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

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

**(Issue #263 - 10 July 2015)**

1.   Member survey reminder

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1.   Member survey extension to 17 July

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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.

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 17 July 2015 (deadline extended by a week).

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.   LGAQ Bush Councils Convention and SWQ Taste Test 30/31 July

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The Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test regional final for South-West Queensland will be held in conjunction with LGAQ’s Bush Councils Convention on 30/31 July at St George.  [This link](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2015_Water_Taste_Test_and_Bush_Council_Forum_SWQ) provides details of how to enter as well as a link to the Convention site.  Our thanks as always to Ixom and Dial Before You Dig for their generous support of our regional events program.

Entry in the taste test is open to the councils in South-West region detailed [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Taste_Test) along with others attending the Convention.  Please advise hgold@qldwater.com.au as soon if you intend to enter a sample as we are a little unsure of how many to expect.  Samples are welcome from eligible ***qldwater*** members who are able to transport them but not attend the event in person.

We will again be offering a prize for the region’s “Water Guru” – the person with the best palate and best general knowledge about water at the event.  Dave and Rob look forward to seeing you there…

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

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Registrations are open for the SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test being held at the Gold Coast on Thursday 20 August.   **Please ensure you register promptly to ensure we can arrange tour places.**

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).

All ***qldwater*** regional conferences are supported by Dial Before You Dig.

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4.   Transition period for water meter installation changes yet to commence

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[E-flash #259](http://www.qldwater.com.au/e-flashes) provided details of the legislation passed which will ultimately mean that licensed plumbers or enrolled apprentices operating under supervision are required to install new meters.  The e-flash also suggested that the 18 month transition period (for service providers to change practices, if necessary) would commence at the time of assent, expected to be mid-June.

DEWS has advised that the transition period is now likely to commence in August.  A further update will be provided once the date is confirmed.

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**5.**   **Appointment of new Director General, Department of Energy and Water Supply**

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Many would already be aware that the selection process for this key role has been completed with Professor Paul Simshauser being appointed to the position.  Professor Simshauser has an extensive background in energy, more details available [here](http://www.psc.qld.gov.au/about-us/latest-projects/DG_recruitment.aspx).

***qldwater***  would like to acknowledge the efforts of outgoing Director General, Dan Hunt.  Dan has been a great supporter of the industry and the Directorate’s work.

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

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* AWA North QLD Regional Conference -  23 – 25 July.  “Driving Efficiency in Water Service Delivery”, Pullman Cairns.  The NQ Regional Conference’15 will provide a successful combination of technical presentations, trade displays and networking opportunities in a relaxed atmosphere. The conference will attract a wide cross section, covering all of the major participants in the North Queensland water industry.  For more information on the event, please see the [Australian Water Association website](http://enews.awa.asn.au/link/id/zzzz558a285f3a868488Pzzzz4e76df5768310724/page.html).  [Download the brochure including the program](http://enews.awa.asn.au/link/id/zzzz558a285f3ac31182Pzzzz4e76df5768310724/page.html)
* WSAA Regional Forum Gold Coast Wednesday 19 August 2015.  The 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 – see 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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