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

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

**(Issue #347 – 6 April 2018)**

**1.   Release of Queensland’s Urban Potable Water and Sewerage Benchmarking Report – 2016/17**

**2.   Date Claimer – WQ Conference & Water Taste Test, Cloncurry 18 May**

**3.   SCADA & Cyber Security Workshop, Thursday 31 May – Registrations open**

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**1.   Release of Queensland’s Urban Potable Water and Sewerage Benchmarking Report – 2016/17**

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Queensland’s seventh water and sewerage benchmarking report has been completed using 2016/17 data and is available from the ***qldwater*** website – <http://www.qldwater.com.au/reporting>

The report provides data from 71 Service Providers across the State.

Benchmarking of Queensland’s water and sewerage data is important for the Queensland urban water industry as it allows competition by comparison and helps provide transparency for our communities.

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**2.   Date Claimer – WQ Conference & Water Taste Test, Cloncurry 18 May**

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The ***qldwater*** Western Queensland Conference will be held in Cloncurry on Friday 18 May 2018 and is being sponsored by Royce Water Technologies, Aquatec Maxcon and Aqseptence Group.

The conference is part of the annual week long Water Connections Tour, sponsored by Dial Before You Dig, this year visiting North West Queensland councils.   The program is being finalised and registrations will open soon.

A regional Ixom Best of the Best Water Taste Test is also being held at the conference.  Don’t forget to bring along or send 2 litres of tap water to enter into the competition.  This should be from the scheme which the service providers consider to be their best tasting water. Each sample must be submitted in a container which clearly identifies the name of the water provider and the system/scheme it represents. Water samples will be judged by conference attendees, with the samples being judged remaining anonymous.  Further information including entry form and rules of the taste test competition are [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Taste_Test).

Please email Heather Gold if you need further information hgold@qldwater.com.au.

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**3.   SCADA & Cyber Security Workshop, Thursday 31 May – Registrations open**

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Registrations are now open for the second TRG hosted ***qldwater*** workshop for 2018. The SCADA/ Cyber Security Workshop will be held at the Crosby Park Events Centre, 103 Crosby Road, Albion on Thursday 31 May 2018.

The 2018 TRG workshops have a range of objectives from simple information sharing to ways of positively influencing a policy agenda and potential opportunities for industry standardisation.  This topic provides a great opportunity for both information sharing and influencing policy and should be of interest to all Queensland service providers.

The workshop runs for a full day with various presentations on respective approaches to SCADA and control systems and cybersecurity strategies from a range of ***qldwater*** members and others.

Please visit the [event website](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/scada-cyber-security-workshop/event-info-site) for further information, draft program and registration.  Registrations close 18 May.

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**4.   2018 Queensland Operator Awards – nominate now!**

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Nominations are open for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators awards which recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.   The award winners will be announced at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference Awards Night to be held at the Logan Sports Centre in Brisbane on 7 June 2018.  The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.    Applications close on **4 May.**

The two categories available for nomination are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
	2. Operator of the Year Civil/All Rounder

The **Queensland Young Operator of the Year** winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group New Zealand conference in May 2018 and an individual trophy.

The **Operator of the Year (Civil / All Rounder)** winner will receive up to $1500 towards professional development opportunities such as attendance at other WIOA conferences, ***qldwater*** training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring councils and an individual trophy.

It’s easy to nominate - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.   More information on the Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition is available here:  <http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld/>.   Check out the photos of our previous winners [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards_past_winners).

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**5.   Queensland Live Mains Tapping Competition – 6 June**

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Nominate your teams now and start practising for the highly contested Mains Tapping Competition taking place at the WIOA Queensland Conference in Logan on Wednesday 6 June.

The 2016 SEQ Mains Tapping 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.

In 2017 the competition was opened up to entrants from all of Queensland with the City of Gold Coast teams, “[Tapping Tubbies](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Queensland_Live_Mains_Tapping_Competition_winners)” and “[Kool Tappings](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Queensland_Live_Mains_Tapping_Competition_winners)” finishing ahead of teams from Queensland Urban Utilities, Logan City and Redland City Councils.  The winning time was only a couple of seconds faster than 2016 at a very fast 1 minute and 47 seconds.

The prize this year is again sponsored by Ixom and the winning team and runner up receive a unique perpetual trophy for 12 months.  The winning team receive a trophy each to keep and the opportunity to nominate a local charity to receive a $1,000 donation kindly donated by competition sponsor Ixom.

There is space available for 16 teams - spots will be allocated on a first-in-best-dressed basis.  Entries will close on 18 May.

For more information and how to enter please visit the [***qldwater*** website](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Queensland_Live_Mains_Tapping_Competition_2018).

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**6.   AWA – Qld Young Water Professionals Mentoring Program**

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The Australian Water Association’s mentoring program is back in 2018.  Mentees who are usually students/graduates or professionals with less than 5 years experience in the water industry are paired with experienced professionals from the wider water industry based on their work experience, background and location. The mentee/mentor pairs are guided throughout the program on working towards their career goals.

The program kicks off with a 'Launch Night' on the 19th of April.  Register for the event before 9 April at: [QLD YWP Mentoring Program 2018](https://www.awa.asn.au/Shared_Content/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=QLDMENT18&WebsiteKey=9dc929a7-973a-452a-8ebd-7ac0870e5ba9).  For more information contact Thakshila Balasuirya: TBALASURIYA@goldcoast.qld.gov.au.

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

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The Queensland Police Service has released the latest Security Forecast which is now available in the members area of our website -  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism>.   The information contained in the QPS documents may be viewed and circulated internally, however it should not be provided to the public / media or forwarded to external third parties.  Members must log in first to access this information.

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