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

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

**(Issue #346 – 16 March 2018)**

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**1.   Telecommunications carriers on water infrastructure**

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eflash # 337 provided the last information on this matter and the following is an update on more recent activities.

* The Department of Communications and the Arts provided advice on 1 March that the Minister has decided to implement ten of the possible amendments to telecommunications carrier powers and immunities identified during consultation immediately. Nine of the changes have been included in the remade Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 and the Telecommunications Code of Practice 2018.   We have access to a range of detailed documents which can be provided on request, but the [departmental web site](https://www.communications.gov.au/have-your-say/consultation-possible-amendments-telecommunications-carrier-powers-and-immunities) provides the simplest summary of the amendments:
  + Definition of co-located facilities: Clarifies that facilities are only ‘co-located facilities' if they are installed on/in a telecommunications facility or public utility structure (as opposed to on/in another type of building).
  + Shrouds for radiocommunications facilities: Specifies that shrouds for radiocommunications facilities are ancillary facilities.
  + Omnidirectional antennas: Specifies omnidirectional radiocommunications antennas as low-impact facilities in residential and commercial areas, not just industrial and rural areas.
  + Radiocommunications facilities: Replaces the technology-specific term ‘microcell' with general language to cover facilities with broader geographical coverage.
  + Solar panel size: Increases the maximum size of solar panels in rural areas used to power telecommunications facilities from 7.5 to 12.5 square metres.
  + Open trench length: Increases the length of trench that can be open at any time for the installation of conduit or cable from 100 to 200 metres.
  + Environmental legislation: Updates to reflect changes in environmental laws.
  + Joint venture arrangements: Provides that in a joint venture arrangement where two carriers are installing or upgrading facilities, only the lead carrier's signature is required on relevant documentation, with an additional requirement to be included so that a notice includes the names and contact details of all carriers party to the joint venture
  + Updates to references: Updates to out-of-date wording and references in the Code.

The consultation process did not allow for the consideration of a range of long-standing risks identified by water service providers around water quality and safety, however there is now a dialogue with the department to look at options for considering these matters.

* The Water Services Association of Australia has taken steps to build on the work of ***qldwater*** and the NSW Water Directorate to advocate for positive change at a national level and held a number of meetings to consider approaches to ministers and others, look at practices and experiences across jurisdictions, and consider training and other non-regulatory options to address risks.
* The NSW Water Directorate has published its [“Legal Aspect” guideline](http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/Bookshop/ThirdPartyInfrastructureonWaterSupplyReservoirsGuidelinesPar.aspx) which accompanies the co-production with ***qldwater*** distributed last year.  While it is contextualised for NSW, it is available for purchase and may be of interest to some currently considering commercial leases.
* There is strong interest among SEQ water service providers including Seqwater and a small interest group met again last week to discuss a range of options for sharing information and achieving best of breed commercial arrangements with lessees. The process is intended to complement WSAA’s work and will hopefully lead to a range of documents and case studies being made available to ***qldwater*** members and the broader industry in the near future.  Unitywater and the City of Gold Coast in particular have reached a level of maturity which allows them to comply with the requirements of the federal telecommunications legislation, maintain a reasonably positive relationship with major telcos, achieve a commercial benefit, and manage water quality and general safety risks.

Contact Dave Cameron for more information [dcameron@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dcameron@qldwater.com.au) or 07 3632 6854

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**2.   DNRME Key Performance Indicator data released**

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The 2016-17 Key Performance Indicator data has now been published on Queensland Government Data Portal website. The weblink for the published data is: <https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/water-and-sewerage-service-provider-qld-key-performance-indicator-data-2016-17>

The KPI data (performance report) for each service provider should be published on the provider’s website as soon as possible after the lodgement deadline, which was 1 October 2017.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact David ([dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au)).

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**3.   Reminder – workshop and teleconference on water quality offsets policy**

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A reminder that the Department of Environment and Science latest draft of the Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/ReviewDocuments) and will be discussed in an industry teleconference next week and a DES workshop in Brisbane the week after. Details as follows:

**Offsets Teleconference : 2:00-3:30 on 23rd March**. To express interest please email ‘Offset Teleconference” to [rfearon@qldwater.com.au](mailto:rfearon@qldwater.com.au).

**Offsets Policy Workshop: 9:30-12:30, Wednesday 28 March - Great Barrier Reef Room, Level 3,  400 George St.** RSVP to [rfearon@qldwater.com.au](mailto:rfearon@qldwater.com.au) by 23rd March.

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**4.   $22 million “Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline” funding now available**

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The second round of funding for the State’s Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline program opened on Monday 12 March. See the media release here: <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2018/3/12/22-million-in-funding-for-councils-to-boost-infrastructure-projects>

Councils are encouraged to apply for a share of $22 million to support their infrastructure planning.   The funding is to allow councils or regions to consider strategic infrastructure needs, including any relevant water and sewerage projects.

More information on the program and submission guidelines is here: <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/infrastructure/state-infrastructure-fund.html>

Applications close on Monday 9 April at noon.

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**5.   Australian Government Regional Growth Funding**

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The Regional Growth Fund is an Australian Government program that opened on 2 March, and closes 27 April. There is a minimum grant of $10 million to fund infrastructure that creates jobs, drives economic growth, and builds stronger regions.

You can find more about the program here: <http://regional.gov.au/regional/programs/regional-growth-fund.aspx>

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

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