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

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

**(Issue #304 – 5 December 2016)**

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Over the next few e-flashes we will be highlighting some of the work of ***qldwater*** and in particular the areas of investigation requested by our Technical Reference Group.  Some topics carry sensitivities, and so the detail will be limited, however please don’t hesitate to contact us if you’d like further information.

Please note, we have trialled various web forums and other ways of handling member technical queries without a lot of uptake.  However, in the background, there are a few active and enthusiastic email groups we can call on to help link you up with the expertise and experience of other members, if you are prepared to ask the questions.

Please contact Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au) if you have any queries.

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**1.   DATE CLAIMER - Automated metering/ digital utilities workshop**

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The ***qldwater*** Technical Reference Group is currently planning a workshop involving interested members and vendors around automated metering, data interpretation and analysis on 16 February 2017 (the day prior to the first TRG meeting in 2017).

The agenda is still being resolved, but for now we are seeking to establish who might be interested in participating.

The event will:

* include a series of ***qldwater*** member presentations on their experiences with implementing or planning automated metering and associated approaches.
* likely include guests from other utilities outside Queensland.
* include discussion sessions aimed at general information sharing, building a record of benefits, costs and pitfalls to inform future AM implementation.
* attempt to engage with vendors to improve the general understanding of technologies and explore strategic opportunities.

Price will depend on interest – the event will run on a simple cost recovery basis, so is likely to be in the order of $100 per person to cover venue hire and catering.  The venue is likely be close to our offices in Albion.

If you are interested, please respond to hgold@qldwater.com.au by 20 Dec with:

* Number of people likely to attend
* Contact information so that we can send a short survey around prior to the event to target the program to your needs as far as possible.

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**2.   Plumbing and Drainage update**

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The Department of Housing and Public Works is currently reviewing plumbing and drainage legislation, including the Act, Regulation and Plumbing and Wastewater Code.  Workshop sessions were held on Wednesday/ Thursday last week to step through the changes.

It is not possible to brief on the draft content, however the process should lead to significantly streamlined and easier to follow documents.  While we have not been able to consult broadly when asked for comment on specific sections, ***qldwater*** has endeavoured to ensure the input of relevant industry experts wherever possible.

Note that there are no further changes expected to current meter installation, maintain and replace requirements (see eflash # 263 and #267).  Licensed plumbers or enrolled apprentices operating under supervision need to be installing new meters after the end of the transition period (21 February 2017).

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**3.   Department of Health recycled water legislation support materials**

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As reported in eflash #293, the Department of Health is in the process of developing materials to support recycled water service providers and their customers, now that “low exposure” recycled water management effectively defaults to the Public Health Act (since significant regulatory changes in June 2014).

***qldwater*** and members have assisted to date in the development of a draft user agreement.  DOH has also commenced drafting a brief guideline document, with a series of fact sheets based on each of the most common recycled water uses planned as well.

It is expected that the publications will be available for broader review in the first half of 2017, and DOH has made every effort to ensure that the materials are useful and practical to both providers and customers.

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**4.   *qldwater* Sponsorship opportunities – 2017 Events**

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Our 2017 Sponsorship Package has now been published.  A range of sponsorships are available for our events coming up next year.

As a membership organisation which aims to keep registrations fees to a minimum to maximise representation from our members in small and remote councils, these events would not be possible without sponsorship.

Our sponsorship opportunities demonstrates value for money to sponsors and offers direct, informal networking exposure to decision makers in local government and local government-owned water and sewerage businesses.  The sponsorship package and event information is available on our website.  Visit our [events page](http://www.qldwater.com.au/events) for further details or contact Heather Gold – hgold@qldwater.com.au if you would like to have the sponsorship package emailed to you.

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**5.   Affiliated Organisation update**

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Did you know that the [Water Services Association](https://www.wsaa.asn.au/) has had a Memorandum of Understanding with ***qldwater*** since 2014?

Under the agreement, each organisation promotes initiatives of common interest to members and look for opportunities to collaborate.  This has included skills initiatives, support for events, technical input into activities and general information sharing. ***qldwater*** members with less than 20,000 connections are eligible for a 50% discount on WSAA Codes and Standards and WSAA has made a number of reports and other useful resources available free of charge, or at a discounted rate.

We endeavour to keep our members up to date with WSAA activities.  Feel free to contact us if you need help identifying the current state of play around any national urban water and sewerage topic.

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

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        The Queensland Police Service have released the latest [Security Forecast](http://www.qldwater.com.au/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.

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

**To add your name** to the distribution list, email “subscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

**To remove your name** from the distribution list, email “unsubscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

**Visit qldwater at** [**www.qldwater.com.au**](http://www.qldwater.com.au)

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