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

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

**(Issue #194 – 13 March 2013)**

1. ***qldwater* Sponsored WIOA Operator Awards – Nominations Now Open**
2. **Department of Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Update**

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**1.   *qldwater* Sponsored WIOA Operator Awards – Nominations Now Open**

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Nominations for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards are now open.

Established in 2010 by ***qldwater*** in conjunction with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA), these awards will again recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.

The two categories available for nomination this year are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
	2. Operator of the Year (Civil / “All Rounder”)

The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees, and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.

The awards will be presented at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop Conference Dinner at the Gold Coast on 6 June 2013.   The winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip (value $2,000 each) to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group NZ conference in May 2013, a perpetual plaque which their employer keeps for 12 months plus an individual trophy which is kept by the winner.

This is a great way to recognise and reward your hard working water staff. It’s easy to nominate - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see last year’s winners.

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**2.   Department of Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Update**

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The Department of Energy and Water Supply is writing to each water service provider in the next week outlining the Government endorsed direction for simplifying Queensland’s water and sewerage regulation.  For example, Drinking Water Quality Management Plans will not be impacted, but Strategic Asset Management Plans, System Leakage Management Plans and Drought Management Plans are all proposed to cease, to be replaced by a number of mandatory performance indicators, to be reported against annually. The Department is currently working through what these indicators might look like using an advisory group comprising industry representatives along with ***qldwater.***

The letter also encourages submissions for the 30 year water sector strategy, which are due by 29 March.  We are presently working slowly through industry feedback and preparing ***qldwater’s*** submission.  While it will represent our interpretation of the collective view of our members, it is clear that the current government values direct feedback from affected organisations and that all submissions will be carefully considered.

If you have any queries or concerns having read the DEWS letter (or don’t receive one), please feel free to contact us.

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