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

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

**(Issue #293 – 2 August 2016)**

**1.   CQ Conference and Technical Tour Emerald -  early bird registrations extended to TODAY**

**2*.   qldwater* Innovation Forum 14/15 September 2016 – registrations open, sponsorships still available**

**3.   Get your entries ready for the 2016 Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test**

**4.   SWIM Annual data reporting for 2015-16 now open**

**5.   IPWEAQ Excellence Awards Sponsored by *qldwater***

**6.   Queensland water recycling legislation and guideline update**

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

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**1.**   **CQ Conference and Technical TourEmerald 11 August – early bird registrations extended to TODAY**

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A reminder to members in the Central Queensland region to register for the ***qldwater*** Central Queensland Conference being held in Emerald on 11 August 2016. The one day conference features many excellent and informative presentations including a technical tour of the East Nogoa Water Treatment Plant commissioned in 2015. The full conference program and registration form with further details is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2016_CQ_Conference_Emerald).

We would like to again thank our host, Central Highlands Regional Council, Principal Sponsor – Hydramet and Silver Sponsors Bilfinger, Lonza and Royce Water Technologies.

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**2*.******qldwater* Innovation Forum 14/15 September 2016 – registrations open, sponsorships still available**

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Interested in enabling initiatives and innovation to create value?  The [2016 ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2016-Innovation-Forum) includes sessions on contemporary disruptors and trends, DEWS and DEHP targeted sessions and an Innovation Hour demo, finishing off with dinner and drinks at the Riverview Hotel in Hamilton. Please feel free to distribute the [A4 flyer](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=217668) to anyone you think may be interested in the event.

Organisations interested in raising their profile in the Queensland urban water industry have a great opportunity to do so by sponsoring this event. Sponsorships help us keep registration fees for the day to a minimum ($200 plus GST inclusive of the tour for members, dinner additional).  The sponsorship prospectus is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=217667) or contact [dgralton@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dgralton@qldwater.com.au) for more information. Thanks to supporting sponsors Lonza Water Treatment Technologies, Liquimix and Bilfinger.

LGAQ has kindly offered an additional sponsorship to support attendance from our colleagues in small and remote councils for the forum.  ***qldwater*** will provide complimentary registrations and LGAQ will provide $500 grants to help offset the costs of travel and accommodation for up to 4 representatives from Queensland councils to attend the forum. The grants are targeted at councils with fewer than 10,000 population and will be prioritised to greatest financial need.  To be considered, please provide basic details of who the proposed attendee is to us ([dgralton@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dgralton@qldwater.com.au)) and we will make contact to discuss eligibility.

For those coming from further afield and needing to book accommodation, we managed to secure a special price of $149 per room or $169 bed and breakfast at the [Brisbane Riverview Hotel](http://viewhotels.com.au/brisbaneriverviewhotel/) in Hamilton. Just mention that you will be attending the ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum when booking in order to secure this price.

We look forward to seeing you there.  Numbers are limited – please register by 26 August to ensure your place and avoid the late fee.  The bus tour on 14/9 will be allocated on a “first come first served” basis.  The program and registration form is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=217719).

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**3.****Get your entries ready for the 2016 Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test**

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You have to be in it to win it! Get your samples ready for the mother of all taste tests as part of the ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum to be held at Colleges Crossing on 14 September 2016.

Select your best entry by hosting a taste off of your schemes – the scientifically proven taste test wheel and scorecard is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=217723).

Once you’ve selected your top drop, let us know which samples you’ll be entering by completing the [Taste Test Entry Form](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=217725). Two litres of each sample can be brought along to the taste test event at Colleges Crossing. If you really can’t send anyone to the event but would like to enter a sample anyway, please contact [Desiré Gralton](mailto:dgralton@qldwater.com.au) so we can make other arrangements.

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**4.  SWIM Annual data reporting for 2015-16 now open**

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It is that time of year again when annual water data is collated by Water Service Providers across the State and sent to BoM, NPR, ABS and the Qld Govt (DEWS KPIs) via SWIM. There has been some minor changes in terms of indicators this year with BoM removing some of their requirements (only affecting BoM reporting entities). So, in reality there are no new indicators from what you would have been reported previously (only a few deletions).

The new [SWIM website](http://www.qldwater.com.au/swim) is now available and contains some helpful information (e.g. SWIM*Local* Annual Data Tool User Manual, indicator definitions, metadata help).

***qldwater*** has been sending your SWIM representative information regarding accessing and using the SWIM/SWIM*Local* system. If you have had staff changes and the SWIM reporting person from last year is no long working in this position please [contact David](mailto:dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au) so he can help set up new contact details so important information can be supplied to your organisation.

If you have any questions regarding SWIM and your water and sewerage data reporting please contact David Scheltinga ([dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au) or 0415 881 195).

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**5.****IPWEAQ Excellence Awards – Nominations close 12 August**

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Time is running out to nominate the people and projects that make your workplace great. The annual IPWEAQ Excellence Awards program recognises best practice and innovation in public works, and  ***qldwater*** is again sponsoring the water project award categories, including:

        Water, waste water, sewerage and drought management projects over $10 million

        Water, waste water, sewerage and drought management projects $5 million to $10 million

        Water, waste water, sewerage and drought management projects $1 million to $5 million

        Water, waste water, sewerage and drought management projects under $1 million

        Innovation and/or Introduction of new and/or improved techniques in water, waste water, sewerage and drought management

        Dawson Wilkie Best Paper Award

Entry details are available on the [IPWEAQ website](http://www.ipweaq.com/2016-award-program) and nominations should be [submitted online](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/PresentationPortal/Account/Register?ReturnUrl=%2FPresentationPortal%2Fexcellence-awards-2016%2Fnomination) by 5.00pm Friday 12 August 2016.  
  
Winners will be announced at the gala awards ceremony on Wednesday 9 November 2016 held in conjunction with the IPWEAQ [state conference](http://www.ipweaq.com/brisbane) at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and will be promoted in the [Engineering for Public Works](https://issuu.com/ipweaqld/docs/epw_journal_june_2016_final_pages) journal.

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**6.****Queensland water recycling legislation and guideline update**

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Most members would be aware that significant changes were made to recycled water legislation in mid-2014.  The following is a short summary of the impact of those changes, and plans underway to improve support materials available.

1.      The Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS) maintains a register of all recycled water schemes, but the only schemes required to have a recycled water management plan under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008* are those with a high exposure risk – i.e. recycled water for the augmentation of drinking water supplies, dual reticulation or irrigation of minimally processed food crops.  There are currently only seven such schemes in Queensland.

DEWS is in the process of reviewing its guidelines for **both** drinking and recycled water.  Drafts are expected to be completed by January 2016 and there will be an opportunity for providers to contribute feedback prior to their finalisation.

2.      The Department of Health (DOH) administers the *Public Health Act 2005* which captures all other recycled water schemes.  The Department is working with ***qldwater*** and our Technical Reference Group to get input into support materials including planned guidelines and fact sheets targeted at various common uses.

A number of questions have arisen as part of this consultation process for which DOH has provided answers, in advance of these guidelines.  A few key points are included here:

-        It is an offence under the Act to supply recycled water that is not “fit for use” and action can be taken by DOH if recycled water is considered to be a public health risk.

-        One query sought to clarify where water quality standards (for e. Coli etc) applied.  In this example the service provider readily achieved water quality targets immediately after the chlorine contact tanks at a plant but struggled to meet targets in the open pond from which the customer drew water, due to avian faecal contamination.  DOH has confirmed that the standards apply at the point immediately after the chlorine contact tanks, acknowledging that the public health risks from bird contamination in this instance, for this use, are not significant.  The location of the infrastructure (service provider or customer’s land) is immaterial.  Note, this purely relates to the uses captured by the Public Health Act, not the high exposure uses under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act.

-        Other ongoing discussions centre around the obligations on a service provider to take action when it becomes aware that a customer might not be using recycled water appropriately.  The obligations to cease supply immediately are clear, but the guidance materials will include further detail on what steps a service provider is expected to take to be aware of how customers are using water – including “periodic checks” – e.g. an annual meeting/ review.

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

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·         In 2010 the **Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence** was launched with the financial support of the Commonwealth Government. Following national consultation with the water sector, the Centre established an applied research and development program designed to help industry enhance the efficiency, expansion and adoption of water recycling in Australia. With the Centre’s activities now almost complete, the AWRCE hosted a national roadshow to showcase the outcomes and impact of the Centre’s efforts over the last six years. Two of the presentations are now available [on our website](http://www.qldwater.com.au/e-flashes-1/awrce-roadshow).

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

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