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

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

**(Issue #269– 18 September 2015)**

**1.   SWIM 2014/15 annual water and sewerage data due 1st October**

**2.   *qldwater* Innovation Event, 4 & 5 November 2015**

**3**.   **Environmental Protection Act 1994 – Changes to Annual Report**

**4**.   **Ixom Australia’s Best Tasting Tap Water Competition 2015**

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**1.   SWIM 2014/15 annual water and sewerage data due 1st October**

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All Water Service Providers in Queensland are required under legislation to provide water and sewerage data to the Queensland Government (*Office of the Water Supply Regulator, DEWS*) and ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics). Some are also required under legislation to report to the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and/or National Performance Report (NPR). All this data can be reported via the SWIM system and is **due on 1st October**. Please note that the KPI data can also be submitted via an Excel template created by DEWS and submitted directly to them if you so wish (if you use SWIM then you don’t need to report to DEWS separately via their template).

Please contact David Scheltinga (dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au or (07) 4124 3723 / 0415 881 195) if you have any queries regarding your SWIM reporting – we appreciate reporting can be a complicated task and are happy to assist you in any way we can.

With your support and use of SWIM, we can continue to encourage government water data reporting to be rationalised and streamlined through systems such as SWIM. We welcome your feedback on SWIM, particularly the new SWIM*Local* data entry system. For more information please contact David Scheltinga.

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**2.    *qldwater* Innovation Event, 4 & 5 November 2015**

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A reminder to register for the Queensland Water Directorate (***qldwater***) Innovation Event being held at the Sunshine Coast on Wednesday 4 November and Thursday 5 November.  The event is being hosted in conjunction with Unitywater and will be held at the Maroochy RSL Club.

The event includes a technical tour on Wednesday 4 November, taking in various Unitywater sites with a focus on innovation.  The full day program on Thursday 5 November will feature presentations and panel sessions, followed by dinner at the Maroochy RSL Club.  The program that has been developed is both interactive and informative with a strong emphasis on presentations by industry for industry and plenty of time for panel discussions.

Registrations start at only $120 + GST including dinner. The registration cost includes the Technical Tour, morning and afternoon teas, lunch, networking drinks at dinner at the Maroochy RSL.  Our Earlybird rate closes on 12 October.  Seats for the technical tour on 4 November are limited so register soon to ensure your place.

The LGAQ has again offered support for small councils (<10,000 connections) to send staff to the event.  There are still $500 travel grants available (maximum one per council) with ***qldwater*** including a free registration for the lucky recipients.  Please contact Dave Cameron dcameron@qldwater.com.au if you are interested in pursuing.

The innovation event been made possible by the kind support of SPEL Environmental (Principal Sponsor), Royce Water Technologies and Lonza Water Technologies  (Supporting Sponsors). The Grand Final of the “Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test” will also be judged at the event.  The six regional finalists vying for the title are:

* Central Queensland – Livingstone Shire Council, Woodbury WTP
* Far North Queensland – Cairns Regional Council, Mountain View Scheme
* North Queensland – Townsville City Council, Ross River Dam WTP
* Western Queensland – Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcaldine Scheme
* South West Queensland – Balonne Shire Council, Dirranbandi Scheme
* South East Queensland – City of Gold Coast

Please visit our website for more information including program and further sponsorship opportunities - <http://www.qldwater.com.au/2015-Innovation-Forum>

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**3**.  **Environmental Protection Act 1994 – Changes to Annual Report**

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There has been a recent announcement that will assist to relieve the record keeping burden on local governments.  The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) has advised the LGAQ that there is not a requirement for local governments to provide information to the department for inclusion into the annual report under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for the 2014-15 annual report.

In previous years, local governments have been required to complete and submit a questionnaire to the department to contribute towards the production of the annual report provided to the Minister and tabled in parliament.  The department has now made the decision that the provision of information regarding the administration of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 is no longer required for the 2014-15 annual report.  The department has also stated that local governments may choose to gather this information for their own use, however this is not a departmental requirement for 2014-15. For further information, contact Robert Ferguson, LGAQ Senior Advisor - Environmental and Public Health on (07) 3000 2212.

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**4**.  **2015 Ixom Australia’s Best Tasting Tap Water Competition**

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Having already trumped New South Wales in the Water of Origin Taste Test in June, Richmond Shire Council have been invited to take on Australia in the National 2015 Ixom Australia’s Best Tasting Tap Water Competition to take place at a WIOA Water Interest Day to be held in Gunnedah on 29 October.

The other states finalists in the competition are:  NSW – Orange City Council, South Australia – AllWater; Tasmania – TasWater and Victoria – Goulburn Valley Water

We wish Richmond Shire Council representing Queensland the best of luck in the competition!

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

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