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

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

**(Issue #414– 29 November 2019)**

**1.   Call for Papers – SEQ Regional Mini Conference Gympie – 23-24 April**

**2.   Christmas wishes and office closure**

**3.   DNRME is hiring - Director, Water Supply Regulation**

**4.   The Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy**

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**1. Call for Papers – SEQ Regional Mini Conference Gympie – 23-24 April**
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The first ***qldwater*** Regional Mini Conference for 2020 will be held in Gympie on Friday 24 April, kindly hosted by Gympie Regional Council.  Our current events program is available [here](https://www.qldwater.com.au/Events_2020), along with a link at the bottom of the page for potential sponsors.

We are thrilled that Dial Before You Dig has returned as our Water Connections Tour sponsor, and that Royce Technologies has signed up early as a Gold sponsor for each regional event.

***qldwater*** conferences are an informal opportunity for networking, updates on what’s impacting Queensland’s water and sewerage service providers, and technical presentations.

The call is now open for relevant technical and other presentations to fill 20-25 minute slots.  Presentations from ***qldwater*** members or organisations able to co-present with members will always be prioritised.  We aim to make the process as easy as possible: you only need to provide us with a brief outline now and a PowerPoint on the day if accepted.

If you are interested in presenting at this event, please contact Dave Cameron at dcameron@qldwater.com.au.

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**2.   Christmas wishes and office closure**

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While this is unlikely to be our last eFlash before Christmas, people will start taking leave soon and so on behalf of ***qldwater*** we’d like to wish all our members and stakeholders a safe and rewarding break after what has been a very busy year.

While Brisbane has been smoky and lawns are crispy, it’s important to acknowledge that many parts of the state are significantly worse off with many members in the midst of acute drought and involved in fire emergency responses.  We hope you all get the opportunity for a restful festive break, and some rain.

Our office will be closed from 23 December to 27 December inclusive.  In the event of any emergencies both Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au, 0407 761 991) and Rob Fearon (rfearon@qldwater.com.au, 0428 300 208) will monitor emails and phone messages.

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**3.   DNRME is hiring - Director Water Supply Regulation**

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DNRME has asked us to distribute this advertisement, which relates to a key role for our sector.

Operating from within the Water Supply Regulation business group, you will be responsible for leading the regulation of service providers to assure drinking and recycled water quality and the regulation of service performance. The Director is responsible for leading and managing multi-disciplinary projects and teams to ensure the development and implementation of best practice policies, procedures and strategies, in line with State Government priorities and strategic direction.

Closing Date: Tuesday 24 December 2019

Contact: Jarrod Cowley-Grimmond (07 3330 5061)

Applying online through the Smart jobs and careers website [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au) is the preferred means to submit an application. To do this, access the 'apply online' facility on the Smart jobs and careers website. You will need to create a 'My SmartJob' account before submitting your online application.

By applying online you can track your application through the process, maintain your personal details through registration and withdraw your application if required.

If you experience any technical difficulties when accessing [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au) please contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68). All calls relating to the status of your application once the job has closed should be directed to the contact officer on the role description.

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**4.   The Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy**

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The Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy has now been released by the Department of Environment and Science. The long-awaited new version of the Policy replaces the 2014 and 2017 draft policies.

The 2019 [policy and guideline](https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/management/water/water-quality-offsets) for interpretation describe how existing or potentially new EA holders can offset nutrient or sediment loads in discharges to receiving waters. This provides an additional option under the waste management hierarchy for managing environmentally relevant activities that release nitrogen, phosphorus and suspended solids into receiving waters. The policy release follows on closely from the recent release of new Reef protection regulations under the EP Act, and provides the mechanism to propose an offset for current or new nutrient and sediment releases.

The adoption of offsets is voluntary.

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

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1. New issues papers and reports relating to the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) are now available for review and comment. Login or register at [**https://yoursay.carp.gov.au/login**](https://elink.clickdimensions.com/c/4/?T=MzY3OTU1NDY%3AMDItYjE5MzMxLTg1OTkyOTUzYzg3OTRiOGNhOTMwMDk5ODBiMjFmN2Fl%3AZGNhbWVyb25AcWxkd2F0ZXIuY29tLmF1%3AY29udGFjdC03NjliMGUyMGYzZmJlMzExOTQwYTAwNTA1NjlmNTE0MC0zZjA4OGEzNTA3OGU0OTc0OTQ5MDYzMGZmYzVjNDI5Nw%3AZmFsc2U%3AMA%3A%3AaHR0cHM6Ly95b3Vyc2F5LmNhcnAuZ292LmF1L2xvZ2luP19jbGRlZT1aR05oYldWeWIyNUFjV3hrZDJGMFpYSXVZMjl0TG1GMSZyZWNpcGllbnRpZD1jb250YWN0LTc2OWIwZTIwZjNmYmUzMTE5NDBhMDA1MDU2OWY1MTQwLTNmMDg4YTM1MDc4ZTQ5NzQ5NDkwNjMwZmZjNWM0Mjk3JmVzaWQ9MjdhZmU1MTktODkxMS1lYTExLTk0MmUtMDAwZDNhZTAxMmE0&K=7K6z1w2tnya7QbDCJpZ33w) to access these papers.

All comments will be provided to the Australian Government as part of their assessment of the next steps for the NCCP. Remaining NCCP research projects will be published on the NCCP website ([**https://www.carp.gov.au/**](https://elink.clickdimensions.com/c/4/?T=MzY3OTU1NDY%3AMDItYjE5MzMxLTg1OTkyOTUzYzg3OTRiOGNhOTMwMDk5ODBiMjFmN2Fl%3AZGNhbWVyb25AcWxkd2F0ZXIuY29tLmF1%3AY29udGFjdC03NjliMGUyMGYzZmJlMzExOTQwYTAwNTA1NjlmNTE0MC0zZjA4OGEzNTA3OGU0OTc0OTQ5MDYzMGZmYzVjNDI5Nw%3AZmFsc2U%3AMQ%3A%3AaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuY2FycC5nb3YuYXUvP19jbGRlZT1aR05oYldWeWIyNUFjV3hrZDJGMFpYSXVZMjl0TG1GMSZyZWNpcGllbnRpZD1jb250YWN0LTc2OWIwZTIwZjNmYmUzMTE5NDBhMDA1MDU2OWY1MTQwLTNmMDg4YTM1MDc4ZTQ5NzQ5NDkwNjMwZmZjNWM0Mjk3JmVzaWQ9MjdhZmU1MTktODkxMS1lYTExLTk0MmUtMDAwZDNhZTAxMmE0&K=Ul3cshxINaCc0vy5vjrZSQ)) during December.

Three may be of particular interest to those managing raw water storages:

[Issues Paper - Water quality and carp biocontrol using Cyprinid herpesvirus 3 (CyHV-3).](https://yoursay.carp.gov.au/login?_cldee=ZGNhbWVyb25AcWxkd2F0ZXIuY29tLmF1&recipientid=contact-769b0e20f3fbe311940a0050569f5140-3f088a35078e49749490630ffc5c4297&esid=27afe519-8911-ea11-942e-000d3ae012a4)This NCCP issues paper explains research into the impacts of carp deaths on water quality.

[Issues Paper - Managing water quality impacts by carcass management](https://yoursay.carp.gov.au/login?_cldee=ZGNhbWVyb25AcWxkd2F0ZXIuY29tLmF1&recipientid=contact-769b0e20f3fbe311940a0050569f5140-3f088a35078e49749490630ffc5c4297&esid=27afe519-8911-ea11-942e-000d3ae012a4). This NCCP issues paper outlines the approach to managing dead carp to mitigate impacts on water quality.

[Report - Water quality risk assessment of carp biocontrol for Australian waterways.](https://yoursay.carp.gov.au/login?_cldee=ZGNhbWVyb25AcWxkd2F0ZXIuY29tLmF1&recipientid=contact-769b0e20f3fbe311940a0050569f5140-3f088a35078e49749490630ffc5c4297&esid=27afe519-8911-ea11-942e-000d3ae012a4)This work undertaken by the University of Adelaide Environment Institute assessed what would happen to water quality if there was a surge in the number of dead carp in inland waterways.

Feedback is to be provided by **December 12**.

2. The final report of the Remote and Isolated Communities Essential Services (RICES) project:[*Exploring community-based water management options for remote Australia*](https://qldwaterau.worldsecuresystems.com/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=252164)  had been released. Some key insights / highlights:

* communities can, and will, use less water and energy **if they know how to** and **what the benefits are** of doing so;
* **treated ('town')  water is not the preferred drinking water source** in remote communities (as for many non-urban communities in Australia);
* you really can "manage what you can measure" - provided the data is used meaningfully e.g. smart meters and simple number crunching of this **data to share with householders is powerful;**
* **community-based** water demand management strategies (education, feedback, story telling, information sharing, encouragement) are **overwhelmingly preferred by the participants as tools to motivate behaviour change** and encourage (outdoor) water efficient practices;
* government (local, state, federal) urgently need to incorporate, as a default approach, **community engagement from the outset** of any water, energy (and broader) management policies in regional/remote/isolated; and
* there is a clear and urgent need to **improve the environmental health** and **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) outcomes** in regional/remote/isolated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities before we can say we've met many of the SDGs in Australia!

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