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

**Information for Water Industry Managers and Practitioners in Queensland Local Government**

**(Issue #38)   27 June 2008**

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### 1. NRW Information Sessions on the draft recycled water regulatory guidelines

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In e-Flash #37 we provided information on the new legislation providing a regulatory framework for managing recycled water (among other things). The Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) is now conducting consultation on the draft recycled water regulatory guidelines and draft regulations associated with this legislation.

The sessions will provide a brief overview of the new *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008,* (the Act)and cover the scope and requirements of the draft Recycled Water Regulatory Guidelines and draft Regulations associated with recycled water. Recycled water includes sewage and treated sewage effluent, wastewater and greywater sourced from a large greywater treatment plant.

The draft regulatory guidelines support the Act and initially will include the following:

* Recycled Water Management Plan and validation guidelines -  a documented risk based system for managing the production and supply of recycled water
* Water Quality Guidelines for recycled water schemes
* Guidelines for granting of an exemption to a recycled water provider

Under the new legislation recycled water providers and scheme managers (where applicable) have mandatory obligations. These sessions will be of interest to parties and individuals who provide recycled water or act as advocates to parties or individuals who provide recycled water. There is a “specialised session” for SEQ to be held on Wednesday 2nd July and a number of general sessions in regional areas.

**Recycled Water Regulatory Guidelines Special Information Session**

**WHEN:**             Wednesday 2July, 9am -1pm.

**LOCATION:**     Auditorium 3, DPI Conference Centre, Primary Industries Building, Ground Floor, 80 Ann St, Brisbane

**RSVP:** WaterRecycling.Enquiries[@nrw.qld.gov.au](mailto:WIRwaterrecyclingenquiries@nrw.qld.gov.au) or Ph 3405 3535 by 12 noon Monday 30 June 2008

Light refreshments will be provided.

Regional sessions will be held from 8 July to 25 July in the locations listed below.

Sunshine Coast             Tuesday 8 July

Toowoomba                  Thursday 10 July

Bundaberg                    Friday 11 July

Roma                           Friday 11 July

Gold Coast                               Monday 14 July

Rockhampton               Tuesday 15 July

Brisbane                       Friday 18 July

Cairns                          Monday 21 July

Mackay                        Monday 21 July

Townsville                    Tuesday 22 July

Longreach                   Wednesday 23 July

Mt Isa                           Thursday 24 July

A flyer that outlines venue details, session times and RSVP requirements is available on our website: [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au) under [“water issues”.](http://www.qldwater.com.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=16&Itemid=34)

These sessions will be of interest to parties and individuals who **provide recycled water** or act as advocates to parties or individuals who provide recycled water.  Recycled water includes sewage and treated sewage effluent, wastewater and greywater sourced from a large greywater treatment plant.

**Please note the legislation does not cover recycled water users. The information sessions are designed for recycled water providers and/or their advocates.**

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### 2. Building Over Water Infrastructure Technical Policy

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***qldwater*** has created a discussion draft of a technical policy on building near sewerage or water infrastructure. The draft can be downloaded from [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au) in the members area under “[Drafts for Review](http://www.qldwater.com.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=132&Itemid=81)”. Members will need to log in to access.   Comments are welcome and should be forwarded to Heather at [hgold@qldwater.com.au](mailto:hgold@qldwater.com.au).

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### 3. Western Treatment Plant Tour

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Our annual tour of small and remote Councils occurred in the second week of June. In the past, the tours have covered the southern and central west and this year we headed North. The councils visited were Flinders, Richmond, McKinlay, Burke, Carpentaria, Torres, Torres Island Regional Council and Bamaga. This was a diverse and interesting range of Councils with a broad range of climatic and geographical features each causing specific water management challenges. Meeting the local water managers and seeing how they have met these challenges was one of the highlights of the tour.

It was an interesting and rewarding journey for the delegation which included Michael Lever (water services expert), Sally Stephenson (water quality and monitoring expert from Wide Bay Water), David Wiskar (Chair ***qldwater***), Denise Hallmark (DLGS&R), Julie Shanks (NRW) and Rob Fearon (***qldwater***). Each stop-off included a briefing session with local government officers and Councillors with a summary of recent changes in the water industry at a State and National level as well as specific briefings on the new Queensland Recycled Water and Water Quality legislation from Julie Shanks and current government funding opportunities (Denise Hallmark).

We discussed issues raised by the water managers including any issues with local infrastructure management and inspected relevant sites. Individual, confidential reports are being provided to each Council based on these inspections by Michael Lever along with advice and appropriate information. Initial feedback from participating Councils has been very positive but, as usual, a full feedback sheet will be provided with the briefing to gather information that can make next year’s tour even better.

Thank you to each of the Councils who invited us to visit them and provided such good hospitality as well as ferrying us around and providing a tour of some really interesting and beautiful towns. Thanks also to the experts who attended and particularly to the State Agency staff for attending and supporting and building better links with the local government water industry.

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### 4. Waterwise Schools Program – Water: Learn it for Life!

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In May 2008, the Minister for Natural Resources and Water, Craig Wallace, launched the new Waterwise Schools Program – *Water: Learn it for Life!*

The *Water: Learn it for Life!* program is for early to middle year Queensland school students and aims to create greater awareness of water as a valuable resource for future sustainability. The program also promotes a long-term change in attitude and behaviour in relation to water use by embedding the learning in school curriculum. The *Water: Learn it for life!* resources include lesson plans, activities, background research material and multimedia tools and covers topics such as the water cycle, water sources and storage, water recycling, and efficient water use.

As the program is designed to build student awareness and understanding of water from a local, national and global perspective, teachers have been encouraged to incorporate local content into their lessons and activities and to contact their council water educator to obtain information relating to their local area.

In addition to the newly launched *Water: Learn it for Life!* program a new and expanded edition of *Whizzy’s Incredible Journeys* - Pick-a-Path book has also been developed to be used by schools and councils. You can order copies of Whizzy’s Incredible Journeys by completing the order form located on the website and at the same time register to receive regular updates about this and other Waterwise initiatives.

The *Water: Learn if for life!* program and resources can be downloaded from the NRW website at <http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education>.

For further information or enquiries, email the Waterwise team: [waterwise@nrw.qld.gov.au](mailto:waterwise@nrw.qld.gov.au)

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