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

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

**(Issue #230 – 3 June 2014)**

**1.  qldwater NQ Conference & Taste Test Mackay 29 July -  Call for Papers**

**2.   New ERA63 Guidelines Released**

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Submissions are invited for presentations for the North Queensland Regional Water Conference and The Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test Regional Final to be held in Mackay on 29 July 2014.

We are seeking presentations to fill half hour slots.  The presenting opportunity is open to persons from all levels in an organisation from new employees to CEOs as well as independent operators with information to share with the industry. We are particularly interested in technical presentations from members, or organisations that can co-present relevant case studies with members.   If you wish to provide a presentation, please email hgold@qldwater.com.au, with a title name and a brief outline before Friday 13 June.  If accepted the presentation can be provided on the day.

The North Queensland Conference is sponsored by SPEL Environmental and Dial Before You Dig with the Taste Test sponsored by Orica Australia. Sponsorships are still available for this conference and our other regional conferences.  Please contact Heather Gold hgold@qldwater.com.au or phone 07 3632 6850 for more information.

The North Queensland Best of the Best Taste Test regional final is open to members from Burdekin Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Mackay Regional Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Townsville Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council.  This conference is linked with the AWA NQ Regional Conference being held in Mackay on 30 and 31 July. The draft program and registration form is available on our website <http://www.qldwater.com.au/2014_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_NQ_Mackay>

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

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**2.   New ERA63  Guidelines Released**

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New guidelines and Model Operating Conditions for ERA 63 (Sewage Treatment) have been approved and released by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP). The documents are now available on the [business and industry portal](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/business/running/environment/licences-permits/applying-environmental-authority/model-operating-conditions?test=). This release is the culmination of a significant period of negotiation with DEHP through the ***qldwater*** Expert Panel for ERA 63. The new model conditions are a vast improvement on previous processes and the consultation with our industry by DEHP was strong and well managed.

There are still elements of the Model Conditions that we would like to change and any feedback from members is welcome. The ERA 63 Expert Panel will continue to review the implementation of the Conditions and influence any future amendments to create practical conditions for sewerage service providers. DEHP acknowledged with the release of the documents that there are some outstanding issues and they are “open to continuing conversations to find solutions”. The have also promised to continue their consultation with the industry in future particularly when there is a need to amend the conditions as issues arise or policies change.

The other element of ERA 63 - the Standard Conditions for sewage pump stations – is yet to be resolved. In eFlash 225 in April we reported that DEHP had offered to remove this aspect of the legislation if the industry agreed to establish an Industry Code of Practice for pumping stations and sewerage systems. ***qldwater*** released a position paper outlining the potential costs and benefits of the proposed change to canvas industry opinion. To date all respondents have supported the creation of an Industry Code of Practice but we would like to receive responses from more small and medium providers. The deadline for a response is the 27th of June.

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