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

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

**(Issue #321 – 1 June 2017)**

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**1.   Water Connections Week**

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This year’s tour started in Bundaberg and concluded in Gladstone and again provided a great opportunity to hear members’ issues and in some cases, progress solutions with state agency representatives.

The tour report for hosts is still in the process of being prepared, but we’d like to extend thanks to all hosts, the “tourists” and particularly Jeff Rohdmann from Bundaberg Regional Council for giving up his week to join us and provide advice on treatment processes.

The photographs from the tour are available on the [***qldwater*** SmugMug site](https://qldwater.smugmug.com/organize/Photos-2017-Tour).

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**2.   System Leakage Workshop**

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Held on 25 May, the workshop included 6 presentations from different ***qldwater*** members on historical and contemporary approaches to system leakage, and excellent discussions to share experiences.  The drivers for proactive leakage management in SEQ are clear  - despite significant achievements across all utilities, almost $80M per annum is lost in the region as the price of treated bulk water is very high to deal with the debt resulting from “drought-proofing” the region.  While harder to calculate for regional Queensland, we know that over $100M of billable water is lost annually.

A workshop report will be published in the coming few weeks – as with the Automated Metering workshop from February, the intention of the report is to help members considering leakage management with their business plan by providing an environmental scan and summary of what others in the industry are doing.  Workshop attendees heard about a diverse range of approaches – from network planning and District Metered Areas to physical leak detection and clever software/ data logging solutions like TaKaDu.

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**3.   TRG update**

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Our Technical Reference Group met on Friday 26 May with a few notable resolutions:

* Welcome to Steven Porter from Cairns Regional Council who steps in as the new TRG Chair, with Trevor Dean from Fraser Coast Regional Council elected Deputy Chair unopposed. Visit our website for more information on the [Technical Reference Group](http://www.qldwater.com.au/TRG).  This draws to a conclusion the term of Dick Went from City of Gold Coast.  Dick also steps down as Chair of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership.  We wish him the best as he transitions to retirement – Dick has been a tremendous advocate for ***qldwater*** and his members, and extremely generous with his time.
* We have released a couple of publications recently, ([see eFlash #320](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=229011)) with TRG approving final feedback for a new guideline developed with the NSW Water Directorate on managing telecommunications installations on reservoirs.  The document will hopefully be published before the end of the financial year, along with two fact sheets targeted at sewerage service providers and planners dealing with buffers and encroachment on sewerage infrastructure.
* The Innovation Forum has been re-badged to now be the ***qldwater*** Annual Forum with the 2017 theme being “No Pain, No Gain.”  The thinking behind this is that the purpose of the forum has evolved over time and the current focus is on creating an environment with regulators and other decision makers which **enables** innovation, encouraging members to trial new ideas and deliver the most efficient and cost-effective outcomes for customers.

We hope to have a broad program with session themes up on the web site in the next couple of weeks – for now – block 6 and 7 September out in your diaries.

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**4.   New *qldwater*** *S***cholarships/ Professional Development Opportunities**

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We are excited to announce the Queensland Water Regional Communities Innovation Program (QWRCIP).  Yes, it’s a mouthful, but in short we have been able to secure a small amount of funding support for this charitable venture, and the first activity will be a series of scholarships offered to member staff from small and remote communities to fully fund travel and other out of pocket costs (excluding salaries) to spend a week in and around Brisbane during the week of our Annual Forum, 4-8 September.  Activities will include attendance at the forum and TRG meeting, and we also aim to provide the opportunity to spend a day or two with a mentor or technical expert from one of the larger utilities.

Part of the funding has been made available through the entry fees paid by vendors to participate in a “vendor pitch” session on 6 September at the ***qldwater*** Annual Form.  Currently 4 of 6 possible places have been taken up; information on the vendor pitch opportunities is [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_227401/Innovations_Forum_2017_Sponsorship_FAQ%27s).

Applying for a QWRCIP Scholarship will be as simple as possible, with nominations reviewed by a TRG subcommittee.  Guidelines will be available in the next few weeks and we hope to have around 5 scholarships available for 2017.  If you’re interested, it’s time to start thinking about the types of expertise you’d like to access.

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**5.   *qldwater* NQ Conference Mackay 19 July – Registrations Open**

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Register now  for the ***qldwater*** North Queensland Regional Water Conference to be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on 19 July.

The conference is being run in conjunction with the AWA NQ Branch Conference being held at the same venue on 20-21 July.

The event will be a great opportunity to network with your peers in the region and hear some excellent technical presentations.   AWA and ***qldwater*** members are invited to attend both conferences to take advantage of the reciprocal member rate. The conference will be followed by a casual ***qldwater***/AWA dinner on 19 July to be held at the Austral Hotel (additional cost applies).

Our event sponsors for this and all ***qldwater*** 2017 regional conferences are: Principal Sponsors Aqseptence Group with Gold Sponsors Lonza Water Technologies, Royce Water Technologies and Suez Australia and New Zealand.  We would like to thank all the sponsors for helping make this event possible.   Again in 2017, Dial Before You Dig are sponsoring our Water Connections Tour which includes regional events and Water Connections Week and IXOM are sponsoring the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test which includes support for all regional events.

Please visit our [event website](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-nq-conference-2017/qldwater-nq) for further information including draft program and registration.

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**6.   New Staff Member**

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Ryan Cosgrove has recently commenced with ***qldwater*** and will be mainly working on:

* a QWRAP research project into building knowledge around the issue of ageing and failing infrastructure – particularly buried assets; and
* administration of the SEQ Design and Construction Code.  This function has been shared around the SEQ entities since the requirement for the Code was legislated several years ago, and through the support of Logan and Redland City Councils and City of Gold Coast, ***qldwater*** takes on the administrative role for an initial 12 month period from 1 July 2017.

More about these activities in future – Ryan joins us from the food and beverage manufacturing industry (Lion).

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

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* The Queensland Police Service has released the latest [Industry Advisory Bulletin](https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/Counter-terrorism) that can accessed by ***qldwater*** members from the secure area of our website.    Please note these documents are provided on a confidential basis for ***qldwater*** member use only and members must log in the access this information.
* Together with the Bureau of Meteorology, Deltares has set up the national operational flood system for Australia, called Hydrological Forecasting System which went live late 2015. More information can be found in this [paper](https://www.google.com.au/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwio1Zbso6TNAhVBExoKHUqvCekQFggiMAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.floodplainconference.com%2Fpapers2016%2FJustin%2520Robinson%2520Full%2520Paper.pdf&usg=AFQjCNGLhWRBKssLY8sjOiBCHwfo7mUXNA&bvm=bv.124272578,d.d2s).  Coastal LGAs of Queensland can benefit greatly from a (joined) early warning system, to increase their preparedness in case of a storm surge. Deltares have a free [Delft-FEWS](http://oss.deltares.nl/web/delft-fews/about) framework available which is a collection of modules designed for building a hydrological forecasting system to specific requirements.  More information on the software on the website <https://www.deltares.nl/en/software/>.

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