**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #11**

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

**(Issue #11 – 20 September 2012)**

1. **Potential Funding Opportunity: Expressions of Interest – National Workforce Development Fund**
2. **New Queensland *Water Industry Legislation: Information Resource* Online Module**
3. **Updates to *Introduction to Queensland Urban Water Industry* Online Module**

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**1.      Expressions of Interest – National Workforce Development Fund**

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Funding is available under the National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF) for qualifications at Certificate III level and above for current employees and Certificate II level and above for new employees.  The funding amount varies depending on organisation size: Small Organisations (under 100 employees)  receive 67% funding per qualification, Medium Organisations (100 -199 employees) – 50% funding and Large Organisations (> 200 employees) - 34% funding.

***qldwater*** has held initial discussions with Government Skills Australia, who will be administering this funding for the water industry andis intending to lodge an application on behalf of the Queensland Water Industry. The application process for the NWDF is different to some of the other state funding arrangements and any Councils or Water Businesses wanting to secure funding through this application will need to advise ***qldwater*** of staff numbers to be trained, qualifications and RTO’s before the NWDF application is submitted.

After initial discussions with the Industry Leaders Group and members of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership, the following qualifications have been proposed for inclusion into a application;

* Vocational Graduate Certificate in Asset Management
* Cert IV/Diploma Project Management
* Advanced Diploma Water Engineering
* Cert IV/Diploma Water Operations

This initial list of proposed will be expanded to include any industry training needs that fit within the scope of the funding.  Funding is available for qualifications at Certificate II level and above for new employees or Certificate III and above for existing employees. However, as there is already significant state funding available for Certificate II and III Water Operations in Queensland we anticipate that the NDWF application will focus on qualifications at Certificate IV level and above.  Skill sets can also be funded provided the person undergoing the training already has a Certificate III minimum qualification.

Funding for the NWDF is available on an ongoing basis. Once the initial application has been submitted on behalf of industry, further funding applications will be simpler as they can build on the initial application. As such, it is important to also think about projecting future training needs that may not be required for this funding application, but can be built into subsequent applications.

At this stage we are looking to get a firm indication of who will be participating in the ***qldwater*** application as well as some information on approximate numbers to be trained, qualifications of interest and possible RTO’s.

If you are interested in participating in the ***qldwater*** application please advise Michelle Hill on [mhill@qldwater.com.au](mailto:mhill@qldwater.com.au) or (07) 3632 6853 by **Friday 5th October** and provide;

* Approximate numbers to be trained and VET qualifications of interest
* Preferred RTO’s, if determined and
* Primary contact details

Once we receive your expression of interest, we will contact you to discuss opportunities to collaborate with other organisations and assist in obtaining quotes from RTO’s.

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**2.      New Queensland *Water Industry Legislation: Information Resource* Online Module**

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An online module on *Queensland Urban Water Industry Legislation* is now available on the ***qldwater*** website. The online course provides an easy to navigate resource containing an overview of key legislative considerations grouped by relevant industry topic. Topics covered in the course include;

* Bulk water storage, collection and supply
* Water treatment
* Water distribution and supply
* Sewage collection and treatment
* General asset management
* Customer retail services
* Reporting requirements

This course was developed through the Queensland Water Skills Partnership and is freely available to view on the ***qldwater*** website – [Water Industry Legislative Training](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_Legislative_Training).

Your feedback is welcome and will help inform ongoing reviews of the online course. There is an opportunity to provide feedback via email at the end of the course or by completing the online feedback form on the web page.

A face to face Legislation Training Course is also available and can be customised to suit your needs. Please contact Michelle Hill on [mhill@qldwater.com.au](mailto:mhill@qldwater.com.au) if you are interested in hosting a course.

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**3.      Updates to *Introduction to Queensland Urban Water Industry* Online Module**

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The *Introduction to the Urban Water Industry* online induction was released in November last year. An updated version incorporating some of the recent Government changes is now available online.

The course contains information relevant for new entrants to the water industry, potential employees and those already employed in the industry who would like to find out more.

The updated induction is available from the ***qldwater*** website [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_Water_Industry_Induction).

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**This message may be passed on to interested individuals and organisations.**

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