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

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

**(Issue #257 - 23 Apil 2015**

**1.   Release of Queensland’s Urban Potable Water and Sewerage Benchmarking Report – 2013/14**

**2.      Register Now!  FNQ Conference and Water Taste Test – Cairns 8 May**

**3.   Inquiry into Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (including Water Meter installation)**

**4.   Operator of the Year Awards – We Need Nominations!**

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

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**1.   Release of Queensland’s Urban Potable Water and Sewerage Benchmarking Report – 2013/14**

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Queensland’s fourth water and sewerage benchmarking report has been completed using 2013/14 data and is available from the ***qldwater*** website <http://www.qldwater.com.au/_Literature_189402/2013-2014%20Benchmarking%20Report>

The report uses data from 57 Service Providers across the State with 50 of them participating in the public release of the report (up from 41 last year).

Benchmarking of Queensland’s water and sewerage data is important for the Queensland urban water industry as it allows competition by comparison and helps provide transparency for our communities.

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**2.   Register Now!  FNQ Conference and Water Taste Test – Cairns 8 May**

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Registrations are now open for the Far North Queensland Water Conference and the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test being held in Cairns on Friday 8 May. The conference is kindly hosted by Cairns Regional Council and is sponsored by Royce Water Technologies.

The theme for this conference is “Collaboration in the Water Industry”.    Information on the conference as well as the program and registration form is [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2015_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_FNQ_Cairns).

Our members in the far north are invited to bring a water sample and enter the Ixom Best of the Best Water Taste Test!    The taste test is open to Aurukun Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Cairns Regional Council, Carpentaria Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Cook Shire Council, Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council,  Mornington Shire Council, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Tablelands Regional Council, Torres Shire Council, Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.  The taste test entry form including details of the entry requirements is [available here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_187374/2015_Taste_Test_Entry_Form).

The winner will compete with the other regional finalists for the best tasting water in Queensland at the Grand Final to be held at our Innovation Event on 5 November.   The Queensland Grand Champion will compete against NSW in the “Water of Origin Taste Test” to be held next year.

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**3.   Inquiry into Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue & Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**  **(including Water Meter installation)**

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***qldwate***r has lodged a submission to the Parliamentary Committee investigating the Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 which includes proposed amendments to water meter installation .  LGAQ is also expected to lodge their submission and we encourage members to consider submissions – unfortunately the deadline is unreasonably close - 27 April.

Information for lodging your submissions is [here](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/FAC/inquiries/current-inquiries/B2-PTRRandOLegn) and a copy of the ***qldwater*** submission is available for your reference [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/ReviewDocuments).

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**4. Operator of the Year Awards – We Need Nominations!**

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Don’t miss out - we need nominations for the 2015 ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards!  Established in 2010 by ***qldwater*** in conjunction with the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA), these awards recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.   The two categories available for nomination are for the Queensland Young Operator of the Year and the Operator of the Year (Civil / All Rounder)

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.   As well as being recognised by your peers, the winners each receive an award and great prize.

Nomination is easy - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.    Nominations close on 1 May.

The award winners will be announced at the WIOA Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition being held in Toowoomba on 17 & 18 June 2015.  A great range of presentations has been assembled for the conference which will also include the judging of the Ixom “Water of Origin” Taste Test Grand Final where the Queensland winners, Richmond Shire Council compete against the NSW winners, Orange City Council.   For information and registration for the WIOA conference please visit <http://www.wioaconferences.org.au/qld_delegates.htm>

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

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       IPWEA is conducting a 1-Day Water Supply and Sewerage Condition Assessment Workshop in Brisbane on Thursday 7 May.  For full details and registration form [click here](http://www.ipwea.org/Go.aspx?MicrositeGroupTypeRouteDesignKey=c650931e-6904-464d-80cc-2c48df735859&NavigationKey=ba9787cf-9a68-423d-9cc8-cd3c9bd0e068).

       Queensland’s first WaterAid Ball is being held on Saturday 13 June. More information about the event is available [here](http://www.qldwateraidball.com.au/).

       Smart Water Research Centre is conducting the following upcoming courses:

4 – 6 May 2015  “A Course in Wastewater Treatment Pond Design”,  Gold Coast – [click here](http://www.smartwaterresearchcentre.com/files/wwt_pond_design_brochure_may_2015.pdf) for information and registration.

6 – 10 July 2015  “Activated Sludge and Biological Nutrient Reduction”, Sunshine Coast – [click here](http://www.smartwaterresearchcentre.com/files/activated_sludge_brochure_july_2015_use_this_one.pdf) for information and registration.

* The LGAQ Bush Councils Convention is being held from 29 to 31 July in St George.  The ***qldwater*** SWQ regional final of the Best of the Best Water Taste Test is also being held at the conference.  More information is available [here](http://www.lgaq.asn.au/web/guest/bush-councils-convention).
* The Australian Water Association is holding their North Queensland Regional Conference in Cairns from 23 to 24 July.  Registration and information available [here](http://www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294979979).

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