**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #14**

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

**(Issue #14 – 13 December 2012)**

1. **Changes to Australian Apprenticeship Incentives**
2. **Summary - National Water Industry Skills Forum**

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**1.      Changes to Australian Apprenticeship Incentives**

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A number of changes have been made to the incentives available for Australian Apprenticeships. These changes include removal of employer incentives (commencement, recommencement and completion) for Diploma and Advanced Diploma Australian Apprenticeships (unless the Apprenticeship is Aged Care, Child Care or Enrolled Nurses).

For current Diploma or Advanced Diploma Apprenticeships a Completion incentive will only be paid where the Australian Apprentice successfully completes prior to 1 July 2013.

Further changes to the Australian Apprenticeship Incentives can be found here; <http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/documents/AAIP_Changes.pdf>.

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**2.   Summary - National Water Industry Skills Forum**

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The Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST) engaged Nous Group (Nous) to facilitate the Water Industry Skills Forum held in Canberra on 27 November 2012. The main purpose of the forum was to investigate three key questions:

* What are the current skills issues and emerging workforce needs in Australia’s water sector?
* What factors will influence workforce needs and availability in the future (2-5 years)?
* What solutions are available to help industry address their workforce needs?

Representation at the forum from Queensland included Dave Cameron from ***qldwater*** and David Smith from Unitywater.

The Forum facilitated an open discussion on the current workforce issues and factors that will influence these issues in the future. These issues were then prioritised and high level solutions were then developed for the key priorities. The outputs from the day will be outlined in a report on the forum which will be made available soon.

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