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

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

**(Issue #297 – 22 September 2016)**

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**1.****Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test – Statewide Winner!**

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Water from Toowoomba Regional Council’s Mt Kynoch scheme was selected as Queensland’s top drop in the 2016 Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test, with around 60 forum delegates participating in a blind taste-off of 14 samples from across Queensland. A panel of water experts then selected the winner from the top five entries.

The taste test took place at the ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum Technical Tour at Colleges Crossing on Wednesday 14 September.

The top five samples included Livingstone Shire Council (Woodbury WTP), Queensland Urban Utilities (West Brisbane), Seqwater (Gold Coast Desalination Plant), Seqwater (Molendinar) and Toowoomba Regional Council (Mt Kynoch).

Congratulations to all the entrants in the taste test this year; as usual it was a close competition.  Toowoomba’s Mt Kynoch water will now compete against New South Wales in the “Water of Origin Taste Test” taking place at the WIOA conference in 2017.

Photographs from the Taste Test, the Mains Tapping Competition, and the Technical Tour on 14 September are all available on the ***qldwater*** [SmugMug](https://qldwater.smugmug.com/Events/Innovation-Technical-Tour-2016/) site.

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**2.*****qldwater* Innovation Forum and Technical Tour Wrap**

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​The ***qldwater*** annual Innovation Forum was held on 14 and 15 September 2016 in Brisbane.   The technical tour day started with a bus trip to Colleges Crossing with Col Hester from QUU (and Mt Crosby Historical Society) providing a very entertaining commentary on the history of the Mt Crosby settlement and water infrastructure.

At the Crossing, the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test was held, followed by our inaugural “Live Mains Tapping Competition” where operators from Queensland Urban Utilities, Logan Water and Gold Coast Water went head to head competing for the coveted title and trophy.  The winning team was Gold Coast Water with a super-fast time of 1 minute 49 seconds.  H2Flow kindly provided the water truck so this competition could take place.

This event was followed by a Technical Tour of Mt Crosby Water Treatment Plant hosted by Seqwater.

The Innovation Forum was held on Thursday 15 September with over 100 delegates attending.  Both the Technical Tour and the Innovation Forum were a great success, providing an opportunity for networking, great interaction with representatives from DEWS and DEHP and showcasing our industry’s successes and challenges.

We again thank Seqwater for supporting the event as well as our conference sponsors: Lonza Water Technologies, Aqseptence Group, LiquiMIX, Royce Water Technologies, LGAQ and Ventia (lunch sponsor), our Taste Test sponsor – Ixom and our Water Connections Tour Sponsor – Dial Before You Dig.

Photographs from the Innovation Forum on 15 September are available on the ***qldwater*** [SmugMug](https://qldwater.smugmug.com/Events/Innovation-Forum-2016/) site.

Feedback from the event has been very positive, with Kev Flanagan from Toowoomba and Cameron Jackson from QUU probably getting the most votes for most influential talks but we are keen to also capture what happens next.  Already a couple of members have advised that they are reviewing current practices based on some of the “opportunities” presented at the event.  If you’d like to share any learnings, please feel free to send details through to dcameron@qldwater.com.au.

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**3.   SWIM 2015/16 annual water and sewerage data due date**

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All Water Service Providers in Queensland have been asked to collate and submit their annual 2015-16 water and sewerage data. SWIM is the main method for Queensland Water Service Providers to submit their annual water data to the Queensland Government (DEWS KPIs), ABS, BoM and NPR. Approximately 85% of Service Providers have historically reported their data through SWIM, which is not only providing valuable information to the State and Federal Governments, but also back to you in the form of the ***qldwater*** Benchmarking report.

**Important dates**:

**All data, for all service providers, is required by: 1st October**

**Data for DEWS mandatory KPIs may be revised up until the end of November.**

SWIM was developed by ***qldwater***, on behalf of Water Service Providers, to simplify the task of water data reporting. With your support and use of SWIM, we can continue to encourage government water data reporting to be rationalised and streamlined. We urge you to submit your annual water data through SWIM on time to avoid the possibility of PINS being issued by DEWS.  A full lodgement timetable is available at <https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/water/regulation/performance>.

Please contact David Scheltinga 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 (dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au or 0415 881 195).

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#### **4.**   **DEWS Comparative report for service providers released**

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The Department of Energy and Water Supply has released its first comparative report based on data submitted by 73 service providers against key performance indicators for the 2014–15 financial year.

The report is available [here](https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/389448/Qld-water-sewerage-service-performance-report.pdf).

The choice of indicators for the report each year will be determined by level of interest to customers and key government priorities.

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#### **5.**   **NHMRC draft Information Paper on Fluoridation**

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released a draft Information Paper*: Effects of water fluoridation on dental and other health outcomes (draft Information Paper)* for public consultation. The draft Information Paper summarises NHMRC’s consideration of the evidence on the dental and other health effects of water fluoridation in Australia.

The paper concludes that:

“Water fluoridation in Australia is effective in reducing the occurrence and severity of tooth decay.  Some people may experience a slight change in the cosmetic appearance of their teeth due to an increase in the overall intake of fluoride but this does not affect the function of teeth. There is no evidence that water fluoridation within the current Australian range is associated with any negative health effects.”

Copies of the draft Information Paper, as well as information on the process for making a submission and the type of material that will be considered by NHMRC, can be obtained from the [NHMRC public consultation website](https://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/).

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#### **6.**   **Congratulations to Queensland AWA Award winners**

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Full details are available [here](http://www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/About_AWA/Awards/State_Awards/QLD.aspx?utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=enewsletter&utm_campaign=Source), but ***qldwater*** would like to offer its congratulations to our members and others supporting the urban water sector who will be well known to our members:

* Infrastructure Project Innovation Award 2016 - Queensland Urban Utilities - Flood Resilience Program
* Program Innovation Award 2016 - Queensland Urban Utilities and GHD - In Situ Calibration of Bulk Flow Meters
* Regional Service Award 2016 - Jeff Ballard, Northern Water Management
* Distinguished Service Award 2016 - John Graham
* Water Professional of the Year 2016 - Aneurin Hughes,  Discipline Leader - Asset Management, Cardno

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#### **7.**   **Exemplar Global auditor examination to be held in Brisbane**

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Exemplar Global will be conducting an [examination](https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/_literature_220102/Exemplar_Global_Water_QualityManagement_Systems_Auditor_Certification_Scheme) for candidates interested in completing the Drinking Water or Recycled Water examination on 31 October 2016.  The examination will take place at QUT Garden Point Campus, Brisbane.

Becoming an auditor has several steps, and ***qldwater*** has compiled this [fact sheet](https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/_literature_220096/DWQMP_Auditor_Qualification_Fact_Sheet) to provide more clarity.  This exam relates to step 2, and the advantage is that it is normally only run in Melbourne.

Online enrolments can be made via the following links:

[Exemplar Global DW Australia: Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality](https://shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/course_page.php?course=S001017&cbs=a284f4f1659907a382db6bdc9d5d88ba)

[Exemplar Global RW Australia: Framework for Recycled Water Quality Management and Use](https://shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/course_page.php?course=S001014)

EG has advised that it may conduct a second examination on 1 November 2016 for candidates who would like to complete both examinations.  If you are interested, please contact pauline.tenaglia@rmit.edu.au.

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

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