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

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

**(Issue #320 – 26 May 2017)**

**1.   WIOA Qld Conference - *qldwater* activities**

**2.   Remote Treatment Plant Operations Discussion Paper**

**3.   Current and Future State Drivers Information Sheets**

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**1.   WIOA Qld Conference - *qldwater* activities**

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***qldwater*** is once again strongly involved in activities at the annual [Water Industry Operators Association Queensland Conference](http://www.wioaconferences.org.au/qld.htm) to be held in Logan on 7th and 8th June.

The first operators to be Certified under the Queensland *Sewage Treatment Plant Operator Certification Framework* will attend a presentation ceremony on the morning of the 7th during the opening session. The six operators to be Certified took part in a ***qldwater*** coordinated pilot to implement and test the Framework in SEQ. The Queensland Framework will soon be superseded by a national *Certification Framework for Recycled Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators* (operators Certified under the Queensland Framework will be transferred to the national Framework when it comes into effect).

Also on the Wednesday 7th is the Queensland Live Mains Tapping competition for 2017 which follows on from last year’s successful event at the ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum. The 2016 title was taken out by the City of Gold Coast – completing the task in an impressive 1 minute and 49 seconds to finish ahead of challengers from Queensland Urban Utilities and Logan Water.  6 teams have nominated to compete this year with the winners taking home a unique trophy and a $1,000 donation to their nominated charity (sponsored by IXOM).

At lunchtime on Wednesday Queensland’s winner of the best tasting tap water for 2016, Toowoomba Regional Council, will go head to head with the NSW/ACT winner,  Icon Water, in the Water of Origin (sponsored by IXOM). A panel will select the top drop. Queensland has taken home the title for the last four years straight and the NSW Water Directorate is already gearing for defeat by refusing to acknowledge Canberra as their rightful representative.

On the Thursday evening at the Awards dinner, the two ***qldwater*** sponsored awards – Queensland Young Operator of the Year and Queensland Operator of the Year Civil/Allrounder will be presented to the winners. The awards are an opportunity to recognise the important work that operators perform for the industry. Each of the deserving winners will take home a trophy and generous professional development prize.

The WIOA Conferences are invariably great events with technical and relevant operator presentations and we invite all members to consider nominating some of their operators to attend. If you’re attending the event we invite you to come and say hello to some of the ***qldwater*** team at booth number 31 where we’ll have $50 gift card prizes for those who can prove their ability in the WaSP Wars II card game of tactical skill and cunning.

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**2.   Remote Treatment Plant Operations Discussion Paper**

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***qldwater*** has published adiscussion paper outlining critical factors to consider in planning and operating remote water treatment systems using a series of case studies to consider the significant benefits and help manage risks.

The Remote Treatment Plant Operations discussion paper was commissioned to address the needs of ***qldwater*** members, especially those operating small and/or remote water and sewerage systems. The paper provides high level information about the risks and benefits of automation and the learnings from the industry experience.

We thank Alan Kleinschmidt for the development of this paper and gratefully acknowledge the input from Peter Mosse, Anthony Lipsys, Jaek Passier, and particularly Terry Fagg for valuable assistance in developing this document.

The paper is now available in the members area of website: <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Planning_Source_Water_Treatment> along with a [useful companion document](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Planning_Sewage_Treatment) which provides a sample of alarm limits and responses developed for Goulburn Valley Water (and made available with their kind permission) after completing a risk assessment.  Members must log in first to access these documents.

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**3.   Current and Future State Drivers Information Sheets**

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## Local government face ever greater regulation and accountability, increasing customer expectations, escalating costs and diminishing access to Queensland and Federal Government funding. Current concerns about the long term sustainability of local government in Queensland are likely to be dwarfed by future infrastructure challenges as many significant assets reach the end of their useful lives state-wide.    Community expectations about water security and quality, environmental performance, pricing, levels of service, customer interactions and workplace health and safety are driving rapid regulatory change.

## ***qldwater*** has developed a series of information sheets focussing on three key council support functions to explain some of the current and emerging needs for water and sewerage services, as well as to explore some opportunities for greater collaboration.

## Again we thank Alan Kleinschmidt for the development of this document, as well as our TRG for their valuable input.

## The document is now available in the members area of our website <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Planning_WOB>

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**This message may be passed on to interested individuals and organisations.**

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