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

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

**(Issue #201 – 7 June 2013)**

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**1.   Origin Goes Pear Shaped**

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Unfortunately Queensland not only lost Game 1 on Wednesday night but we also had to relinquish the State of Origin Taste Test trophy to NSW.  Delegates at the WIOA Queensland Workshop at the Gold Coast conducted a blind test of the samples from last year’s Orica Australia best Queensland water (Ayr, Burdekin Shire) and this year’s best NSW drop (Mid Coast Water).  The result was close, with Queensland going down 42 votes to 35.

Disappointed ***qldwater*** A/CEO Dave Cameron said that the event had been good fun except for the last bit (and the football).

“The WIOA events are well run with excellent presentations and  trade displays and for the last few years it’s been a great opportunity to raise the profile of the Directorate and get people behind initiatives like our skilling programs, the taste test and our ***qldwater*** On Tap campaign.

Unfortunately not all of our ideas go to plan and I am gutted to see the trophy going South – the rematch can’t come soon enough.

Thanks again to Burdekin for providing the sample and the 35 delegates who knew what they were doing,” Mr Cameron said.

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**2.   2013 Operator Award Winners Announced**

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***qldwater*** is pleased to announce the winners of our 2013 operator awards, presented last night at WIOA’s state conference.

Jason Vade from the City of Gold Coast takes out the Operator of the Year Civil/ All Rounder award and Tyren Cavanagh from Cairns Regional Council is this year’s Young Operator of the Year.

These awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise staff in our industry and both have demonstrated strong initiative and a commitment to continuous improvement through innovation in their work.

Jason and Tyren will now join the WIOA delegation to New Zealand study tour in 2014 which includes the Water Industry Operations Group annual Conference.

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**3.   WQ Water Conference & Best of the Best Water Taste Test Regional Final**

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Registrations are open for the Western Queensland Water Conference and the Regional Final of the Orica Australia Best of the Best Water Taste Test to be held in Longreach on Thursday 27 June.   There is an excellent line-up of speakers presenting on topics of interest in the region and this event promises to be a great learning experience and networking opportunity.  The event is hosted by Longreach Regional Council and is being held in conjunction with the IPWEAQ WQ Branch Conference which is being held on Friday 28 June.

The Western Queensland Taste Test is open to members from Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Boulia Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Croydon Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Longreach Regional Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Mornington Shire Council, Mount Isa City Council, Richmond Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

We urge you to come along and enjoy the day – and don’t forget to bring a water sample and have a go at the Best of the Best Water Taste Test.

The remaining Regional Taste Test is the CQ Final being held in Rockhampton on 1 August.  The winners from each region will compete for the title of the Best Tasting Water in Queensland at the Grand Final to be held at the LGAQ State Conference in October. The Grand Finalist this year will represent Queensland against NSW in the State of Origin Taste Test next year!

* The draft event program and registration form is available [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2013_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_Longreach)
* Rules and entry form for the taste test are available [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=119321)

Please contact Heather Gold for more information  (hgold@qldwater.com.au).

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**4.  BoM Water Standards Meetings**

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The Bureau of Meteorology is currently running a national forum to discuss and formalise ‘water’ monitoring standards and reporting across the nation. ***qldwater*** has been involved with these meetings. As part of the forum’s work they have recently set up the Australian Hydrographers Association (AHA) Data Technical Reference Group. The Data TRG membership currently has no Queensland representative. Whilst the Data TRG is being convened by the AHA, participation is not restricted to AHA membership. BoM have invited forum members to put forward nominations of staff or organisations that may have an interest in any facet of the Data TRG’s work.

The Data TRG is currently developing objectives and scope for the activity, existing objectives include: transfer of site specific knowledge; communication of information on the monitoring program; standardised transfer of information; and assessing a data sets fitness for use. Activities include investigation of: describing data fitness for use; assessment and reporting of data quality and reliability; quantification and reporting of data uncertainty; description of monitoring stations and their limitations; the original monitoring program purpose when considering data reuse; quantify benefits; and national site numbering.

If you are interested in participating in the Data TRG please let David Scheltinga (dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au) know and he can put forward your nomination.

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**5.  SWIM Update**

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1. Over the last few years ***qldwater*** has been working with the ABS to try and remove any duplication of data requested by them in their annual water and sewerage services survey and that already reported via SWIM. This has resulted in some confusion over the survey forms dispatched by ABS over the last two years. This year we have decided to include **all** ABS indicators into the SWIM system. This will result in an additional 80-odd indicators being added to the SWIM annual data template. (Note that none of these indicators are new as all were requested last year but just in hardcopy by ABS). An additional benefit of doing this is that it has resulted in ABS reviewing all its current indicators with the intention of reducing the number of indicators requested by them.
2. SWIM training and a SWIM*Local* demonstration is being offered in June in Maryborough (two further sessions will be offered in Brisbane and one other location in July/August).
3. Dave Scheltinga has participated in national BoM Water Standards and NPR meetings on behalf of members.
4. Indicator lists for the National Performance report are still to be finalised for 2012/13 (it is thought that nothing new will be added this year as a major review of indicators is planned for next year).
5. SWIM ‘webforms’ will no longer be available to enter SWIM data. This is due to their ‘incompatibility’ with the SWIM database and the resulting additional (and expensive) work needed to modify and maintain the webforms. They will be replaced next year with a free ‘SWIM*Lite*’ system based on the SWIM*Local* system. ***qldwater*** will work with each member who has used the forms in the past to make the lodgement process as simple as possible.
6. ***qldwater*** has been working with DEWS towards making SWIM ready to accept new mandatory Key Performance Indicators currently under development (replacing many existing mandatory planning and reporting requirements).

If you would like further information on any of the above please contact David Scheltinga (dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au).

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**6.  WSAA Regional Forum – Townsville 11 July 2013**

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Water Services Association of Australia’s Regional Forum will be held in Townsville on Thursday 11 July 2013.  The forum will bring information on current and future developments in the Australian water industry to water and sewerage services providers based in regional Queensland.

There is no charge for the event and the invitation is extended to the Chief Executive Officers/Managing Directors of Queensland Water Service Providers plus the members of your management team who you feel would benefit most from this opportunity.

The forum will be held at the Mercure Townsville, Woolcock Street, Townsville, Queensland 4810

Register to attend and more information here:  <https://www.eventgate.com.au/Event/1026/WSAA-Queensland-Regional-Forum>

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