**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #33**

**Information for Water Industry Managers, Human Resources Personnel and Employees in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #33 – 13 October 2014)**

**1.        *qldwater* contracted to provide Water Industry Intelligence to the Ministerial Industry Commission**

**2.        Water Operator Technical Assessment and Mentoring Project a success – final report**

**3.        Water Occupations Census – participation**

**4.        Introduction to Queensland Water Industry Legislation – new course version available online**

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**1.     *qldwater* contracted to provide Water Industry Intelligence to the Ministerial Industry Commission**

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***qldwater*** has been appointed by the Ministerial Industry Commission to provide industry intelligence on skills and workforce needs for the water and wastewater services industry.  The Ministerial Industry Commission (MIC) provides advice to the Minister for Education, Training and Employment on Queensland’s skills and workforce development priorities and publishes the ‘Annual Skills Priority Report’.

***qldwater*** will be required to provide an Industry Report to the Commission with respect to the following key areas:

•             Industry skills and occupational priorities;

•             Gaps in labour and skill supply; and

•             Analysis of training delivery against industry requirements.

The Industry Report will inform the Commission’s *Annual Skills Priority Report* (published in February of each year). As the *Annual Skills Priority Report* influences funding allocations, industry participation is important in order to ensure that the correct intelligence on the water industry skills needs is provided and the industry continues to benefit from State funding for crucial industry qualifications. A final report on water industry skills needs is due on 28th November. To participate please contact Michelle Hill – [mhill@qldwater.com.au](mailto:mhill@qldwater.com.au).

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**2.     Water Operator Technical Assessment and Mentoring Project a success!**

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The *Technical Assessment, Capacity Building and Mentoring Program for Regional and Remote Queensland Drinking Water System Operators* project concluded on 30 June with a final report provided to the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE). The project received $84,000 in funding (in addition to an industry co-contribution) and targeted the Longreach/ Central West region and Burnett and surrounding regions.

The main focus of the project was to provide a contemporary approach aimed at improving regional Queensland’s drinking water services, through workforce development activities such as mentoring, sound planning and upskilling. The project has been highly successful and well received by the industry and has provided an opportunity for water service providers to critically analyse the operation of their water treatment plants and approach to operator training and workforce development.

Dave Cameron and Michelle Hill from ***qldwater*** met representatives from DETE to provide a formal presentation on the successful outcomes of the program. The success of this program bodes well for further similar industry funding applications.

A final report on the project is available by contacting Michelle Hill on [mhill@qldwater.com.au](mailto:mhill@qldwater.com.au).

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**3.      Water Occupations Census – industry participation**

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Government Skills Australia (GSA) is conducting a National Water Occupations Census, a national survey to count the number of employees in 28 water occupations defined in the Australian Water Occupations Framework (AWOF - <http://www.governmentskills.com.au/awof>).

The purpose of this census is to gather data on the number of staff working in various roles in the water industry and use this data to prepare a submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for inclusion of additional water industry occupation titles in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZCO).

The ANZCO codes inform a number of Government reports in addition to playing a role in funding allocations and as such, it important that water industry roles are recognised. GSA is seeking volunteers to complete a simple survey to gather data on the number of staff in 28 water industry roles as defined in the National Water Occupations Framework. GSA will be sending the survey out directly. To participate in the data collection for this Census, please contact Sue Peisley from GSA on [S.Peisley@govskills.com.au](mailto:S.Peisley@govskills.com.au).

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**4.       Introduction to Queensland Water Industry Legislation – new course version available online**

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The online ‘Introduction to Queensland Water industry Legislation’ course, available on the ***qldwater*** website, has recently been updated to reflect a number of important changes and updates to water industry legislation in Queensland.

The online course provides an easy to navigate resource containing an overview of key legislative considerations grouped by relevant industry topic. Topics covered in the course include;

•             Bulk water storage, collection and supply

•             Water treatment

•             Water distribution and supply

•             Sewage collection and treatment

•             General asset management

•             Customer retail services

•             Reporting requirements

This course was developed through the Queensland Water Skills Partnership and is freely available to view on the ***qldwater*** website – [Water Industry Legislative Training](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_Legislative_Training).

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