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

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

**(Issue #274 – 20 November 2015)**

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**1.  Important Information – 2014/15 KPI data**

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The Water Supply Planning and Regulation division in the Department of Energy and Water Supply has completed its first round review of KPI data lodged through SWIM (and in a small number of cases directly to DEWS) in October.  The department has identified significant concerns with some of the submissions but has indicated that it will not be issuing PINS in this first year of reporting.  ***qldwater*** has been in discussions with DEWS to attempt to help facilitate practical ways of addressing these concerns.

More information will be provided to WSPs on specific expectations, but in general:

-        Many data cells included “ND” (No Data) without explanation.

-        There were significant data gaps, including for indicators which DEWS considered either important or relatively simple to collect, without explanation.

-        While many WSPs expressed concern around indicator definitions as data was being prepared, very few included feedback in the lodgement.  This information will be reviewed with a view to improving the framework, if it’s actually provided.

The following timeline is indicative only:

-        Early December

o   DEWS will send tailored letters to all WSPs identifying their level of compliance, providing the opportunity to verify data provided (with a due date).  There will apparently not be much time allowed for these corrections, but we are advised that if data gaps are not explained, it will be considered as non-compliance with the report requirement notice.

o   For those who used SWIM for lodgement, corrections can be made in SWIM at any time.  DEWS will take a new download of data shortly after the identified due date and this will be your new dataset.

o   A separate letter will be sent to CEOs which outlines compliance expectations – basically all will be offered support through workshops in 2016 but there should be an expectation that penalties, including PINs will be issued without warning if the problems identified with reporting are not addressed next year.

-        January

o   DEWS will commence development of a draft comparative report.

o   DEWS will convene an advisory committee including industry representatives to review the process issues and consider changes to the KPI framework.  (No changes will be made in the current financial year).

o   DEWS to discuss SWIM enhancements with ***qldwater*** which may include mandatory completion fields for indicators which are identified as particularly important.

-        March

o   DEWS will send a draft comparative report to WSPs for review (2 week turnaround)

-        April

o   The comparative report will be published.

Dave Scheltinga has spoken to most SWIM contacts throughout the lodgement process.  The feedback we have received with the transition to the SWIM*Local* tool has been overwhelmingly positive with only a few minor enhancements identified at this stage.  If you have any further suggestions, please advise Dave ([dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au)).

We will offer full support to members wishing to address any identified reporting deficiencies for their 2014/15 in the limited time available – Dave will forward a summary of what he has been able to identify as gaps in the near future.

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**2.  Queensland Water Innovation Event Wrap**

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The ***qldwater*** Urban Water Industry Innovation Event was held on 4 & 5 November at the Sunshine Coast.   Both the Unitywater technical tour and the conference were a great success with approximately 85 attendees.

We thank Unitywater for supporting the event as well as our conference sponsors – SPEL Environmental, LGAQ, Royce Water Technology, Water Research Australia, Lonza Treatment Technologies.  Best papers at the event went to Kim Moore from Unitywater and Nicholas Paul from James Cook University.

Congratulations to Barcaldine Regional Council who took out the 2015 Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test at the event, with the ancient water from the Great Artesian Basin selected as the best by conference delegates.   The results again this year were very close and we also congratulate Livingstone Shire Council who came a close second with their Woodbury Water Treatment Plant drop.

The ***qldwater*** program for 2016 is being developed with the Innovation Event for 2016 expected to be in mid-September.  For further information on next year’s events and sponsorship information, please contact [hgold@qldwater.com.au](mailto:hgold@qldwater.com.au).

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**3.  Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Communique**

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The [Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce](http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/priorities/) met for the third time for a two-day workshop in Brisbane on 12 and 13 November 2015.

The Taskforce has been established to provide the Queensland Government with advice on how it can meet its ambitious water quality targets and the priority areas for investing an additional $90 million over five years. The Taskforce’s key objective is to ensure clean water flows from the rivers to the sea to ensure a healthy Great Barrier Reef.

The main focus of the workshop was refining the Taskforce’s Interim Report which outlines the initial findings of the Taskforce identifying where we are now, where we want to be and how to get there. The Report builds on the water quality and ecosystem health ambitions of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan and sets a roadmap for improving water quality. It contains a series of conclusions and recommendations about broader systems reform that would improve communication, better align programs and reduce fragmentation. It also includes recommendations about a blend of instruments to be used and the priorities for investing the additional funding. The draft report is being prepared for broader consultation in the next few months.

The EHP communique with more information on the recent taskforce meeting [is here](http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/documents/taskforce-communique3.pdf).

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**4.  WSAA Health Based Targets (HBT) Manual Now Available**

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After three years of development and extensive trials, WSAA’s Health Based Targets (HBT) Manual is now publicly available following its launch at the WSAA Members’ Meeting in Canberra earlier this month.

The WSAA Health Based Targets Manual guides utilities though a self-assessment process to determine the water safety for each scheme. A key output from the project was development of the concept known as the “water safety continuum”. This has helped to understand that the HBT should not be considered a pass/fail metric. Rather, the safety performance of each scheme should be plotted on the continuum and distance from the HBT benchmark indicates the type and urgency of water quality improvements required.

WSAA HBT Working Group, through their liaison with NHMRC’s Water Quality Advisory Committee, have designed the Manual to be compatible with the framework for managing drinking water quality outlined in the ADWG.  The Manual and the research undertaken by WSAA on HBT will assist in future revision of the ADWG by NHMRC.

Adoption of HBTs will reinforce the importance of managing sources and water treatment plants to good practice standards. The HBT process also provide the opportunity to achieve Australia-wide consistency of approach and outcomes.

[Download the Health Based Targets (HBT) Manual​.​](https://www.wsaa.asn.au/WSAAPublications/Documents/Health%20Based%20Targets%20Manual.pdf)

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**5.  Water Research Access Portal (WRAP)**

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WSAA has also announced the launch of the Water Research Access Portal (WRAP) at [www.waterportal.com.au](http://waterservicesassociationofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/j-l-htuykrt-ykyuhkuyh-v/).  WRAP is an online database of reputable Australian urban water research, with the aim of making this research readily accessible to the water industry. WRAP is a collaborative effort between a number of Australian research centres, government agencies, water utilities and industry, and is being managed by the WSAA. [Read more...](http://waterservicesassociationofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/j-l-htuykrt-ykyuhkuyh-e/)

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**6.  IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition 2016**

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The International Water Association World Water Congress and Exhibition will be held next year in Brisbane from 9-13 October 2016.  
  
The due date for submitting abstracts has been extended until: Friday 27th November 2015.  
  
This is an opportunity not to miss, with over 5,000 of the world’s leading water professionals gathering to share know-how, best practices and leading technological developments.  More information is available here: [IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition](http://www.iwa-network.org/event/world-water-congress-exhibition-2016/)