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

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

**(Issue #275 – 4 December 2015)**

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**1.   Plumbing and Drainage & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

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The *Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* was passed this week following an election commitment.  It establishes the Services Trades Council, effectively replacing the Plumbing Industry Council which was dismantled by the previous state government.  Functions of the Council include conferring on national policy development, providing advice to the Minister and recommendations to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.  The QBCC retains powers of licensing etc.

LGAQ maintains a membership on the Council, while ***qldwater*** remains on the Plumbing Industry Consultative Group.

The STC will contribute to further amendments/ streamlining of plumbing and drainage legislation in 2016.

The Bill is available at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Bills/55PDF/2015/PlumbDrainOLAB15.pdf>

The Bill has now been referred to the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee for consideration. Information for public hearings and submissions will soon be available at <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees>.

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**2.  Proposed Changes to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 (ADWG)**

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The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011 (ADWG) undergoes rolling revision to ensure it represents the latest scientific evidence on good quality drinking water. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is seeking public comment on draft text to be added to Chapters Six and Ten of the ADWG.

***qldwater*** has been invited to make a submission to NHMRC about the proposed changes.  As they largely relate to clarifying processes, rather than new guideline values, we do not intend to accept the invitation at this stage, however will do so if members raise any concerns.  From the site:

The additional text has been proposed by the Water Quality Advisory Committee to clarify existing processes, and to facilitate the consistent interpretation of the ADWG.

*Guidance on rounding*

This draft text is proposed to clarify how the guideline values are derived for chemicals in drinking water, and how monitoring results should be compared with guideline values.

*Guidance on parent compounds and metabolites*

Occasionally Fact Sheets have been developed for the ADWG on particular chemicals (mainly pesticides) where the chemical likely to be present in water is an environmental breakdown product. In these cases, it is more appropriate for the Fact Sheet to be focused on the environmental breakdown product rather than the parent chemical.

*The use of screening assays*

This text has been developed at the recommendation of the WQAC, to clarify that screening techniques are legitimate analytical techniques for monitoring chemicals in drinking water, and details how the results should be interpreted.

The draft amendments and information can be obtained from the NHMRC public consultation website at <http://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/>.

Any input or comments can be provided directly to Dave Cameron at ***qldwater*** – dcameron@qldwater.com.au.

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**3.  International WaterCentre partial scholarships for self-funded students**

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The International WaterCentre is offering a partial scholarship ($7,000 for the [Master of Integrated Water Management](http://www.watercentre.org/education/programs) at The University of Queensland; and $2,000 for the [Graduate Certificate in Water Planning](http://www.watercentre.org/education/water-planning) at Griffith University) to every self-funded student commencing in Semester 1, 2016.

Both programs are designed to equip participants with transdisciplinary skills in integrated water management, fast-track their career development and build their capacity to create innovative and sustainable solutions to complex water management issues.

To receive a partial scholarship: simply apply for admission through the relevant partner university by 31 January.

**More information**: [www.watercentre.org/iwc-scholarships](http://www.watercentre.org/iwc-scholarships)

**Contact:** admin@watercentre.org | phone 07 3014 0200

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**4.  Unitywater EOI - Leak Identification/Detection Services**

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Unitywater is releasing an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the market for the provision of broad scale trunk water main leakage detection services and is open to hearing from both local and international providers.

Unitywater is the business that provides water supply and sewerage services to Australia’s Moreton Bay, Noosa and Sunshine Coast residential and business customers, located just north of Brisbane, Queensland.

**Expression of Interest**

Unitywater wants to identify technology based solutions that can be used to identify leakage on the trunk water main network infrastructure. Unitywater’s trunk main pipes range in diameter from 300mm to 1,500mm and make up 910km (or 16%) of the water network. Any leakage detection system operating on the trunk mains network must be repeatable and with little or no impact on the day-to-day operations of the water supply network. Unitywater is seeking responses from any provider of system-wide water leak detection services that can operate in this manner.

The EOI submissions will close 29 January 2016 at 3pm AEST.  To obtain a copy of the EOI documentation please contact tenders@unitywater.com

Unitywater has agreed to share the results of the EOI with interested ***qldwater*** members – we will publicise once the information is received.

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

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* Following on from our recent Innovation Event, one of our presenters Nicholas Paul from James Cook University has included some of the concepts presented at our event in his recent TED talk, discussing innovative ways of treating wastewater. The TED talk is now available on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77OP8eWSabg&feature=youtu.be&list=PLsRNoUx8w3rN0aqFUuSVGaGi5PZcvPA72>

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