**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #65**

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

**(Issue #65 – 13 April 2018)**

1. Draft Water IRC Skills Forecast
2. Jobs Queensland Research Report
3. Networks Certification Framework
4. Funding for Certification Gap Training

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1. **Draft Water IRC Skills Forecast**

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Australian Industry Standards (AIS) has released the [draft 2018 IRC Skills Forecast](http://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au/water-industry-intelligence-3/) for the water industry. The annual forecast provides an industry outlook and identifies the priority skills and training needs along with proposed future Training Package activity. The forecast has been prepared in consultation with industry stakeholders including ***qldwater.*** Future work of the Water Industry Reference Committee (IRC) includes the development of Skill Sets to enable water industry workers achieve certification for different water treatment services and ***qldwater*** will continue to provide input to those discussions.

Members are invited to provide feedback on the draft document and proposed scheduled of work to AIS directly to enquiries@australianindustrystandards.org.au by 20 April 2018. ***qldwater*** maintains a position on the Water Industry Reference Committee on behalf of members and is happy to discuss ideas to improve water skills issues at any time.

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1. **Jobs Queensland Research Report**

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***qldwater*** has been requested through our existing contract with the Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) to provide advice to Jobs Queensland about the likely skills and training needs for the water industry for the next three to five years. We know from our engagement with members and our regular Workforce Composition Snapshot reports that there are a number of challenges and trends and we’ll be exploring those further in our report. We will be seeking input from Water Skills Partnership members to inform our research and will be in contact with more information shortly.

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1. **Networks Certification Framework**

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Certification of Operators was identified as a high priority at the recent ***qldwater*** Water Skills Forum and it was agreed to investigate a Certification Framework for Network Operators to potentially accompany the Certification Frameworks for Drinking Water and Wastewater/Recycled Water Treatment. Representatives of the Water Industry Worker Technical Reference Group met recently to discuss the development of a Networks Framework and define the scope. The group will meet again to review a draft framework in the coming months and will seek input from WIOA and employer representatives from other jurisdictions.

Should an agreed approach be reached, it is envisaged that the Networks Certification Framework and the existing Drinking Water and Wastewater/Recycled Water Treatment Frameworks will eventually sit in one overarching Framework with specific streams for Networks, Drinking Water and Wastewater.

For more information contact Carlie Sargent.

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1. **Funding for Certification Gap Training**

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The Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) has committed a final round of funding to support gap training for operators to complete certification by 31 December 2018. ***qldwater*** has been in contact with members to invite involvement and work through the enrolment process. To allow sufficient time for operators to complete their gap units before the end of the year, please ensure you have confirmed your operator details to ***qldwater*** and had skills matrices checked by WIOA by **30 April 2018**. We plan to host a webinar soon after that date to provide an overview of the training process and will confirm those details to participants in the coming weeks.

Please contact Carlie Sargent if you have any queries about Certification or funding support for training.

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