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

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

**(Issue #375 – 16 November 2018)**

**1. *qldwater* 2019 Events**

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**1.   *qldwater* 2019 Events**

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Our draft calendar of events for 2019 has now been released – please save the dates for your diaries…

We again welcome Dial Before You Dig as our Water Connections Tour sponsor, and Aquatec Maxcon has taken up a sponsorship package for all regional events.

Ixom has elected to discontinue its sponsorship of the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test and we thank them for their support since 2012.  At this stage we don’t intend to run regional taste test events, but will seek a new sponsor for the state-wide test to be conducted at our annual forum.

There are plenty of opportunities for sponsors to support these cost-effective events for the benefit of Queensland’s water and sewerage service providers, and a final 2019 package will be distributed soon.  Please contact dgralton@qldwater.com.au or dkislitsyna@qldwater.com.au if you are interested.

Major events are detailed below, there will be a number of additional theme-based workshops announced early in the new year (e.g. emerging contaminants, asset management).  Aside from a range of excellent presentations, workshops and networking opportunities, 2019 sees a focus on industry opportunities and gathering feedback developing policy recommendations to help members reduce costs and improve services offered to their customers.

*(a)   Queensland Water Skills Partnership Forum* ***7 March*** *Albion*

This is the second time we have run the forum and the program will be released shortly.  Major themes for this year include workforce planning and capability development and there will be a presentation for operators who have completed the requirements for Certification.  A TRG meeting will follow on 8 March.

*(b)   Regional mini-conference* ***28 March*** *Biloela*

Hosted by Banana Shire Council, the date may shift slightly during that week as we are in the process of trying to organise a safety-themed training opportunity prior to the event.

*(c)    Free water forum* ***17 May*** *Charleville (AM)*

Our Water Connections Week from 13 May sees us visiting Murweh, Paroo, Bulloo and Quilpie Shires and finishes in Charleville on 17 May with a small event open to representatives from any of our members able to attend.  It will be an opportunity to share challenges and possible solutions, and engage with representatives from a number of state agencies.

*(d)   Regional mini-conference* ***4-5 July*** *Townsville*

Hosted by Townsville City Council, 4 July will include a QWRAP meeting, site tour of the Haughton pipeline and dinner, with presentations, workshops etc on the 5th.  We are told that the supercars hit the city from the 5th, so be sure to consider your accommodation options early (and consider staying on in town for the celebrations).

*(e)    Regional mini-conference* ***25-26 July*** *Hervey Bay*

Hosted by Fraser Coast Regional Council, 25 July will include a QWRAP alliance meeting, tour of a range of sites in Maryborough and Hervey Bay and a dinner with presentations etc on the 26th.  It’s whale watching season, so again you might want to consider a weekend stay.

*(f)* ***qldwater*** *Annual Forum* ***11-12 September*** *Logan*

Hosted by Logan City Council, the program will again include a range of lighter activities on 11th including a tour showcasing some of the activities of the Logan Water Infrastructure Alliance and dinner, and presentations on the 12th.

Profuse thanks to all of the members who have responded with such enthusiasm to our invitations to host these activities.  ***qldwater*** events are relatively small-scale and informal, but are invariably fun, informative and great for networking.  Importantly for us they are members’ best opportunity to help steer our work plan to effectively advocate and develop support programs.

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**2.   Current submissions**

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It’s apparently the season for regulatory change and a large number of documents have been issued for “consultation” in recent months.  We are doing our best to stay on top of providing submissions, and gather input from our various reference groups and while some agencies are cognisant that good feedback requires reasonable timeframes, other processes are being rushed to a point where this is impossible.

Kudos to Arron Hieatt from LGAQ who is also putting a big effort on behalf of councils.

Here is a quick list of recent processes (SWEAP refers to our Sewerage and Water Environmental Advisory Panel):

-        Great Artesian Basin Strategic Management Plan (LGAQ)

-        Department of Environment and Sciences - End of Waste Code for Biosolids (open until 29 November, see Eflash #374, both ***qldwater***/ SWEAPand LGAQ expected to submit)

-        Department of Environment and Sciences – Standard Conditions for Sewage Pump Stations (informal consultation involving ***qldwater***/ SWEAP – submitted 15/11)

-        Department of Environment and Sciences – Water Quality Offsets Policy (final feedback provided ***qldwater****/* SWEAP)

-        Department of Health – Health and Other Legislation Bill 2018 (LGAQ planning to submit)

-        Queensland Competition Authority - SunWater and Seqwater Irrigation Pricing Reviews (LGAQ)

-        Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy – finalisation of amendments to the KPI framework to include cyber security indicators (informal consultation involving ***qldwater***/ TRG and department’s Guideline Development Advisory Group)

-        Department of Housing and Public Works – Revisions to the [Plumbing and Drainage Regulation](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/40202/2w4v1/2626685/fG74cT5YDHcpn_APWNslfPh6_JlO3MFVBEI05hXB.pdf), [Plumbing and Wastewater Code](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/40202/2w4v1/2626679/fG74cT5YDHcpn_APWNsl5zXdjZP_XQgtZkf9XINm.pdf) and new draft guidelines on supervision.  While this process started in 2016, there has been no communication for over a year and submissions close on
30 November.  ***qldwater*** has prepared a brief submission expressing concern around provisions in the draft QPWC around location of on-site sewerage systems (particularly potential proximity to groundwater systems).

-      The Bill for the  new Reef regulations has been deferred until next year due to the large amount of business to be transacted by the Qld government before the end of this year.  We will continue to work with LGAQ and the OGBR to provide you with information and how to provide responses on this new legislation in the need year.

There are a few more anticipated and we are well behind loading these onto the web site, please contact dcameron@qldwater.com.au if you are chasing information on a particular topic.

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**3.   DNRME Drinking Water Quality Forum**

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On Tuesday, 13 November, DNRME hosted a Drinking Water Quality Forum to discuss common challenges and common solutions for the Queensland urban water industry, supported by ***qldwater***.

Dr Peter Mosse provided excellent insights from his years working in the industry, discussing water quality awareness, the current “state of the nation” and common themes in water supply assessment projects across rural and remote Queensland.

It was interesting to hear how Torres Strait Island Regional Council, along with the Tropical Public Health Services in Queensland Health, are delivering positive outcomes through collaboration and engagement, and there were a number of other great council presentations.

The day concluded with ***qldwater*** presentations on the capabilities of SWIM*Local* and other collaborative opportunities through the Queensland Water Skills Partnership and QWRAP. Thanks to Tony Cover from Goondiwindi Regional Council for taking the time to present on their experiences using SWIM*Local* for operations and maintenance.

***qldwater*** filmed most of the presentations and will publish edited versions over the next couple of weeks.

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

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**The Queensland Police Service** has released the latest QPS Security Environment Report for August to October 2018 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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