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

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

**(Issue #308 – 9 February 2017)**

**1.   Central Queensland Conference, Yeppoon 22 March – Registrations now open!**

**2.   SWQ Conference, Dalby 1 March – Register Now (updated web link)**

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**1.   Central Queensland Conference, Yeppoon 22 March – Registrations now open!**

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[Registrations are now open](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-cq-conference-yeppoon/cq-conference) for the ***qldwater*** Central Queensland Regional Water Conference to be held at the Yeppoon Town Hall in Yeppoon on 22 March 2017.

The conference presentations will take place in the morning, followed by a great Technical Tour hosted by Livingstone Shire Council visiting the Woodbury Water Treatment Plant.

Please register promptly to secure your spot and to take advantage of the Earlybird rate which finishes on 8 March.

The conference event will be a great opportunity to network with your peers in the region and hear some excellent technical presentations.   The ***qldwater*** conference is being run in conjunction with the IPWEAQ CQ Branch Conference in Yeppoon on 23-24 March.  IPWEAQ and ***qldwater*** members are invited to attend either or both conferences and take advantage of the reciprocal member rate.

Our event sponsors for this and all ***qldwater*** 2017 regional conferences are: Principal Sponsors Aqseptence Group with Gold Sponsors Lonza Water Technologies, Royce Water Technologies and Suez Australia and New Zealand.  We would like to thank all the sponsors for helping make this event possible.   Again in 2017, Dial Before You Dig are sponsoring our Water Connections Tour which includes regional events and Water Connections Week and IXOM are sponsoring the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test which includes support for all regional events.

Please visit our [event website](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-cq-conference-yeppoon/cq-conference) for further information and registration.

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**2.   SWQ Conference, Dalby 1 March – Register Now!  (updated weblink)**

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The ***qldwater*** South West Queensland conference is being held at the Dalby Leagues Club in Dalby on Wednesday 1 March.  Earlybird registrations close next week on 15 February.

The conference presentations in the morning will be followed by a technical tour hosted by Western Downs Regional Council to the Dalby Truckwash Wastewater Treatment Plant at the Dalby Saleyards.

For full information and registration, visit our event website.   Please note this is an updated link - [register here](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-swq-conference-dalby-2017/event-info-site).

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**3.   Significant Change in Regulation of Biosolids Reuse**

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A significant policy shift in EHP has brought beneficial reuse under a new ‘End of Waste Framework’ (see <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/waste/end-of-waste-framework.html>). The aim is to reduce regulation and in effect shift all requirements ensuring a waste is fit-for-purpose to the generator.

Some service providers have specific beneficial use agreements and these apply until the expiry. Others can still operate under a new [General Beneficial Use Approval](https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/regulation/wr-ga-biosolids.pdf) which was developed with industry consultation in late December 2016 (see <http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_224793/qldwater_response_on_Draft_General_BUA_Biosolids>). All of these approvals expire by 31 December 2018. Outside of these transitional arrangements, all reuse of biosolids requires to be under a generic End of Waste Code or have a specific End of Waste Approval. Under this framework the requirements to have a waste redefined as a ‘resource’ fall solely with the waste producer and the waste must be fit for purpose when released to another party by the producer.

The Department decides when an End of Waste Code may be required, whether an industry needs to be consulted in the development of a code and also develops the code itself. The Department is currently holding a consultation process (until March 2017) asking all industries to provide feedback on the need for End of Waste Codes for each sector. They have sent letters to all Service Providers that currently have a beneficial reuse agreement, to the LGAQ and ***qldwater*** asking for feedback. ***qldwater*** is considering a joint submission coordinated through the ERA 63 expert panel.

Please advise of your preference for an End of Waste Code or forward any comments to be added to a collated industry response to rfearon@qldwater.com.au.

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**4.   National Water Reform Inquiry**

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The Australian Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into the reform of Australia’s water resource sector. The inquiry will assess progress in achieving the objectives and outcomes of the National Water Initiative (NWI) and the need for any future reform.

The Commission is required to:

* assess the outcomes of the NWI and related water reform efforts
* consider the potential and realised benefits of NWI implementation
* consider the scope for improving the NWI
* make recommendations on future reform priorities.

Submissions are normally six weeks after the Issues Paper is released (end March).  The timeframes will not likely allow a full consultation process, but ***qldwater*** intends to at least prepare a draft submission and seek input through its Technical Reference Group.  If the issues paper identifies further gaps, the process will be broadened.

Visit the Productivity Commission [inquiry page](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform) for further information and [register your interest here](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform/register).

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**5.   Mackay Regional Council MiWater Software**

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Mackay Regional Council have developed software for their automated water readings (ARMs) project and the software has also been adopted by several other water authorities.

Called MiWater, the software enables council to convert a large amount of data into actionable insights.   MyH2O, the customer portal is also part of the MiWater software system.  Mackay Regional Council are seeking a suitable partner in developing and marketing the software.  An Expression of Interest is currently under way to select a suitable partner.

For further information please contact Katie Neve - Business Communications Officer on 4961 9075  or visit the Mackay Regional Council website for more information:  <http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/news_and_media/media_releases/council_water_software_goes_places>

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

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* Standards Australia will be hosting information seminars across the country to update stakeholders on operations and future directions.  The Queensland seminar is in Brisbane on 2 March – more information is [here](http://sae-newsandbulletin.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/r/3DC716A80F02AA922540EF23F30FEDED/328D18C0C1DF3DB5C06B463AA70A4F2C).

        The Queensland Police Service have released the latest [Security Forecast](https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/Counter-terrorism) that can accessed by ***qldwater*** members from the secure area of our website.    Please note these documents are provided on a confidential basis for ***qldwater*** member use only and members must log in the access this information.

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