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

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

**(Issue #339 – 24 November 2017)**

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**1.   Council Controlled Entities Workshop**

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In August this year a workshop was jointly hosted by ***qldwater*** and LGAQ to discuss current and alternative models for urban water and sewerage services (WSS) in Queensland in light of recommendations in various national reviews for reform of the local government water sector. Invitees included industry stakeholders from a range of backgrounds including Queensland councillors and water managers. The aim was to compare experiences on the range of available governance models as well as pros and cons and common principles that should guide future decision making about governance of WSS.

It was acknowledged that Queensland’s diversity means that there is not a single ideal model, and that economies of scale and other efficiencies can be achieved through a range of institutional arrangements. There was also strong agreement that there should be continuing focus on the need for change across regional Queensland and that the Queensland Water Regional Alliances Program (QWRAP) is a strong mechanism for undertaking these investigations. The results from the workshop are available here <http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=235596>

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**2.   Expression of Interest – Annual Intake Operator Certification - Reminder**

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Further to [Skills Eflash #59](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=234792) (27 October) a reminder that Expressions of Interest in Operator Certification Annual Intake are due by 30 November.

***qldwater*** is committed to encouraging the uptake of operator certification as one of many programs designed to support its role as the central advisory and advocacy body within Queensland’s urban water industry.  In our advocacy role through the Water Skills Partnership, we have put extensive effort into making certification nationally-recognised, and have delivered a range of pilot programs to test various certification frameworks.  We have explored regulatory options around drinking water to help address a perceived risk (especially in regional/ remote areas), both in terms of operator competency and in developing career paths to recognise and retain these crucial staff.  We are committed to continuous improvement of the frameworks and gaining regulatory recognition, where appropriate.

**Certification process in brief**

-        Assessment of plant processes against units of competency already held (and currency) from the National Water Training Package

-        Comparison between units of competency already held (if any) and units required for Certification

-        Evidence gathering and provision of statements of attainment/qualifications

-        Gap training or recognition of prior learning for gap units required

-        Certification paperwork including employer sign-off and operator agreement to Code of Conduct, payment of fee

-        Ongoing Professional Development commitment (Certification valid for 5 years)

-        Certification issued by Water Industry Operators Association.

If you are interested in this potential opportunity, please provide an estimated number of operators to us as soon as possible.  We will forward copies of the relevant matrices for completion by 30 November and will also need details of your preferred RTO process (expression of interest/ market evaluation vs direct selection).  Information on available training providers is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_Vocational_Education).  Feel free to contact Dave Cameron dcameron@qldwater.com.au  with any questions.

Further information on the annual intake process including pricing is included in [Skills Eflash #27](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=234792).

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**3.   2017 Annual Forum – Vendor Pitch Winner: Royce Water Technologies**

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The Vendor Pitch session was introduced at the 2017 Annual Forum, to assist funding for the newly created Queensland Water Regional Communities Innovations Program (QWRCIP) Scholarships.

We thank all vendors who participated in the pitch session. The winning pitch was presented by Rod Wellings from Royce Water Technologies and was judged by the attendees on day one of the Annual Forum at the Queensland Urban Utilities Innovation Centre.   Rod Wellings and Royce Water Technologies are featured in our website blog:   <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/2017-vendor-pitch-winner>.

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**4.   QUDM Version 4 Workshop – 6 December**

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The Queensland Urban Drainage Manual (QUDM) Version 4 was formally launched at the recent IPWEAQ State Conference held in Townsville. QUDM is an engineering guideline that addresses the technical, legal, regulatory and environmental aspects of effective drainage systems. It provides details of appropriate design methods and computational procedures, and covers both hydrologic and hydraulic procedures.

To assist engineers and stormwater designers in the planning, design and management of urban stormwater drainage systems, IPWEAQ in partnership with Storm Water Consulting is delivering the updated QUDM Workshop. This workshop presents an overview of the latest edition of QUDM. Discussion is provided on each chapter, and includes specific dialog on updates from the previous 2013 edition of QUDM.

Workshop participants will gain a practical understanding of QUDM that will:

* encourage uniformity in urban drainage design practices throughout Queensland
* provide information on current best practice urban drainage management, with the exception of water quality management, which is addressed within other publications
* improve Queensland’s resilience to severe storms and climate change through the proper design and management of urban drainage systems.

The first workshop is scheduled in Brisbane for **Wednesday 6 December.** Register via the [IPWEAQ Online Portal](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/ipweaq-master-contact-store/ipweaq-member-portal?Token=TUl0WNGGuTY43Rm4z4vawzXBYMUOKy8lmKdNyP9jmYqMBt1pJb7FsEBnimbpN24L) or contact Johanna Vanling on 07 3632 6803. A schedule of additional courses will be released in the coming weeks. To assist with the prioritisation of locations or to enquire about an “in-house” workshop, please contact Craig Moss or phone 07 3632 6805.

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

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* **WaterRA’s Education Program** provides professional development opportunities, with 90+% retention rate of graduates commencing their careers in the water sector.   WaterRA needs assistance in sponsorship of student projects.  They have a suite of topical PhD and Honours projects that address relevant water and environmental issues as well as projects addressing the Sustainable Development Goals, which is high on everyone’s agenda.   Click on the link to review the topics being proposed and further information - <http://www.waterra.com.au/education/sponsorship-information/phd-projects-seeking-sponsorship/>.  All enquiries should be directed to carolyn.bellamy@waterra.com.au or 08 7424 2443.

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