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

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

**(Issue #289 – 16 June 2016)**

**1**.   **NQ Conference & Technical Townsville 20 July – Register Now**

**2**.   **SWIM News**

**3**.   **Queensland State Budget**

**4**.   **WIOA Awards Update**

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

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**1**.   **NQ Conference & Technical Townsville 20 July – Register Now**

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Register now for the ***qldwater*** North Queensland Conference being held in Townsville on 20 July 2016.  The conference is being held in conjunction with the Australian Water Association’s North Queensland Conference in Townsville which runs from July 21 to July 22.

***qldwater*** conferences are an informal opportunity for networking, updates on what’s impacting Queensland’s water and sewerage service providers, and technical presentations.  This full day conference features many excellent and informative presentations and runs from 9.30am until 5.00pm.  There is an option conference dinner being held the same evening.

We would like to thank our major sponsors – Dial Before You Dig and Ixom, our event Principal Sponsor – the Department of Energy and Water Supply, as well as our event silver sponsors Bilfinger Water Technologies, Lonza Water Treatment Technologies and Royce Water Technologies.

The full conference program and registration form with further details is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2016_NQ_Conference_Townsville).

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**2**.   **SWIM News**

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**Annual water and sewerage data reporting for 2015/16:** well it is coming up to that time of year again when annual water and sewage data is collated by Water Service Providers across the State and sent to BoM, NPR, ABS and the Qld Govt. In the next month ***qldwater*** will be sending your SWIM representative information regarding accessing and using the SWIM system. If you have had staff changes and the SWIM reporting person from last year is no longer working in this position please contact ***qldwater*** at [swim@qldwater.com.au](mailto:swim@qldwater.com.au) or 3632 6850 so we can help set up new contact details so important information can be supplied to your organisation.

The SWIM system will be opened for reporting as soon as possible after July 1 – it will depend on ***qldwater*** receiving all the appropriate information from the relevant organisations involved in setting the indicators.

The data is currently due by 1st October.

**SWIM training:** there has been very limited interest in SWIM training this year so ***qldwater*** will not be holding any official training sessions. If you would like to do some SWIM training please let David know (contact details below) and we will work out something for you.

**New SWIM*Local* Annual Data Tool software:** we are currently finalising a new version of the SWIM*Local* Annual Data Tool for your SWIM data entry for 2015/16. We have made several improvements as identified by users after last year’s inaugural implementation of the software. The new version will be released by 30th June for installation.

**Release of the SWIM*Local* Mobile Data Entry Application**: the new mobile app. for SWIM*Local* data entry has been released. The mobile app. works via a web browser and can be use on any tablet or phone with internet capabilities (it can also work on a computer). An internet connection is needed for the initial set-up but after that it is not necessary until data synchronisation is required.

If you have any questions about SWIM please contact David Scheltinga ([dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au)).

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**3**.   **Queensland State Budget**

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The 2016-17 Queensland State Budget was delivered this week and includes some boosts to a range of funding programs of interest to local government.  A big ticket item in the budget was an extra $175 million for Building Our Regions, including $90 million towards the regional infrastructure program over the next four years.

While the LGAQ’s budget bid for water was not specifically delivered, the need to upgrade vital water and wastewater infrastructure in indigenous communities has been recognised in the budget with funding allocated for the following:

* $4.4 million for operating costs of temporary measures to provide potable water and water security for the Palm Island Community;
* $1.3 million over four years for identified capital renewal and replacement costs of the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council water supply system;
* $14 million over two years for the replacement of Cherbourg wastewater infrastructure;

Projects allocated funding through the $180 million “Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program” include:

* $1.8 million for the Pormpuraaw drinking water security project;
* $600,000 for wastewater upgrades in Aurukun Shire council;
* $80,000 for upgrades of drinking water infrastructure in Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council.

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**4.   WIOA Awards Update**

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In mentioning the winners from the WIOA Awards in last week’s eFlash we neglected to mention the very deserving Gary Fenwick from Queensland Urban Utilities who won two awards, “Best Paper by an Operator” and “Best Paper Overall”.

Our congratulations go to Gary for a great achievement in both categories.

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**5.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~**

* Advances in water recycling – complimentary seminar - The Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence is hosting a national roadshow and will be in Brisbane on Monday 27 June to showcase the outcomes of its Research and Development Program over the past six years. READ MORE [www.australianwaterrecycling.com.au/news/national-roadshow](http://www.australianwaterrecycling.com.au/news/national-roadshow)
* On Friday 8 July, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Queensland Wetlands Program) and the Office of the Great Barrier Reef are hosting a Forum on Treatment Systems in Coastal Catchments. Hear about new approaches to treatment systems, including constructed wetlands, floating wetlands, bioreactors, algae treatment and similar technologies. To register for the forum RSVP via: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/treatment-systems-in-coastal-catchments-forum-tickets-25767840304>
* The latest information from the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy Branch of the Queensland Police Service is now available on our website <https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/Counter-terrorism>. Members must log in first to access this information.   Please note these documents are provided on a confidential basis for ***qldwater*** member use only.

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