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

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

**(Issue #203 – 8 July 2013)**

**1.   Discussion paper: Infrastructure planning and charging framework review**

**2.   Best of the Best Water Taste Test & Conference 1 August, AWA Technical Seminar 31 July, Rockhampton**

**3.   Green Tape Reduction Update**

**4.   New SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code**

**5.   Queensland Competition Authority Review – SEQ Long-term Regulatory Framework and Pricing Principles**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**1.   Discussion paper: Infrastructure planning and charging framework review**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

This discussion paper has been released for public consultation and is available [**here**](http://www.dsdip.qld.gov.au/resources/paper/infrastructure-charges/discussion-paper.pdf).  The closing date for submissions is **9 August**.  LGAQ is preparing a submission on behalf of councils; the contact is Luke Hannan, Manager – Advocacy available on 1300 542 700.

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**2.   Best of the Best Water Taste Test & Conference 1 August, AWA Technical Seminar 31 July, Rockhampton**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

Registrations are open for the Central Queensland Water Conference and the Regional Final of the Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test to be held in Rockhampton on 1 August 213.   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.  This will be the last regional final to be held before the winners from each region battle it out 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 Central Queensland Taste Test is open to members from  Banana Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board, Isaac Regional Council, Rockhampton Regional Council and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council.

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

The Australian Water Association is also holding a free technical seminar in the afternoon of 31 July in Rockhampton.  The draft program and contact details are available [**here**](http://www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294977703)**.**

Please contact Dave Cameron for more information  (dcameron@qldwater.com.au).

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**3.   Green Tape Reduction Update**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has released a number of updated materials of potential interest to members.

**New web tool available -  the forms and fee finder: environmental authorities**

The [Forms and fees finder: environmental authorities](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/running/environment/licences-permits/form-fees-finder) is an interactive web tool developed to help business and industry understand the requirement for applying for a new environmental authority and managing their existing environmental authorities (for example, amending, amalgamating, transferring and surrendering their environmental authority).

This tool translates the licensing framework for both prescribed environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) and resource activities in the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to a series of straight forward question and answer format. It prompts users to select all their ERAs and identifies their application requirements, from the correct application form and annual fee to which environmental considerations should be covered in an application.

**Draft eligibility criteria and standard conditions for prescribed ERAs now available for consultation**

The Environmental Protection 1994 allows for standard applications for an environmental authority to be made for certain lower-risk activities. A standard application is one where the activity is subject to eligibility criteria and standard conditions. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has prepared 19 sets of draft eligibility criteria and standard conditions for activities such as screening, small sewage treatment plants and meat processing.

The [proposed eligibility criteria and standard conditions](http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/35278/17cc0/1958975/848ffwcfh.html) for the 19 prescribed ERAs have been released for public consultation.
Please use the [template](http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/35278/17cc0/1958690/848ff44zb.docx) and the [Consultation information sheet](http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/35278/17cc0/1958588/848ff9cq4.pdf)– Draft eligibility criteria and standard conditions for ERAs – Supporting information and making submissions when preparing your submission. Submissions close on 19 August 2013 and can be sent to:

Email:   Epact.Policy@ehp.qld.gov.au

Mail:   Greentape Standard Applications Consultation
            Reform and Innovation Division
            Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
            GPO Box 2454
            Brisbane Qld 4001

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**4.   New SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

For the first time, a uniform code will apply across South East Queensland for the design and construction of new water supply and sewerage assets, making it easier for developers, engineers, consultants and service providers to deliver water infrastructure.

The five South East Queensland (SEQ) water service providers —Gold Coast City Council, Logan City Council, Queensland Urban Utilities, Redland Water and Unitywater — worked together to develop the new SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code (SEQ Code) which became effective on 1 July.

The new Code is designed to provide greater consistency in asset planning, design and construction standards across the region, providing better long term services and ultimately lowering costs for customers.

A media release, links and contact information are available [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_139164/Joint_Media_Statement_-_industry_SEQ_Code).

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

**5.   Queensland Competition Authority Review – SEQ Long-term Regulatory Framework and Pricing Principles**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

On 28 June 2013, the Queensland Competition Authority was directed to investigate and develop a long-term regulatory framework (and pricing principles) for the monopoly distribution and retail water and sewerage activities of Unitywater, Queensland Urban Utilities and Logan, Redland and Gold Coast City Councils.

The Authority is to provide a Final Report by 30 September 2014 with the regulatory framework to apply from 1 July 2015.

Under the referral, the Authority must:

* develop a regulatory framework that protects the long-term interests of users of SEQ water and sewerage services by ensuring the prices of these services reflect prudent and efficient costs, while promoting efficient investment in, and use of, these services;
* develop pricing principles that apply to the industry (including water, sewerage, trade-waste, recycled water services and stormwater re-use services); and
* recommend the treatment of certain regulatory parameters.

The Authority must also prepare, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and publish a work program which provides for the release of appropriately sequenced position papers (incorporating draft recommendations).

The Authority invites interested parties to register their interest and provide initial submissions by **2 August 2013**.  More information is available [**here**](http://www.qca.org.au/water/SEQLTRGPP/).

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

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

To **add your name** to the distribution list, email “subscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

To **remove your name** from the distribution list, email “unsubscribe” to hgold@qldwater.com.au

**Visit qldwater at** [**www.qldwater.com.au**](http://www.qldwater.com.au)

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**