**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #15**

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

**(Issue #15 – 10 Jan 2012)**

1. **Proposed National Certification Framework**
2. **First Water Treatment Operators Certified in Victoria**

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**1.      Proposed National Certification Framework**

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The National Water Commission (NWC) funded a project to develop a national framework for certifying drinking water treatment operators. The project was conducted by Government Skills Australia (GSA) which undertook national consultation and provided a final framework and recommendations to the NWC in March 2012.

The proposed National Certification Framework has finally been published on the National Water Commission’s website. There is no implementation pathway proposed yet – we understand that NWC has appointed a project officer.

This work is crucial to the creation of career paths and appropriate recognition for operators as well as linking skilling to overall drinking water management and legislation.  We will continue to advocate for its adoption in Queensland, including through the development of the Queensland Water Sector 30 Year Strategy.

[**Click here**](http://nwc.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/25345/Proposed-National-Certification-Framework.pdf) to view a copy of the proposed framework.

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**2.      First Water Treatment Operators Certified in Victoria**

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Four Victorian water treatment operators have become the first water industry operators in Australia to be certified under the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) Certification Scheme at a reception held at the Victorian Department of Health on Friday 14th December 2012.

As part of their Water Industry Operator Certification Scheme, WIOA undertakes an independent assessment of the training and experience of each nominated water treatment operator and if deemed suitable, endorses them as being competent by awarding certified status under the scheme.

IOA Executive Officer George Wall said “the water treatment operator is the final and most important cog in the supply of safe drinking water to our communities.  We should never look on our operator role as just a job – we should see ourselves as public health workers and we should act accordingly”.

In recognition of the importance that the training, experience and competence of water treatment operators has on the production of safe drinking water, the Victorian Department of Health and members of the Victorian Water Industry Association (VicWater) collaboratively developed the “Victorian Framework for Water Treatment Operator Competencies - Best Practice Guidelines”.

The guidelines define minimum training, qualification and competency standards that operators must attain and maintain in order to operate drinking water treatment facilities in the State of Victoria.

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