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

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

**(Issue #349 – 20 April 2018)**

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**1.   Water Supply Regulation e-Alert**

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DNRME has released their latest ‘Water Supply Regulation e-Alert’ and all members are encouraged to ensure that the right people in their organisations are registered to receive these regularly.  Key points include:

* Queensland Health is proposing changes to the *Public Health Regulation* which sets the standard for parameters of public health concern. This will potentially have an impact on service providers’ regulatory obligations, for example *E.coli* sampling frequency for drinking water. Service providers should have been sent an email with an invitation to provide feedback by 10 May.  ***qldwater* is currently investigating the sampling frequency provisions.**
* Key dates:
  + Tuesday 1 May – Annual stakeholder survey emailed to all WSPs
  + Wednesday 20 June – Cairns Water Supply Regulation Symposium
* KPI data for all councils has been published on the Queensland Government data portal [here](https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset/water-and-sewerage-service-provider-qld-key-performance-indicator-data-2016-17).  Please remember that it is still mandatory for all service providers to publish individual KPI results on their website
* Water Supply Regulation is in the process of reviewing a range of guidelines with the input of an advisory group comprised of service providers, and ***qldwater.***
* Water Supply Regulation will be conducting a workshop for ‘new starters’, i.e. those people who are new to the water regulation area or need a refresher. In this workshop they will start with the basics and work through the main elements of the water regulation framework. If you or someone from your organisation would be interested in attending please contact the Regulator so that they can identify the level of interest and determine the best location for this event(s)

If you would like any further information, or would like to receive the Water Supply Regulation e-Alerts please contact [drinkingwater.reporting@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:drinkingwater.reporting@dnrme.qld.gov.au).

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**2.   Federal Court ruling on wet wipes**

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***qldwater*** has welcomed the ruling by the Federal Court of Australia to take action against a ‘flushable’ wet wipe manufacturer.

Pental Limited and Pental Products Pty Ltd , the manufacturer behind White King's "flushable" toilet and bathroom cleaning wipes has been ordered to pay penalties totalling $700,000 for making false and misleading representations that the product would disintegrate in the sewage system "just like toilet paper".

The Federal Court ruled those statements to be false.  "These White King wipes can’t be flushed down the toilet, and Australian wastewater authorities face significant problems if they are because they can cause blockages in household and municipal sewerage systems,” ACCC Commissioner Sarah Court said.

In addition to the penalties, Pental has been ordered to implement a compliance program.

The Water Services Association of Australia is progressing the development of an Australian Standard which would provide clear specifications for what is ‘flushable’. WSAA is seeking to have a draft document completed by the end of this year – Rob Fearon is contributing to the working group and can provide further information.

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**3.   Security of Critical Infrastructure Act: Key Commencement Dates**

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The *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* received assent last week on Wednesday 11 April.  As a result, the Act commences on **Wednesday 11 July 2018**.

The Act has a built-in six-month grace period for reporting entities’ obligations to report ownership and operational information into the Register of Critical Infrastructure Assets.  This grace period ends on 11 January 2019.  The other provisions of the Act, including the information gathering and Ministerial Directions powers, apply from 11 July 2018.

The Act requires each water business with >100,000 property connections to:

* Keep a register of entities who have an interest, can exert control or operate water utility assets in relation to that water utility
* Undertake a risk assessment of critical infrastructure, notionally this is to assess foreign ownership but the legislation has a much broader wording ‘security risks’
* Issue directions to asset owners if the Minister is satisfied there is a risk of an act or omission that would be prejudicial to security.

The Act safeguards Australia's critical infrastructure and enhances the capability of the Critical Infrastructure Centre.  The full text of the Act and updated Explanatory Memoranda will shortly be available on [legislation.gov.au](http://legislation.gov.au/).  The Minister’s press release is available [here](http://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/peterdutton/Pages/Govt-continues-to-safeguard-critical-infrastructure.aspx).

We will advise when details of face-to-face information sessions and draft guidance (to ensure reporting entities understand the Act’s purpose, intent and operation, and their obligations under the Act) are available.

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**4.   Peter Cullen Trust Science to Policy Leadership Program**

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Applications for the year’s Peter Cullen Trust Science to Policy Leadership Program are now open.  More information and application forms can be downloaded at:  <http://www.petercullentrust.org.au/science-to-policy/>

In addition to opportunities for individuals to be sponsored by their organisations, the Trust has available a limited number of scholarships:

•             The Professor John Langford Scholarship:  one full scholarship open to all individuals.

•             The Mark Wootton (Jigsaw Farms) Scholarship:  one full scholarship open to all individuals.

•             The Vicky Cullen Scholarship:  one full scholarship open to ATSI applicants (already filled for 2018).

Additionally, Glencore Australia is offering two fully funded positions for applicants who have a connection to, or professional interest in Central Queensland, NSW Hunter Valley and/or Mudgee/Central Tablelands regions. These positions are open to individuals from the community, academia, NFP sector and agencies within the relevant areas.

Applications close 17 May 2018 and are limited to 16 participants in total.

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

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The Queensland Police Service has released the latest Security Forecast which is now available in the members area of our website -  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism>.   The information contained in the QPS documents may be viewed and circulated internally, however it should not be provided to the public / media or forwarded to external third parties.  Members must log in first to access this information.

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

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