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

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

**(Issue #423 – 28 February 2020)**

**1. Last chance to register for the Water Skills Forum!**

**2.  Updated Infrastructure Priority List released**

**3.  Gympie Regional Conference – Early Bird Closes 20 March!**

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

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**1.  Last chance to register for the Water Skills Forum!**

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Registrations close on Friday for the [**Queensland Water Skills Forum**](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/agenda) to be held next **Thursday, 5 March 2020**.

The [program](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/agenda) includes presentations by water industry and workforce development experts and a keynote address and Q&A session with Gavin Leckenby, Executive Director Design, Investment Division, Department of Small Business, Employment and Training. A panel of industry representatives will discuss what we can do to attract new entrants to the sector and options for innovative career pathways. We will also be workshopping how we can engage more Subject Matter Experts in delivering accredited water industry training across Queensland. I hope you’ll join us for these important discussions and the opportunity to network with other water and sewerage managers and HR/L&D staff from across Queensland.

Registration is free for up to three employees of Water Skills Partners, $50 plus GST for all other ***qldwater*** members including affiliate members; and $100 plus GST for all other attendees. [Register now to secure your place](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/registration)!

The forum will be held at the [Brisbane International Virginia](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/venueaccommodation) and will be followed by an optional dinner (additional cost). We are very pleased to have Kenan Hibberd, Unitywater’s Executive Manager People, Culture and Safety joining us as our Guest Speaker for the evening. Kenan will talk about the need for our industry to identify the workforce it needs for the future and come up with innovative ways to attract them. As the Chair of the WSAA People and Culture Professional Network he’ll provide an update on national and local initiatives to promote the value of working in the water industry.

Thank you to [TAFE Queensland – SkillsTech](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-water-skills-partnership/sponsors) for sponsoring the forum again this year.

Please contact Carlie Sargent on 07 3632 6853 if you have any queries about the event or if you need any help with your registration.

We look forward to seeing you next week!

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**2.   Updated Infrastructure Priority List released**

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The latest incarnation of the infrastructure priority list was released this week by Infrastructure Australia. Infrastructure Australia is an independent advisory body that evaluates businesses cases and provides advice to governments, industry and the community on Australia's infrastructure priorities.

Two major new national high priority initiatives related to our region and industry have been added to the list.

The proposed initiative for a *National water strategy* is to develop a plan to consider the current and future demand for water over the next 30 years, that considers (amongst other things): the condition and performance of existing water infrastructure, the role of water sources and opportunities including dams, catchment transfer, stormwater harvesting, water recycling, groundwater and desalination, and potential regulatory and planning changes to the water sector. This priority has come about in response to a perceived lack of confidence in the governance and management of Australia's water resources, and in response to the drought and water restrictions in parts of Australia.

A second related initiative is *Town and city water security*, for which the proposed initiative is a mix of infrastructure and other initiatives to meet "agreed service standards for water security". According to the initiative the "Infrastructure interventions" could include new water sources, recycling and desalination. Since 2016, thirteen submissions have been received by Infrastructure Australia on this initiative, unsurprisingly all but one of these were from Queensland and NSW, which suffer particular challenges with respect to water security and investment.

Proponents for both of these initiatives are now needed to drive the projects forward.

The infrastructure priority list also includes the *Lower Fitzroy River water infrastructure development* initiative from 2016 that has been funded jointly by the Australian and Queensland Governments to commence in 2020. A second Queensland-based initiative the *Haughton Pipeline Project Stage 2* has progressed to the construction phase.

For more information on the report and the initiatives, please visit <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/publications/infrastructure-priority-list-2020>

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**3.   Gympie Regional Conference – Early Bird Closes 20 March!**

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[Early bird registrations](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-seq-regional-mini-conference/registration) for the [Gympie Regional Conference](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-seq-regional-mini-conference/)on 23-24 April close 20 March! Register now to save $50  off the standard conference registration fee.

The conference includes a technical tour of Kandanga WTP, Jones Hill WTP, Gympie STP and Rattler Museum (included in the registration cost) and  an optional dinner (additional cost applies). More details and the full conference program is available [online](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-seq-regional-mini-conference/agenda).

We are thrilled to welcome Detection Services as Silver Sponsor.

Thank you to our hosts Gympie Regional Council and all of our [sponsors](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-seq-regional-mini-conference/sponsors) for making this event possible.

We look forward to welcoming you to Gympie in April 2020!

Register online now or contact Diana Kislitsyna on 3632 6850 with any questions.

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

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**Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal Course**

pH Water Consultants Pty Ltd once again brings the course "Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction" presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths.

The course is to be held in the week 22nd to 26th June on the Sunshine Coast.  Note the change of venue from previous years with the course being held at the Landmark Resort Mooloolaba.

Popular presenters, Helen and Peter, have been delivering activated sludge training courses for the past 25 years.   The updated course presents the latest research findings and developments in practical optimisation and troubleshooting of activated sludge processes.

Registration is open at  [www.pHwater.com.au](http://www.phwater.com.au/)  or contact peter@pHwater.com.au if invoicing is preferred.  Numbers are limited to 25 delegates and, with a number of early interested participants, it is expected that the course will book out rapidly.  Delegates who attend and successfully complete the assessment items for the course can receive RPL towards their Cert III or IV.

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

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