 10,000 population and will be prioritised to greatest financial need.  To be considered, please provide basic details of who the proposed attendee is to us and we will make contact to discuss eligibility.

The program includes an excellent set of presentations and activities around the theme of “utility led innovation – fit for purpose solutions to business needs” and a keynote from Minister McArdle.

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1. **WaterQ discussion paper released for feedback**

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***qldwater*** has prepared a [draft paper](http://www.qldwater.com.au/reports_position_papers) responding to the Queensland Government’s WaterQ strategy and we are seeking member feedback by 31 October.  It is not intended to formally present the paper to government – the document will underpin our ongoing negotiations with the State and is an opportunity to check with members that the priorities we continue to promote are appropriate.

Release of the document has been met with a mixed response from ***qldwater*** members faced with significant challenges in maintaining business sustainability, including declining support and funding opportunities.  WaterQ does not provide the road map for strategic investment many had hoped for and clearly reflects government priorities of cost cutting while stimulating growth in the private sector.  However, WaterQ does capture the majority of the issues seen as important by industry, and is the first attempt at publishing a coordinated, state-wide direction for the sector, with urban water reflected strongly.

In summary, we are putting a significant effort into promoting WaterQ while maintaining a strong position against issues which do not align with our members’ role in providing safe, secure and sustainable urban water services to Queensland communities.

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**2.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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* WSAA has recently published a draft manual which provides options for addressing the likely future introduction of Health Based Targets into the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines along with a series of case studies analysing likely impacts of the introduction of HBTs.  The WSAA project group is still running trials and testing the materials and so it is not publicly available.  For interested WSAA members, the documents are available at <https://members.wsaa.asn.au/HLC/Networks/WQHN/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.  For other ***qldwater*** members who are interested, please contact Dave Cameron at [dcameron@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dcameron@qldwater.com.au) or 0407 761 991 to discuss options.

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