**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #26**

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

**(Issue #26 –  20th November 2013)**

**1.        Progress Update - Technical Assessment and Mentoring for Regional and Remote Drinking Water Operators Project**

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**1.      Progress Update - Technical Assessment and Mentoring for Regional and Remote Drinking Water Operators Project**

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Earlier this year, ***qldwater*** secured a grant from Skills Queensland to undertake a project trial, focussed on technical development and up-skilling for regional water treatment services.  The main focus of this project is to provide a contemporary approach aimed at improving regional Queensland’s drinking water services, through workforce development activities such as mentoring, sound planning and upskilling. The project targets two key regions: Longreach and Central West Queensland and Burnett and Toowoomba regions and surrounds.

The initial technical assessment site visits took place in Longreach region in September and Burnett region in November. A total of 22 water treatment plants were visited by the technical consultants as part of these visits. A full technical report for each treatment plant, including suggested improvement actions, has been provided to each Council involved in the project.

Regional operator training workshops, for both Longreach and Burnett region, will be scheduled for March 2014. These training workshops, conducted by the technical consultants in collaboration with ***qldwater***, will provide practical training aimed at addressing some of the skills/training gaps identified during the technical visits.

The project will also develop a mentoring framework for the regions and encourage collaboration on training and workforce planning.

***qldwater*** will develop communication strategies and a continuity plan to ensure the outcomes and learnings can be applied in other regions.

For further information on the project contact Michelle Hill on mhill@qldwater.com.au or 07 3632 6853.

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**2.      Upcoming ICEWarm Courses for 2014**

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| **2nd HEC-RAS Water Modelling**:Hydrologic Engineering Centres-River Analysis System |  | Sydney | Thurs 27 - Fri 28February |  |
| **5th Australian Water School**:Fundamentals of Water Science, Technology and Governance |  | Adelaide | Wed 26 - Fri 28 March |  |
| **10th Adapting to Changing Climate**:Impacts on Water Management |  | Brisbane | Thurs 3 - Fri 4 April |  |
| **3rd Water in Coal Mining School**:Science and Policy of Aquifer Interference |  | Mackay | Thurs 8 - Fri 9 May |  |
| **7th Hydrology and Hydraulics for Non-Engineers**:Water science for practitioners, managers and policy makers |  | Gold Coast | Wed 14 - Fri 16 May |  |

A 5% discount on course registration fees is available for ***qldwater*** members.

For more information or to register visit the [ICEWarm website](http://www.icewarm.com.au/page.php?pId=240).

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**3.      IWC Partial Scholarships for Water Education Programs**

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Master of Integrated Water Management (also available as Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma)

Campus: The University of Queensland, St Lucia

Program available for international students (full-time) and domestic\* students (full-time or part-time/distance).

10 partial scholarships ($6,000 each) are available for the program starting in Semester 1, 2014 for:
• the first 5 international or domestic\* students who enrol full-time, and
• the first 5 domestic\* students who enrol part-time/distance.

How can you receive this partial scholarship?[Apply for the program](http://www.mooballmailer.com/link.php?M=820129&N=3914&L=6201&F=H) by 30 November if you are an international student or 31 January if you are a domestic\* student. If you are admitted at UQ, formally accept your offer and be one of the first students to [enrol through UQ's mySi-Net](http://www.mooballmailer.com/link.php?M=820129&N=3914&L=6373&F=H) when enrolments open (from 18 November).

More information about this offer: [watercentre.org/scholarships](http://www.mooballmailer.com/link.php?M=820129&N=3914&L=3305&F=H)
[Read more about the program](http://www.mooballmailer.com/link.php?M=820129&N=3914&L=2202&F=H)  |  [Download brochure (PDF)](http://www.mooballmailer.com/link.php?M=820129&N=3914&L=4275&F=H)

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**4.      Update on the Water Industry Occupations & Competency project**

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As noted in previous Skills e-flashes, Government Skills Australia (GSA) has been engaged by Water Services Australia Association (WSAA) through federal funding to develop and establish an occupational competency framework for the water industry. The framework will define competency requirements for specific occupations covered by the National Water Training Package.

The draft analysis of the source roles is now available for review and comment until **Friday 29 November 2013**. The roles covered in this group include catchment, rivers, dams, weirs, locks and bulk water management. You will note there are gaps in the document, if you have this information please submit it to Sue Peisley (details below).

To read the project update and review the draft document please go to the [GSA website](http://www.governmentskills.com.au/news/25-water/105-water-competency-framework) and [download the document.](http://www.governmentskills.com.au/usercontent/documents/Resources/Draft_Competency_Framework_Source_Nov_13.pdf)

Please email any comments or questions to Sue Peisley – Industry Liaison Officer at GSA by Friday 29 November 2013 - S.Peisley@govskills.com.au.

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