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

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

**(Issue #365 – 17 August 2018)**

**1.   Bundaberg Conference Wrap up**

**2.   Public consultation— draft guidance on per-fluoroalkyl and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in recreational water**

**4.   Valuing Operator Competency – your input requested please**

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

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**1.   Bundaberg Conference Wrap up**

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The SEQ mini conference and taste test held in Bundaberg on 9 August was extremely well attended with 65 registered delegates and lots of positive feedback.  Those joining us on the tour were treated to excellent talks at Queensland’s newest large STP, and the rum tasting was more than acceptable too!  Check out some photos [here](https://qldwater.smugmug.com/Events/Bundaberg-Conference-2018).

Congratulations to Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC) with water from the Burgowan Water Treatment Plant taking out regional honours in the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test!

We once again thank our host Bundaberg Regional Council, Principal Sponsor Aqseptence Group, Gold Sponsors Challenger Valves & Actuators Pty Ltd Royce Water Technologies and Aquatec Maxcon and Silver Sponsor Hydramet, and as always Dial Before You Dig and taste test sponsor Ixom for helping make this event possible.

***qldwater*** members and conference attendees can now access the [presentations](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-seq-bundaberg/seq-conference/ExtraContent/ContentPage?page=1).

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**2.   Public consultation— draft guidance on per-fluoroalkyl and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in recreational water**

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is seeking feedback on draft Guidance on Per-fluoroalkyl and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Recreational Water including health based guideline values for recreational water.

The purpose of the draft guidance is to provide default health based guideline values for use by local authorities responsible for managing the safety of recreational water environments such as lakes, rivers and coastal waters. They do not include advice on swimming pools, spas or water play parks.

The consultation is open until 4pm (AEST) on Thursday 27 September 2018, and you are invited under section 13(d) of the NHMRC Act 1992 to make a submission to NHMRC through the NHMRC public consultation website <http://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/>. This website contains the draft guidance document and information on how to make a submission. You will need to create an account to view the public consultation questions and make a submission.

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**3.   Valuing Operator Competency – your input requested please**

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***qldwater*** is providing input to a research project by Water Research Australia to better understand the value gained from Operator Certification and investment in programs to develop, support and continually grow operator competency. The outcomes of this study will provide useful input for the Water Skills Partnership to explore how best to overcome challenges associated with investment in skilling and training of operators.

The researchers are keen to gather broad input and invite you to complete a short survey (approximately 10 minutes):[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JKVTR3**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JKVTR3)

Please take the time to respond or alternatively, please forward this email to a colleague who is involved with frontline operator training and competency. If any of your operational services are managed by a third party it would be appreciated if you could forward this email with the link to the appropriate contact.

***qldwater*** will share the outcomes as the project progresses. Please contact Carlie Sargent on csargent@qldwater.com.au if you have any queries about the research or survey.

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

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The Queensland Police Service has released the latest security information 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.

**WIOA Webinar – Working Safely with Telcos**

WIOA invites members to participate in a technical webinar on Working Safely with Telcos to be held on Tuesday 21 August from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

This webinar will focus on the issue of Telco infrastructure on water assets, and the challenges faced by water utilities to manage water supply integrity. There is a growing need for water utilities to understand and exercise their legislative rights in order to; meet water supply and governance requirements, protect employee safety, reduce their business costs imposed by Telcos facilities, and to highlight any legislative deficiencies so things can be fixed.

Presentations include:

1. Working with the Telco legislative framework to protect assets and operations (Jason Ip, Riverina Water CC)
2. Telco infrastructure and water assets – what can go wrong  (Jill Busch, WIOA NSW AC)
3. RF radiation and operator safety (Murray Thompson, MTWS)

For more information and to register visit <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/wioatalkstelcos/>. There is no cost for WIOA members or $30 + GST for non-members (which includes 12 months WIOA membership).

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