**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #61**

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

**(Issue #61 – 15 December 2017)**

1. ***qldwater* WaterSkills Forum Registrations Open**
2. **WSAA Workforce Skills for the Future**

**3.   Stakeholder Consultation on Unduly Short Courses and Training Product Reform**

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**1. *qldwater* Water Skills Forum Registrations Open**

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Registrations are now open for the Queensland Water Skills Partnership Skills Forum to be held on 28 February 2018 at the Crosby Park Events Centre, 103 Crosby Road, Albion.

This first forum is the result of strong industry interest in sharing knowledge and experiences around meeting the challenges of recruiting, retaining and upskilling staff.

We are pleased to welcome representatives from the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia who will participate in the program, including presentations to operators who have met the requirements to be certified under the National Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems, and Wastewater and Recycled Water Treatment Systems.

For more information, draft program and registration, please visit the [forum website](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/water-skills-forum/event-info-site).

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**2. WSAA Workforce Skills for the Future**

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The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) has released its latest Paper: Workforce Skills of the Future. WSAA and the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation (WE&RF) commissioned KPMG to help their members understand and prepare for future trends affecting the urban water industry and its workforces.  The Paper includes results from three continents to provide insights on future direction for the urban water industry and suggests key enablers for success.

[The Paper](https://www.wsaa.asn.au/sites/default/files/publication/download/WSAA%20Workforce%20Skills%20of%20the%20Future_0.pdf) is an example of international collaboration that enables informed strategic planning for future opportunities, challenges and risks up to the year 2040, with an emphasis on customer focussed outcomes.

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**3.  Stakeholder Consultation on Unduly Short Courses and Training Product Reform**

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In June 2017, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) released its strategic review into unduly short training ([ASQA Report - Unduly Short Training](https://www.asqa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net3521/f/strategic_review_report_2017_course_duration.pdf)).   ASQA has raised concerns that unduly short courses are preventing learners from gaining the skills and competencies required through VET courses to be assessed as competent.

A number of reforms to the vocational education and training sector are now being undertaken by the Australian Government. Stakeholder consultation has opened on two aspects of the system: unduly short courses and training products.  The consultations for unduly short courses and for training product reform are being conducted simultaneously to ensure complementarity.

These reforms focus on ensuring students and employers receive high quality training that is responsive to the needs of industry and translates into employment opportunities for individuals.

Further information, including details of the submission process for both papers can be found via the Department of Education and Training website portal at [www.education.gov.au/VET-consultation](http://www.education.gov.au/VET-consultation).  Submissions close March 2018.

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