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

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

**(Issue #250 - 12 February 2015)**

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**1.   *qldwater* CQ Regional Conference/ Taste Test 16 April - Rockhampton – Call for Papers**

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Submissions are invited for presentations for the Central Queensland Regional Water Conference and The Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test Regional Final to be held in Rockhampton on Thursday 16 April 2015.

This opportunity is open to people from all levels of 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 papers from members, or organisations that can co-present relevant case studies with members, to fill 30 minute slots.   If you would like to provide a presentation, please email hgold@qldwater.com.au, with a title and a brief outline before Friday 27 February.

Members and non-members are invited to come along and attend the conference and taste test. Our members from Banana Shire Council, Central Highlands Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board, Isaac Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Rockhampton Regional Council and Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council are invited to submit a sample of their best tap water for the Best of the Best Taste Test regional final.

We are seeking sponsors for this and our other regional conferences to be held this year. Please contact Dave Cameron dcameron@qldwater.com.au or phone 0407 761 991 for further details on sponsorship levels available.

Registrations will open soon – please contact Heather Gold if you would like further information hgold@qldwater.com.au.

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**2. *qldwater* Sponsored WIOA Operator Awards – Nominate Your Staff!**

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Nominations for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards are now open.  Established in 2010 by ***qldwater*** in conjunction with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA), these awards will again recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.   The award winners will be announced at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop Conference Dinner in Toowoomba on 18 June 2015.   Applications close on **1 May.**

The two categories available for nomination this year are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
	2. Operator of the Year (Civil / “All Rounder”)

The **Queensland Young Operator of the Year** winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group New Zealand conference in May 2016, a perpetual plaque which their employer keeps for 12 months plus an individual trophy which is kept by the winner.

The **Operator of the Year (Civil / “All Rounder”)** winner will receive up to $1500 towards professional development opportunities such as attendance at other WIOA conferences, ***qldwater*** training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring councils. The winner also receives a perpetual plaque which their employer keeps for 12 months plus an individual trophy which is kept by the winner.

The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.

It’s easy to nominate - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.

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**3.   Feedback Reminder - Environmental Code of Practice for Sewage Pump Stations ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

As reported in our last eFlash #249, a Code of Practice for Sewage Pump Stations and Sewerage Networks is now available for industry review. It has been drafted by ***qldwater*** with significant input from an industry expert group and an initial review by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. **Download** the [Draft Code here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/ReviewDocuments) and provide comments to enquiry@qldwater.com.au  (or ring Rob Fearon on 0428 300 208) – feedback is due by **27th February 2015** .

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**4.   WIOA Conference Toowoomba 17 & 18 June – Call for Papers**

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The Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition has been put back 2 weeks and will now be held on Wednesday June 17 and Thursday June 18.  All water industry personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of urban, rural and industrial water related infrastructure for the management, conveyance, treatment, discharge and reuse of water and trade wastes are invited to submit an abstract for consideration.  Papers are invited from all sectors of the Water Industry and may address any topic relevant to the Industry.

Abstracts close 25 February; for more information visit  <http://www.wioaconferences.org.au/callforpapers.htm>

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

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#### WSAA members can click [here](http://www.eventgate.com.au/Event/1723/Civil-Assets-Network-Meeting-11) to register attendance at the 11th Meeting of the Civil Assets Network in Melbourne on the 4th & 5th March 2015. The theme for this meeting is changing operational parameters, equipment , behaviours or culture to maximize life of civil assets, manage risk, maintain level of service and minimise capital spend. For more information please contact jaimie.hicks@wsaa.asn.au or russell.reichstein@wsaa.asn.au.

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