**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #5**

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

**(Issue #5 – 28 February 2012)**

1. **Strategic Investment Fund Contract finalised – Funding for Training Places now available!**
2. **Asset Management Training Pilot – Register your interest**
3. **Water Legislation & SWIM Training Workshop - Emerald**
4. **Supervisor Training (Water) – Bowen**
5. **Queensland Water Skills Partnership welcome Banana Shire Council**

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**1.       Strategic Investment Fund – Training places funding now available!**

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***qldwater*** have signed a contract with Skills Queensland which will initially see a further $540,000 of funding for direct training places at Certificate IV level and higher.

As LGAQ have a separate SIF allocation for Local Government water service providers, the ***qldwater*** funding will primarily fund places for non-council providers including; Queensland Urban Utilities, Allconnex, Unitywater, Seqwater, Sunwater and Wide Bay Water. SIF will cover 75% of the training costs with industry required to provide the remaining 25%. LGAQ will administer the funding and contract arrangements, in a similar manner to the process for the now expired PPP funding.

For more information contact Michelle Hill on (07) 3632 6853 or mhill@qldwater.com.au.

Local Council water service providers can contact LGAQ to access their SIF funding for Local Government. Contact: Gabrielle Dorward on (07) 3000 2129 or Gabrielle\_Dorward@lgaq.asn.au.

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At the workshop held in November last year for prioritisation of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership projects there was a strong interest in asset management training.

AWA has engaged the newly established  Institute of Quality Asset Management (IQ-AM) to undertake Asset Management training for the water industry.

***qldwater*** is looking to trial a SEQ pilot group in the *Vocational Graduate Certificate in Asset Management* through the Institute of Quality Asset Management in 2012. This is a nationally recognised accredited course consisting of 5 units of competency to be undertaken covering topics such as determining current asset capability and performance, preparing a state of the assets report, determining required and future levels of service,  managing the asset life cycle and more. Training would be delivered in a number of workshops at a central location and also involve follow up assignments and workplace projects.

***qldwater*** anticipate using the Strategic Investment Fund monies to fund 75% of the training costs of the course which would range from $6,000 - $7,000 per qualification, depending on delivery location and number of participants. There is also a opportunity to run the course in a regional location if there is enough interest to meet minimum participant numbers of ten.

Given the strict timeframes for SIF, if you are interested in participating in this pilot you will need to advise us by **Thursday 8th March.**

To register for the pilot training program or to receive further information, please contact Michelle Hill on (07) 3632 6853 or mhill@qldwater.com.au.

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**3.       Water Legislation & SWIM Training Workshop - Emerald (12th April)**

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To coincide with the Central Qld Regional Water Mini Conference and Best of the Best Water Taste Test on Thursday 12th April in Emerald ***qldwater*** have arranged for a one-day training workshop to be held on Wednesday 11th April. The morning of the workshop will be a water industry legislative overview focussed on water treatment,  water distribution and supply and customer retail services and the afternoon will  cover reporting and compliance and SWIM data basics for Operators.

This training has been specifically developed for an operator and field staff audience, however all water service provider employees are welcome if they believe they would benefit from the training. The registration fee for the training day will be $150 per participant to recover costs.

For a detailed Agenda or to register for the event contact Michelle Hill on (07) 3632 6853 or mhill@qldwater.com.au.

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**4.       Supervisor Training (Water) - Bowen (3rd May)**

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Following up from the initial Supervisor Training Pilot held in Biloela in February, ***qldwater*** has arranged for a one-day Supervisor training workshop to take place on Thursday 3rd May to coincide with the Northern Qld Regional Water Mini Conference and Best of the Best Water Taste Test being held on Friday 4th May in Bowen.

More information will be sent out and available on the ***qldwater*** website shortly (<http://www.qldwater.com.au/>)

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**5.       Queensland Water Skills Partnership welcomes Banana Shire Council**

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Banana Shire Council is the most recent new member of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership. The Partnership has been created to continue the important skills work commenced through the Queensland Water Skills Formation Strategy. A number of key project priorities have been developed for the partnership including;

* Water Operations Training: ***qldwater*** to continue to act on behalf of the Queensland industry on key national bodies. ***qldwater*** will continue to liaise with RTO’s and industry and pilot new water courses.
* E-Learning: coordinate a Water Skills Video Library for the collection of a suite of videos for key tasks/activities (pending successful funding application).
* Legislative responsibilities training: develop a training course (online and face-to-face options) for training in key water industry legislative responsibilities and requirements.
* Engage with schools: Investigate programs for industry school engagement such as Gateway to Schools Program.
* Regional Training Alliances: develop a mechanism for regions to coordinate training activities between providers, including shared calendar, regional training hubs. Pilot a number of short course training workshops in regional hubs.

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

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