**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #21**

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

**(Issue #21 – 17 June 2013)**

**1.        Queensland Urban Water Industry Workforce Composition Snapshot Report Published!**

**2.        New Water Skills Partnership Members**

**3.        Intro to Urban Water Industry online Course now available in HTML**

**4.        Wide Bay TAFE new offerings**

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**1.     Queensland Urban Water Industry Workforce Composition Snapshot Report Published!**

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***qldwater*** has recently published the *Queensland Water Industry Workforce Composition Snapshot Report* for 2012. A copy of the report is available on the ***qldwate***r website [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/skills_workforce_resources_and_publications). Hardcopy versions of the report will be posted to all ***qldwater*** and Water Skills Partnership Members.

This is the second such report published by ***qldwater***. The first Snapshot report, published in 2011 (2010 data) was very well received by industry and provided a good basis for negotiating government funding to help address the current and imminent skills shortages facing the industry, as well as provide an information baseline to support our participation in national water skills discussions. There has been more structural change in the industry and increasing workforce pressures since the last report and the 2012 Report has again helped highlight the areas in which to focus efforts to support our workforce.  This is of critical importance as the Queensland Government’s 30 year water strategy is developed.

***qldwater*** plan to publish a Snapshot report potentially every 2 years to monitor trends. We are aware that there are a number of other surveys/reports coordinated by national bodies, and conscious of the workload this creates.  Where possible, we intend to collaborate with other national bodies to streamline the data collection process to ensure efforts are not duplicated.  This is currently the Queensland water industry’s only substantial workforce data collection exercise, has clear objectives and is simple in structure.  We would again like to thank the organisations that participated by providing data other assistance and welcome feedback to improve the publication in future.

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**2.      New Water Skills Partnership Members 2013/2014**

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There has been a very positive response from industry following our May call for subscribers to the Water Skills Partnership for the 2013/2014 financial year.

We would like to welcome the following organisations as new financial subscribers to the partnership for 2013/2014.

* South Burnett Regional Council
* Barcaldine Regional Council
* Carpentaria Shire Council
* Gympie Regional Council
* Bundaberg Regional Council
* Winton Shire Council

Current members of the Water Skills Partnership who have already renewed their subscription for 2013/2014 include:

* Goondiwindi Regional Council
* North Burnett Regional Council
* Unitywater
* Richmond Regional Council
* Balonne Shire Council
* Hinchinbrook Regional Council
* Etheridge Shire Council
* Redlands City Council
* McKinlay Shire Council
* Charters Towers Regional Council
* Toowoomba Regional Council
* Logan City Council
* Sunwater

To subscribe to the Queensland Water Skills Partnership complete the subscription form your Council has received in the mail and email to [mhill@qldwater.com.au](mailto:mhill@qldwater.com.au) or contact us to receive a new subscription form.  An industry leaders group meeting will be scheduled in the new financial year to prioritise activities.

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**3.      Intro to Qld Water Industry online Course now available in HTML**

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Following up on feedback from members the *Introduction to the Urban Water Industry* online course is now available in HTML5 format via the ***qldwater*** website [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_Water_Industry_Induction).

The new format is compatible with all devices including smartphones and tablets as it is no longer Flash-dependent.  It will also be simpler to incorporate into existing Learning Management Systems and we encourage all service providers to consider adopting it as part of their induction packages.  Many existing staff have found it a useful tool – while it is currently challenging to keep up with the scale of change impacting the industry (through government changes and programs including red tape reduction), we are currently reviewing the information at least twice annually.

The online *Introduction to Qld Water Legislation course* will also be available in HTML format shortly.

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**4.      Wide Bay TAFE new offerings**

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Wide Bay TAFE has a number of recent additions to their online water industry courses, in response to industry feedback:

        Face to face short courses (NWP279 risk management ADWG and NWP364B perform laboratory operations),

        Scheduled Traineeship onsite support (within Wide Bay TAFE region and SE QLD), and

        Personal or group webinar tutorials or support sessions for remote learners, or

        Video-conferencing support or assessment.

Employers can also negotiate for a Wide Bay TAFE trainer to come to you to conduct onsite RPL or training, according to their needs.

Wide Bay TAFE’s new NWP50107 Diploma of Water program starts in July. Call 1300 656 188 to enrol.

***qldwater*** acts as an industry broker of training and education services through the Water Skills Partnership.  Our policy is to offer an information service for industry, including an open offer for training and education providers to advise capacity and contact details [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/skills_training_and_education).  We may, at our discretion, agree to include short notifications concerning new courses, changes of scope or delivery methods in these e-flashes, if we deem it to be in the interest of members to do so.

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**5.      The Queensland Government reform action plan for further education and training**

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The Queensland Government has released its five year action plan for reform of the state’s vocational education and training sector.

Initiatives under the plan include:

* Fee-free training for every year 12 graduate if they commence a course (in a high priority qualification) with a preferred training organisation within a year of leaving school.
* Providing all Queenslanders with access to a government subsidised training place up to and including their first certificate III level qualification under the Certificate 3 Guarantee.
* Introducing a new investment framework to provide clear information to the market on priority skills and funding arrangements.
* Investing an additional $86 million over six years to create an extra 10 000 apprentice and trainee commencements.

The full reform agenda will be implemented over the next five years.

Further information can be found on the Queensland Government website – <http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/government-responses/great-skills.html>

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

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