**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #43**

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

**(Issue #43 –  20 October 2015)**

1. ***qldwater* to provide water industry training advice to Government**
2. **Closure of Government Skills Australia (GSA) & NWDF Contracts**
3. **Water Industry Skills Taskforce Meeting Communique**
4. **Queensland Water Skills Partnership Members for 2015/2016**

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**1. *qldwater* to provide water industry training advice to DET**

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***qldwater*** has recently signed a contract to provide advice on water industry vocational education and training related activities to the Queensland Department of Education and Training (DET). ***qldwater*** will work with the Department on an action plan that will guide the activities over the next nine months. The primary purpose of the role is to act as the conduit between industry and Government and provide relevant advice on the water industry training delivery in Queensland and to communicate to industry information on Government policy and funding programs.

The contract will be for an initial period of nine months after which all arrangements will be reviewed in light of the proposed establishment of Jobs Queensland.

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**2. Closure of Government Skills Australia (GSA) & NWDF Contracts**

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Government Skills Australia, the Industry Skills Council for the National Water Operations Training Package, will formally cease operations as of 31 December this year.

The Federal Government announced a new model for training product development earlier this year and new Skills Service Organisations (SSOs) will be set up to take on some of the roles of the previous Industry Skills Councils. Skills Service Organisations will support industry reference committees to engage with their industry sectors and will facilitate training product development under the guidance of the committees.

There have been no announcements as to who will take on the role of SSO for the water industry.

GSA is still in negotiations with the Government regarding the current National Workforce Development Funding (NWDF) contracts. All organisations delivering training under the NWDF have been advised that it is possible contracts may not be novated and are encouraged to complete training and submit claims as soon as possible.

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**3. Water Industry Skills Taskforce Meeting Communique**

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The Water Industry Skills Taskforce met in Brisbane on 9th December, a communique from the meeting is available [**here.**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_204015/Water_Industry_Skills_Taskforce_Communique_-_9_October_2015)

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**4. Queensland Water Skills Partnership Members for 2015/2016**

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There has been a very positive response from industry following our call for renewals and subscribers to the Water Skills Partnership for the 2015/2016 financial year. The Partnership has grown to 40 subscribers and welcomes the following new members;

* Gladstone Regional Council
* Douglas Shire Council
* Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council
* Maranoa Regional Council

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

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