**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #41**

**Information for Water Industry Managers, Human Resources Personnel and Employees in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #41 –  15 June 2015)**

1. **Queensland Government 2015-2016 Annual VET Investment Plan Released**

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The Queensland Government has released the 2015-16 Annual VET Investment Plan, the Plan is available here – <http://www.training.qld.gov.au/resources/information/pdf/vet-investment-plan.pdf>. The Plan details the Queensland Government's planned $754.6 million investment in vocational education and training (VET) over the coming year.

Programs outlined in the 2015-2016 VET investment plan include;

* Certificate 3 Guarantee
* User Choice (apprenticeships and traineeships)
* Higher Level Skills
* Skilling Queenslanders for Work
* Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS)
* Industry Pre-apprenticeship program
* Trade Skills Assessment and Gap Training program.

Water industry operations qualifications continue to receive funding under a number of Government funding programs including;

* Certificate II and III Water Operations funded under the User Choice Program ($3,640 and $6,180 in funding, respectively).
* Certificate III Water Operations funded under Certificate 3 Guarantee.
* Certificate IV and Diploma Water Operations funded under the Higher Level Skills Program. Regional loadings will now also apply to Higher Level Skills funding for some localities.

The Industry Partnerships Strategy fund, which was expected to be available in early 2015 does not appear to be continued under the Government’s current investment plan. ***qldwater*** will continue to consult with the Department of Education and Training to investigate opportunities for funding for essential industry qualifications and skills sets that are not currently included in the VET Investment Plan.

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

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