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

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

**(Issue #226 – 29 April 2014)**

**1.  Department of Environment and Heritage Protection – Offsets**

**2   CQ Conference & Taste Test, Gladstone 13 June – Call for Papers**

**3.  SWQ Conference & Taste Test, Warwick 16 May – Register Now!**

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**1.  Department of Environment and Heritage Protection – Offsets**

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The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has recently released a new “mechanism” – “Flexible options for managing point source water emissions: A voluntary market-based mechanism for nutrient management” available [here](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/water/monitoring/documents/market-based-nutrient-managment-pilot.pdf).

It provides an alternative investment option for operators of point sources to meet their discharge requirements, while delivering an improvement in water quality in the receiving environment.  It applies to the management of total nitrogen and total phosphorous only, and typical offset examples include upper catchment improvement works.  All such options will require monitoring programs to quantify benefits.

The mechanism builds on trials undertaken by members in SEQ in conjunction with EHP over the past couple of years.  ***qldwater*** has been advocating strongly for the introduction of such options to mitigate the significant cost of treatment plant upgrades for some time.

The Department has commenced preparation of a technical assessment guideline to steer future applications and assessments.  In the meantime the department welcomes further interest from water utilities and others in applying the mechanism and invites members to contact their regional EHP office to discuss in more detail <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/>

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**2.  *qldwater* CQ Conference & Taste Test Gladstone -  Call for Papers**

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Submissions are invited for presentations for the Central Queensland Regional Water Conference and The Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test Regional Final to be held in Gladstone on 13 June 2014.

We are seeking presentations to fill half hour slots.  The presenting opportunity is open to persons from all levels in an organisation from new employees to CEOs as well as independent operators with information to share with the industry. We are particularly interested in technical presentations from members, or organisations that can co-present relevant case studies with members.   If you wish to provide a presentation, please email [hgold@qldwater.com.au](mailto:hgold@qldwater.com.au), with a title name and a brief outline before Friday 9 May. If accepted the presentation can be provided on the day.

The CQ Conference is sponsored by Dial Before You Dig and SPEL Environmental with the Taste Test sponsored by Orica Australia.

The Central Queensland Best of the Best Taste Test regional final is open to members from Banana Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board, Isaac Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Rockhampton Regional Council and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council.  This conference is linked with the AWA regional conference being held in Gladstone on 12 June.

Please contact Heather Gold for more information  ([hgold@qldwater.com.au](mailto:hgold@qldwater.com.au)).

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**2.  *qldwater* SWQ Conference & Taste Test, Warwick 16 May – Register Now!**

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Registrations are now open for the South West Queensland Water Conference and the Regional Final of the Orica Australia Best of the Best Water Taste Test to be held in Warwick on Friday 16 May.

We have an excellent line-up of presenters speaking on topics of interest in the region and this promises to be a great learning experience and networking opportunity.  This conference is hosted by Southern Downs Regional Council and sponsored by Toowoomba Regional Council.

Full information and registration form is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2014_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_SWQ_Warwick).  If you would like the program emailed to you please contact [hgold@qldwater.com.au](mailto:hgold@qldwater.com.au)

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

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