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

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

**(Issue #262 -   26 June 2015)**

1.   We need your help on *qldwater’s* forward work plan

**2.**   **SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test – Gold Coast 20 August – Register Now!**

**3.**   **New BoM Tools and Data**

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1.   We need your help on *qldwater’s* forward work plan

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A member survey to help shape our work program for 2015/16 and beyond has been emailed to the primary, secondary and tertiary contacts of our membership.

This is the first broad-scale survey we have conducted since 2013 when the state was developing the 30 year water sector strategy.  The questions have been considered and refined by our Technical Reference Group (TRG) which comprises around 20 ***qldwater*** members.

The primary purpose of this work is to ground-truth our work plan which currently comprises a list of outstanding tasks and new proposals.  The information you provide will help prioritise our efforts and consider supplementary funding options, where gaps exist.

If you have received the survey, it would be greatly appreciated if you could make the time to complete it and return responses to hgold@qldwater.com.au by Friday 10 July 2015.

Those who complete the survey will go into a draw to win a $100 Wish Gift Card or one of two personally signed copies of the Steve Hrudey book, Ensuring Safe Drinking Water.

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**2.**   **SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test – Gold Coast 20 August – Register Now!**

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Registrations are now open for the SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test being held at the Gold Coast on Thursday 20 August.   The conference is being hosted by City of Gold Coast and Smart Water Research Centre.  The sponsors for this event are Royce Water Technologies, Bilfinger Water Technologies and Hach Pacific.  This full day event  will be a great opportunity to network with your peers, hear some technical presentations and participate in an excellent tour of the Gold Coast light rail project and its impacts on water and sewerage infrastructure, organised by Gold Coast Water.

The SEQ final of the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test will take place over lunch with the winner announced that afternoon.  There will be presentations and a workshop session around the theme of IT systems, challenges and different approaches.  The conference will be followed by an optional dinner at the Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club at Broadbeach.

The full conference program and registration form with further details is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2015_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_SEQ).

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**3.**   **New BoM Tools and Data**

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Yesterday, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) launched two new web tools and updated their [seasonal climate outlook](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary).

The first new tool lists sites where desalination or water recycling are undertaken and reports on the total volumes of these “[Climate Resilient Water Sources](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/crews)”. The site is user-friendly and includes data from industry as well as many public service providers. Queensland is well represented with nearly 70 sites but numerous urban sites are missing. Data can be added through tools provided on the site or by contacting ***qldwater***.

The [second launch](http://media.bom.gov.au/releases/177/bureau-introduces-northern-rainfall-onset-outlook/) yesterday was a tool designed to help predict the onset of rain in the north. The ‘[Northern Rainfall Onset’](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/rainfall-onset/) date is defined on the BoM site as “when the rainfall total in a particular region reaches 50 mm or more from 1 September. It is considered to be approximately the amount of rainfall required to stimulate plant growth after the dry season.” The site shows that projected El Nino conditions mean that early rainfall is unlikely across much of northern Queensland, but is average in the Bowen (mid-late October) and Mt Isa  (late December- January) regions.

The climate update summarised climate data from the past three months confirmed above average temperatures and below average rainfall across Queensland with many areas experiencing record autumn temperatures and lowest recorded rainfall. Despite recent rain in the west ‘rainfall deficiencies’ remain severe or lowest-on-record for most inland areas. Normal (low) rain volumes are likely over winter, but temperatures, particularly at night, can be expected to be higher than average. Unfortunately, with [the majority of the west still drought declared](https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/queenslanddroughtmonitor/queenslanddroughtreport/2015/jun1.gif), the forecast means there will be little relief during the next three months.

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**4.**   **WSAA Regional Forum – Gold Coast 19 August**

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The WSAA Regional Forum is being held at the Gold Coast on Wednesday 19 August 2015.  The [draft agenda](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_196215/WSAA_Regional_Forum_Draft_Agenda) details the objectives of the day which include highlighting emerging leading practice in regional water utility management, including various interfaces with private sector expertise.

Attendees at the Regional Forum are also welcome to register for the WSAA Members Meeting on Thursday 20 August 2015 (note that the members meeting conflicts with the ***qldwater*** mini-conference above).  The meeting will include an update on national issues, progress on significant WSAA activities/projects and a facilitated discussion on stormwater management on the back of the recent Senate Committee inquiry.    To register for one or all of these events please go to the following link:  <http://ow.ly/OEXkG>

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

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* The 2015 Australian Water Association/ Deloitte State of the Water Sector Survey is now open until 8 July. The survey measures views on the critical issues and provides an insight into what the focus should be to improve the future of water in Australia. To complete the survey please [follow this link](https://deloitteau.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eXssoHugfWWcmWN)

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