**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #72**

**Information for Water Industry Managers, Human Resources Personnel and Employees in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #72 – 17 January 2019)**

1. Register now for the Queensland Water Skills Forum!
2. Revised Diploma of Water Industry Operations approved
3. Australian Government Review of VET Sector
4. Nominations open for Queensland Training Awards
5. WIOA Call for Papers

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1. **Register now for the Queensland Water Skills Forum!**

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Registrations are invited for the Queensland Water Skills Forum to be held on Thursday 7 March 2019 at the Crosby Park Events Centre, Brothers Rugby Club, Albion from 9am to 4pm. [Register online now!](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/queensland-water-skills-forum/event-info-site/ExtraContent/ContentPage?page=1)

Your registration includes a full day program of presentations from industry colleagues who will share their knowledge and experience of skilling, capability building and workforce planning for the water industry as well as morning tea, lunch and closing drinks. [View the detailed program](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/queensland-water-skills-forum/event-info-site/Agenda).

Forum attendance is free for up to three delegates from each [Water Skills Partnership member](https://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_and_Training). ***qldwater*** members (who aren’t part of the Water Skills Partnership) are invited to attend for $50 + GST and other attendees for $100 + GST.

The Forum will be followed by an optional dinner with special guest speaker Neil Brennan, CEO Seqwater. Attendance at the dinner costs $90 + GST and includes a two course dinner and drinks. You are welcome to join us for dinner even if you’re unable to attend the Skills Forum. Please register your attendance via our [online registration form](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/queensland-water-skills-forum/event-info-site/ExtraContent/ContentPage?page=1).

We look forward to seeing you there!

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1. **Revised Diploma of Water Industry Operations approved**

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Previous Skills e-Flashes have provided progress update on the review of the Diploma of Water Industry Operations ([refer to Skills e-Flashes #66, #67 and #69](https://www.qldwater.com.au/e-flashes-2018)). The revised Diploma has now been approved by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee and is available at <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/NWP50118>.

***qldwater*** has been in contact with RTOs currently delivering water training in Queensland and they are considering their offering in relation to the new Diploma. Industry has twelve months to transition to the new qualification and it is hoped some will be ready to accept enrolments within the coming few months. However, the new Diploma includes a number of streams and it’s possible RTOs will only offer some of those streams.

If you have staff waiting to enroll in the updated Diploma, please contact Carlie Sargent on 3632 6853 or csargent@qldwater.com.au and we’ll advise RTOs of your requirements to help them plan their offering to meet the needs of industry.

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1. **Australian Government Review of VET Sector**

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The Australian Government recently announced an expert review of the Vocational Education and Training Sector. There are four key questions being considered as part of the review:

* What is working well in the VET sector?
* What are the key challenges in the VET sector?
* What changes would you make to the VET sector?
* How can VET help Australians prepare for the future workforce (as industry requirements and job patterns change)?

***qldwater*** is providing a response and we are keen to include your comments about the VET sector. Please email any comments to csargent@qldwater.com.au by Thursday 24 January or call Carlie Sargent on 3632 6853 to provide your comments over the phone. ***qldwater’s*** submission will focus on the needs of Queensland water service providers and we encourage organisations to submit their own response which can be done using the [online form](https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/vet-review/vet-review-submissions).

Public submissions are due by Friday 25 January 2019. More information about the review is available on the [vocational education and training review web page](https://pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/vet-review) or you can read the [Terms of Reference](https://pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/domestic-policy/terms-reference-vtec-review). Please don’t hesitate to contact Carlie Sargent on csargent@qldwater.com.au or 3632 6853 if you have any queries in relation to the review or our submission.

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1. **Nominations open for Queensland Training Awards**

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Nominations for the 2019 Queensland Training Awards are open for nomination. The awards are run by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work of Queensland’s top training achievers.

For a full list of award categories, nomination details and eligibility criteria, visit [www.qta.qld.gov.au](http://www.qta.qld.gov.au/). Nominations close Sunday 17 March 2019.

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1. **WIOA Call for Papers**

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WIOA is calling for papers for their 2019 Queensland Conference and Exhibition to be held in Bundaberg on 5-6 June 2019. More information is available at: <http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld-2019/>. The closing date for abstracts is 20 February 2019.

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