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

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

**(Issue #393 – 14 June 2019)**

**1.   Important WIOA Conference announcements - Mains Tapping, Water of Origin and Awards!**

**2.   qldwater New starter – welcome Louise!**

**3.   Register now for the North Queensland Conference Townsville – Early bird registrations close 18 June!**

**4.   Qld Environmental Protection Regulation and Environmental Protection Policy Remakes**

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

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**1.   Important WIOA Conference announcements – Awards, Mains Tapping and Water of Origin!**

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1. ***qldwater*** / WIOA Operator Award Winners!

This is the 10th time we’ve been privileged to present awards for the Civil/ Allrounder Operator of the Year and Young Operator of the Year.

* Spencer Stacey from City of Gold Coast took out the Civil/ Allrounder award.  A great team player, respected by colleagues and customers alike, Spencer is one half of the recently retired “Tapping Tubbies” mains tapping champions.  Spencer received a trophy and funding towards professional development.
* Ali Sacipovic from Fraser Coast regional council takes the Young Operator award.  Responsible for the Aubinville STP in Maryborough, Ali has demonstrated great initiative, a commitment to process improvement, teamwork and customer service.  Ali receives a trip to NZ in 2020 with WIOA visiting a number of utilities and attending the WIOG conference.

A highly commended award was made to Daniel Hales from Mareeba Shire Council, who will receive a QWRAP scholarship to attend the upcoming ***qldwater*** event in Townsville as well as spend time with experts at the Mt St John STP, with thanks to Jeff Morton and Stephen Martin for organising.

Other main awards from the event going to employees of ***qldwater*** members went to:

* Best Poster – Winner Mark Tosh, QUU, Highly Commended Leah Jones QUU
* Best Papers –
	+ Overall (Brian Davis Award) – Kale McLean, Unitywater
	+ 1st – Andrew Watson, South Burnett Regional Council
	+ 2nd – Marcus Boyd, Terry Henness, Toowoomba Regional Council
* AWA Leon Henry Operator of the Year Award – John Van Ryt, Mareeba Shire Council

Bill Collie from QUU has become the latest WIOA “IDIOT,” or “Inducted as Delegates of the Inextricably Obstructed Tap Society.”

Congratulations also go to Ozzie Kleen for taking out Best Exhibition Site award and Duncan Shillito from Seqwater for taking out 3rd prize for papers.

1. Mains tapping champions

So a City of Gold Coast team has done it again, with Dan Lee and Gavin Stacey (Kool Tapping) taking out the mains tapping competition with a time of 1 minute and 52 seconds.  QUU’s Daniel Marshall and Tom Pilcher finished second with 2:24, ahead of a Cairns team, two from Fraser Coast and 3 from Bundaberg.

The champions have donated the $1,000 prize, sponsored by Reece Plumbing, to “Buy a Bale.”

1. Queensland wins Origin

The football not the taste test.  Shoalhaven beat Mackay in that, as far as we can recall.

***qldwater*** is proud to continue its strong partnership with WIOA and congratulate them on another fantastic event.  This year we supported 3 new trainees (from North Burnett, Bundaberg and Gympie Regional Councils) to attend as part of a regional traineeship trial.

Brad Milful from Logan City Council chose to use his prize as Civil Operator of the Year 2018 to attend the event and was made a judge for the papers for his trouble.

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**2.   *qldwater* New starter – welcome Louise!**

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We are thrilled to welcome Louise Reeves to the ***qldwater*** team.  Louise has been engaged through grant funding to help free up some time for staff who are working on the Reef Councils MIP.  Louise will be starting working to support SWIM, QWRAP and SEQ Code responsibilities.

Louise joins ***qldwater*** with a diverse background in the mining industry, including stints as a writer and editor for an industry magazine, and as a laboratory manager, but most recently in strategic water management: helping mine operators to understand and manage the risk that climate poses to their sites and the environment. She has joined ***qldwater*** hoping to bring some of her experience and strategic vision to Queensland’s urban water industry.

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**3.  Register now for the North Queensland Conference Townsville – Early bird registrations close 18 June!**

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[Early Bird registrations](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/north-queensland-conference/registration) for the [North  Queensland Conference](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/north-queensland-conference/) in Townsville on 4-5 July are closing on 18 June.

The conference will take place on Friday 5 July 2019, with an optional technical tour to Haughton Pipeline (included in the registration) and dinner (additional cost applies) on Thursday 4 July. The mini conference will provide an opportunity to network with peers and hear a range of technical presentations from across the region.  In the tradition of taste tests and WaSP Wars card games we will also be trialling a new activity we reckon you’ll enjoy.

The conference final program is available [online](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/north-queensland-conference/agenda)!

The conference is being hosted by Townsville City Council and is kindly sponsored by Gold Sponsors Royce Water Technologies, Aquatec Maxcon, Innovative Water Care and Silver Sponsor Taggle Systems Pty Ltd. We would like to thank all our sponsors, including Dial Before You Dig for helping make this event possible.

If you are interested in remaining sponsorships, please email Diana Kislitsyna at dkislitsyna@qldwater.com.au or Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au).

Please be aware that the conference leads into the Supercars weekend and accommodation will be challenging to get if you don't book early.

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**4.  Qld Environmental Protection Regulation and Environmental Protection Policy Remakes**

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DES has been seeking feedback on proposed changes to the EP Regulation, EPP Air, EPP Water and EPP Noise and qldwater forwarded on this request to SWEAP and via and eFlash to the broader industry. Thank you to those who replied. We received no negative comments and there are no substantive proposed changes to the legislation, so instead of making a formal submission we have listed some of the key changes relevant to the urban water and sewerage sector.

***Environmental Protection Regulation***

Numerous small changes have been made with the following of potential interest within the sector.

* ERA 64. Cross-references to ERA 56 and 58 have been deleted as these ERAs will be deleted on 1 July 2019 by the Environmental Protection (Waste ERA Framework) Amendment Regulation 2018. [for noting]
* Schedule 3. ‘Continued codes of environmental compliance’ (COEC) schedule has been deleted. The Code of environmental compliance for sewage treatment activities will transition to an ERA standard. [this will impact the arrangements for managing sewage pump stations (currently under an outdated COEC) but now destined to become a Standard (see e.g. Schedule 11, Section 23). The Department has been consulting with the SWEAP group on the aims of this standard but a draft is yet to be released].

***Environmental Protection (Water) Policy***

Numerous small changes have been made with the following of potential interest to the sector.

* The policy title “may change at a later stage to reflect that the new amended EPP will incorporate values for a broader range of biodiversity than that affected by water quality alone”. [for noting]
* Section 6(2)(i). Values “for waters that may be used for drinking water—the suitability of the water for supply as drinking **water having regard to the level of treatment of the** water”. [Added text in bold. This could mean that water sources may be less protected in future as the ability to treat the water is taken into account]
* S 7 (now s 9) replaces the definition of “sustainable load measure” with “relevant load” which “means the mass of the contaminant in the water measured over a period of time”.. [This is a more practical definition to determine mass loads].
* S 13 (now s19). Adds subsection “iv) otherwise offset the release to the environment in a way approved by the administering authority” to the end of the Management Hierarchy for surface or ground water. [This means that the hierarchy now requires consideration of (a) **‘reduction’** via water conservation, (b) prevention, (c) **recycling**, (d) (i) release to sewer, (ii) **release to land**, (iii) **release to waters** (iv) **offsets**. The terms in bold are most relevant for sewage treatment. Importantly, the requirement to consider the four elements of ss (d) “in the order in which they are listed” has been removed. This potentially means that offsets may not be less favoured than release to land or waters].

The interpretation of these changes by the Department (along with how the new Offset Policy and the ERA Standard for SPS look when they are finally released) will have further ramifications for our sector, but in general the changes appear to provide a more practical and flexible framework for management of sewerage.

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

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1. **The Queensland Police Service** has released the QPS Security Environment Report for the quarter February – April 2019which is now available in the members area of our website -  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism>.   The information contained in the QPS documents may be viewed and circulated internally, however it should not be provided to the public / media or forwarded to external third parties.  Members must log in first to access this information.
2. **2nd National Symposium on the Beneficial Use of Recycled Organics**

[The Symposium](http://www.nsro.com.au/about/) will bring together over 100 delegates from universities and government agencies, environmental consultants, land managers and farmers from around Australia, to present and discuss advances and research results regarding the use of recycled organic products to enhance agricultural production in degraded and marginal landscapes and also to enable the environmental rehabilitation of such areas. The symposium will present keynote speakers, case studies, poster presentations, a networking dinner and a field day providing the opportunity to see first-hand organics recycling facilities and end-user’s operations. [Registrations are open!](http://www.nsro.com.au/register/)

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