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

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

**(Issue #367 – 31 August 2018)**

**1.   Workplace Health and Safety Queensland – Managing risks from water supply and telecommunications infrastructure**

**2.   SWIM 2017/18 annual water and sewerage data due date**

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

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~    1.   Workplace Health and Safety Queensland – Managing risks from water supply and telecommunications infrastructure**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~** **~~~~~*qldwater*** has been contacted by a number of members in relation to correspondence received describing the intention to initiate an assessment program by inspectors to determine compliance with the Workplace Health and Safety Act and Electrical Safety Act, around telco infrastructure, particularly on elevated reservoirs.  The letter included a self-assessment checklist for use by water service providers to determine any risks posed by this infrastructure.  It puts the onus on WSPs to identify the telcos with whom you need to consult and coordinate on the safe management of this infrastructure, and how to go about the risk assessment.

We were aware that an approach might be coming but the method was unknown until now.  We have followed up, and can offer the following additional information:

* The letter and checklist has indeed been sent to all of the Water Service Providers in Queensland.  The listed contact (John Wilson) was very approachable and will refer anyone who contacts him to the appropriate regional centre etc if the matter doesn’t fall within his remit.
* While the letter doesn’t specifically request it, they are expecting WSPs to make contact with the department if a significant risk is discovered as part of the self-assessment process.  We were reminded a few times of the legislative obligations of landowners.
* A similar letter and checklist has not been sent to telcos, however they will be contacted in the event issues are identified.
* The “sampling” process was a little unclear – it is likely to respond to risks identified by WSPs through contact with the department, rather random site audits.
* The letter doesn’t refer to a jurisdictional issue first identified by our colleagues in NSW.  WHS Queensland does not have jurisdiction over Telstra, Optus or NBN Co as they are licensees of Comcare WHS (the Commonwealth WHS body).  So if you identify an issue with one of these three, it will be referred to Comcare, with other issues being handled by WHS Queensland.

This exercise reiterates that the management of this infrastructure is under increasing scrutiny with a number of groups convened specifically by the water industry and the Department of Communication and the Arts, and now attention from safety regulators from at least Queensland and NSW, with more likely to follow as the matter is tabled with the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (collective of representatives from work health and safety regulators across Australia and New Zealand).

Again, ***qldwater*** is keen to hear of any experiences members have in relation to these matters, general interactions with telcos including other complaint processes around access or any of the other issues posed by hosting this equipment, to help where we can but also inform the national effort.  Please contact Dave Cameron ([dcameron@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dcameron@qldwater.com.au), 0407 761 991) if you wish to discuss.

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~2.   SWIM 2017/18 annual water and sewerage data due date  
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~** **~~~~~**All Water Service Providers in Queensland have been asked to collated and submit their annual 2017/18 water and sewerage data. SWIM is the main method for Queensland Water Service Providers to submit their annual water data to the Queensland Government (DNRME KPIs), ABS, BoM and NPR. Approximately 90% of Service Providers report their data through SWIM last year, 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: **2nd October** (the 1st is a Public Holiday).

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 through systems such as SWIM. We urge you to submit your annual water data through SWIM on time to avoid the possibility of PINS being issued by DNRME and so that its future as a water-industry-driven system is assured.

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](mailto:dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au) or 0415 881 195).

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~3.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~** The Queensland Police Service has released the latest security information 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.