**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #30**

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

**(Issue #30 – 19 May 2014)**

**1.     ADWG Workshop Tuesday 3rd May (linked to WIOA Qld Conference)**

**2.   Government Skills Australia E-Scan 2014 Release**

**3.   Federal Budget: Skills and Training Implications**

**4.   Award Modernisation: Local Government Awards**

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**1.      ADWG Workshop Tuesday 3rd May (linked to WIOA Qld Conference)**

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As part of the Queensland Drinking Water Operator Certification Pilot, ***qldwater*** has arranged a ½ day workshop on the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (NWP279 - Demonstrate knowledge of the risk management principles of the Australian drinking water guidelines) to take place the day before the Water Industry Operators Association (WIOA) Queensland Conference kicks off on the 4th June. This is a nationally accredited course for which a Statement of Attainment will be granted upon completion of the assessment materials. Details for the training workshop are below.

Training Provider: SkillsTech

Date and Time: Tuesday 3rd June, 1:00pm – 5:00pm (afternoon tea included)

Venue: Logan Metro Sports Centre, 357 Browns Plains Road, Crestmead

Cost: $150 per participant

Please contact Michelle Hill via email  [mhill@qldwater.com.au](mailto:mhill@qldwater.com.au) for more information on the workshop or to register your intention to attend.

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**2.      Government Skills Australia Environmental Scan 2014 Release**

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Government Skills Australia (GSA) have released their 2014 E-Scan for the Water, Local Government, Public Sector, Public Safety and Corrections industries. The purpose of the Environmental Scan (E-Scan) is to provide readers with a clear strategic understanding of existing and emerging skills shortages and the context for the continuous improvement of GSA’s training packages for the coming year.

Water industry specific data that has emerged from the E-Scan includes;

-        262 Water Operations Trainees in Qld for 2012-2013 (note: includes publicly funded qualifications only).

-        Training priorities include: leadership and management, project management and customer services.

-        Areas where organisations are currently experiencing recruitment difficulties or anticipate future recruitment difficulties include; Engineers, Water treatment plant operators, Asset managers, ICT professionals and Project managers.

-        Training needs in a number of Foundation skills areas such as digital literacy, writing, reading, and numeracy.

The E-Scan is available from the GSA Website - <http://www.governmentskills.com.au/usercontent/documents/Escans_and_reports/2014_GSA_Escan.pdf>

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**3.       Federal Budget: Skills and Training Implications**

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The National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF) and Workplace English, Language, Literacy (WELL) programs are both set to cease under the recently released Federal Budget. A number of other programs, such as the Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships Scheme, will also be discontinued.

The Government will create a new ‘Industry Skills Fund’ which will provide $476.0 million over four years from 1 January 2015 to support the training needs of small to medium enterprises which cannot be readily met by the national training system. Industries targeted will include: health and biomedical products; mining, oil and gas equipment technology and services; and advanced manufacturing, including defence and aerospace.

There will also be a ‘Skills for Education and employment Program’ established, with further details unknown at this stage.

The existing ***qldwater*** NWDF application that was submitted late in 2013 will be still be assessed under the current funding arrangements and an outcome advised shortly.

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**4.       Award Modernisation: Local Government Awards**

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The State Government has legislated for the modernisation of all current state based awards and charged the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) with establishing these new modern awards, with specific conditions applied to what the modern awards might encompass.

The QIRC has determined that there will be a single Modern Award covering all of Queensland local government (excluding Brisbane City Council). A list of the Awards that will be amalgamated into the one Local Government Award is available on the QIRC website – <http://www.qirc.qld.gov.au/agreement_award/modern_awards/index.htm>.

Part A of the 1st preliminary exposure draft of the *Local Government Industry Award – State 2014* which includes coverage provisions, consultation and dispute resolution, types of employment, a draft hours of work clause, draft wages and salaries part and draft definition sand classifications descriptor part has been released. Part B of the exposure draft, covering other matters such as meal breaks and overtime payments will be released after a conference on the 20th May.

***qldwater*** will provide further details on how this new modern Local Government Award may impact water industry workers once it is released.

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

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