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

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

**(Issue #235 – 18 July 2014)**

**1.   Toowoomba Regional Council successful in “opting in” to rainwater tanks**

**2.   Date Claimer – first *qldwater* urban water industry innovation forum**

**3.   IWC Scholarships now open**

**4.   Mackay and Mt Isa qldwater conferences and taste test**

**5.   *qldwater* TRG investigates Big Data opportunities**

**6.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**1.   Toowoomba Regional Council successful in “opting in” to rainwater tanks**

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TRC has made a successful business case to the Queensland Government to make rainwater tanks mandatory in new dwellings from 1 September 2014.  This follows legislative changes in early 2013 which removed the state-wide mandatory requirement.

The decision means that single detached houses on properties over 250m2 in lot area, and class 5 to 9 commercial buildings will need:

* A tank of a minimum 5,000L size
* A minimum roof catchment area
* Internal plumbing connections to supply water to toilets and washing machines
* A continuous supply of water, using either an automatic switching device or trickle top-up.

Further information is available [here](http://www.hpw.qld.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/BuildingAndPlumbingNewsflash532.pdf) through the BCQ alert.  TRC has advised that the business case required careful Queensland Competition Authority scrutiny, and was successful through a close nett economic benefit and strong arguments to support “unquantifiable” benefits.  Contact John Betts (john.betts@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au, 07 4688 6723) for more information.

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**2.   Date Claimer – first *qldwater* urban water industry innovation forum**

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The first targeted ***qldwater*** innovation forum event will be held at Alan Border Field, Albion on 26/27 November 2014.  The program is being developed and we are in the process of seeking sponsors to minimise attendance costs for members – leads gratefully accepted.  We hope to be able to offer some limited financial support opportunities to encourage attendance from rural and remote service providers.

This event is presented by our Technical Reference Group, the advisory body (made up of senior water and sewerage managers from water service providers from around Queensland) which sets and reviews the Directorate’s work program. It will be supported by the Water Services Association of Australia, and Australian Water Association.

There are many existing opportunities in the market for vendors to participate in trade displays which link them with key urban water customers, and growing opportunities to showcase technical innovations through conference presentations and related events. This is a targeted opportunity to provide something different – a means to celebrate utility-led innovation which is critical in both small and large communities, as well as promote partnerships between those utilities, research organisations and companies with an interest in the sector.

WaterQ, the State’s 30 year water sector strategy proposes the establishment of a ministerial advisory panel focussing on innovation – aiming to introduce new concepts into the sector which improve efficiency and business sustainability. Apart from being an excellent opportunity to find out more about these often less celebrated ideas and a chance to develop linkages with like-minded ***qldwater*** members, it is hoped that it will also inject practical and pragmatic ideas to positively influence the development of WaterQ’s implementation plan.

For more information contact Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au, 0407 761 991).

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**3.   IWC Scholarships now open**

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IWC is currently offering a range of scholarships for professionals interested in joining either the Water Leadership Program or Master of Integrated Water Management next year. These industry-relevant programs are designed to increase the skills profile of today's practitioners and future water leaders.

* [Master of Integrated Water Management Scholarships](http://watercentre.org/news/education/programs/scholarships/iwc-scholarships) - close 1 October

Full-tuition scholarships ($49,920) for full-time or part-time/distance study commencing at The University of Queensland in Semester 1, 2015. The degree is co-badged and co-delivered by four leading Australian universities.

* [Water Leadership Program Scholarships](http://watercentre.org/news/education/leadership/scholarships) - close 15 September

Several full ($10,000) and half ($5,000) scholarships for emerging leaders at the project to middle management level to participate in this nine-month professional development program starting in December.

More information:

•  <www.watercentre.org/iwc-scholarships>

•  Download brochures (PDF): [Master of Integrated Water Management](http://watercentre.org/news/about/iwc-brochures/education-brochure.pdf), [Water Leadership Program](http://watercentre.org/news/education/leadership/attachments/FINAL_web_%20Leadership%20Program%20brochure.pdf)

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**4.   Mackay and Mt Isa *qldwater* conferences and taste test**

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A reminder that registrations are open for Mackay on 29 July and advice that the draft program for Mt Isa on 21 August is now available.  Details for both are available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Mini-Conferences).  We are still chasing speakers for Mt Isa (complimentary registrations) so please contact the ***qldwater*** office if you are interested.

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**5.   *qldwater* TRG investigates Big Data opportunities**

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The ***qldwater*** TRG has discussed the future impact that “Big Data” or “analytics” will have on the industry and formed a sub-committee to investigate a joint industry approach in this area. Given the introduction of the DEWS KPI framework and the increasing capacity for collection, storage and reporting of water-relevant information, there is likely to be an increased emphasis on analytics of water data in the near future. The sub-committee has agreed on the need for the industry to form a joint position on this issue but, recognising the complexity and size of the industry, has recommended an initial investigatory project. An outline for this project is available to members [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/big-data).

***qldwater*** is currently seeking interest from members who wish to participate in the trial project. There is no cost to participate but participants will provide the following data where it is readily available in an electronic format:

1. daily water production volumes for individual schemes since 2008, and
2. any information on demand management measures used for each scheme during the same period.

The aim is to analyse water use at a community level compared with external drivers of demand (e.g. climate, population size, water price and average income). Other relevant data will be derived from various sources to test the potential for interrogating related but distinct data sets at a scale relevant to Queensland service providers. The outputs of the project will also be useful for participants wishing to benchmark water use and demand drivers against other Queensland utilities.

If you would like further information or are interested in participating in the trial project please contact Rob Fearon (rfearon@qldwater.com.au, 0428 300 208).

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**6.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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* [**AWA -** Australian Water Awards 2014: nominations open 23-June to 1 August](https://www.awa.asn.au/awards/)
* **AWA -** [Small Water & Wastewater Systems National Conference: 13-15 August 2014](https://www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294978514)
* **AWA -** [ENVIRO’14: 17-19 August 2014](http://enviroconvention.com.au/)
* **WSAA -**Intelligent WaterNetworks & Smart Metering 2014 Conference planned, Sept 10 & 11 2014 in Melbourne (program to come)
* **WSAA -** Civil Asset Network 24/25 July in Sydney – ***qldwater***member utilities are eligible to attend at WSAA members prices.  This network has covered over the last four meetings, Asset Management Plans (AMP’s), Maintenance Management Strategies, Leading Practices Conference recommendations, facilitated a gravity sewer blockages workshop, followed by CAN with themes for specific methodologies of managing non-pipe assets and optimised decision making.  The theme for this network meeting will continue on the path for optimised decision making. Three assets have been selected for this discussion: Sewer Pump Station SPS Management (Cleaning methodology), Tank Management and Valve Management.  More information including registration details are available [here](https://www.eventgate.com.au/Event/1406/Civil-Assets-Network-Meeting-9).
* **WSAA -** SAI Global, on behalf of Standards Australia, published Amendment 1 to *AS/NZS 2845.1:2010 Water supply - Backflow prevention devices - Materials, design and performance requirements* on 3 June 2014.  This Standard specifies requirements for the materials, design and performance testing of backflow devices used to prevent contamination of potable water supplies. Standards On-Line Premium subscribers can access the Standard [here](http://www.saiglobal.com/online/Script/Details.asp?DocN=AS0733796326AT).

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