**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #32**

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

**(Issue #32 – 5 August 2014)**

**1.        Certification of Drinking Water Operators – Queensland Pilot**

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**1.     Certification of Drinking Water Operators – Queensland Pilot**

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The discussion draft of the business case to support operator certification in Queensland is now available for industry review [**here**](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_171860/Certification_Drinking_Water_Operator_Certification_Discussion_Paper_August_2014).

***qldwater*** has been working through the Water Skills Partnership and an industry steering committee to develop this document since October 2013.  Its main purpose is to provide a report on the Queensland Pilot program undertaken to test the national Certification Framework, to the national Water Industry Skills Taskforce and Department of Energy and Water Supply.

Given the importance of this initiative to the broader industry, we are releasing the document in draft for review.  The discussion draft is a cut-down version of the full document which includes an appendix with detailed costings.  This full document is available on request.

Should you have any queries about the approach or wish to offer feedback on the document, please contact Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au, 0407 761 991).  The deadline for feedback is Friday 29 August.

The work has been an agreed industry priority for some time and is also recognised in WaterQ.  The document presents a case for a complete state-wide roll out with commensurate costs – whether recommendations are accepted and any funding is made available to support implementation is still a matter for discussion with the state.  These negotiations will commence once the steering committee has reviewed industry feedback and the final business case is published.

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**2.     Exposure Draft of Modern Queensland Local Government Award Released**

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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) and has released an exposure draft of the *Queensland Local Government Award – 2014*, a copy is available [here.](http://www.qirc.qld.gov.au/resources/pdf/aawards/local_gov.pdf) The timeline for the modernisation of Local Government Awards (excluding Brisbane City Council) is 31 August 2014**.**

A separate *Water Distribution Entities Award* is also currently under development by the QIRC and further information on upcoming conferences etc. will  be provided once known.

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**3.      Queensland Water Industry Workforce Composition Snapshot Report – Data Collection**

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A number of emails have recently gone out to ***qldwater*** members and other industry organisations to initiate the data collection process for the third *Queensland Water Industry Workforce Composition Snapshot Report*, to be published late 2014. These Snapshot Reports are very well received by industry and provide a good basis for both securing government funding to help address the current and imminent skills shortages facing the industry, as well as participate effectively in the national dialogue. The intention is to publish these reports every 2 years to monitor trends. The 2012 Snapshot Report can be viewed on our website [– Queensland Urban Water Industry Workforce Composition Snapshot Report](http://www.qldwater.com.au/skills_workforce_resources_and_publications).

Organisations that have previously provided data will have received an email with the data provided for the 2012 report, so that this can be updated. All members of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership have also received the data collection spreadsheet and further details.

We are well aware that there are a number of other surveys/reports coordinated by national bodies, and conscious of the workload this creates. Whilst we have attempted to make arrangements to consolidate data collection processes with other bodies, this has not always proved possible. We will offer whatever assistance required to simplify the process, should you elect to participate.

If you did not receive the data collection spreadsheet, but would like to participate, please contact Michelle Hill on mhill@qldwater.com.au.

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**4.       Government Skills Australia (GSA) – Water Activities Update**

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**National Water Occupations Census**

Government Skills Australia (GSA) is conducting a National Water Occupations Census. The purpose of this census is to gather data on the number of staff working in various roles in the water industry and use this data to prepare a submission to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for inclusion of additional water industry occupation titles in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZCO). The ANZCO codes inform a number of Government reports in addition to playing a role in funding allocations and as such, it important that water industry roles are recognised. GSA is seeking volunteers to complete a simple survey to gather data on the number of staff in 28 water industry roles as defined in the National Water Occupations Framework. GSA will be sending the survey out directly. To participate in the data collection for this Census, please contact Sue Peisley from GSA on S.Peisley@govskills.com.au.

**National Water Training Package Review**

The Water Training Package (NWP07) describes the qualifications primarily required for water industry specific roles. GSA is currently developing a competency framework for inclusion into the NWP07. The framework defines the competencies for specific water industry roles and a model for training those roles. The competency framework is due for completion in 2014 but drafts are available for each projects section. In addition, the training package is undergoing a review in line with the new standards for training packages. [More information on NWP07 training package](https://www.governmentskills.com.au/water/25-water/99-water-training-package)

**GSA National Conference**

The 2014 Government Skills Australia (GSA) National Conference is being held on the 17th and 18th of November at the newly completed Adelaide Oval and is now open for Registrations.

Bringing together the government and community safety sectors to explore the future of skills and workforce development. The 2014 conference will be delivered over two days through interactive discussion, workshops and plenary sessions.

Online registrations available via: [www.cvent.com/d/m4q2c9/1Q](http://www.cvent.com/d/m4q2c9/1Q).

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**5.     Welcome to new Queensland Water Skills Partnership Members!**

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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 2014/2015 financial year. Welcome to the following 6 new subscribers to the Partnership for 2014/2015.

        Gladstone Area Water Board

        Wide Bay Water Corporation

        Cassowary Coast Regional Council

        Townsville City Council

        Barcoo Shire Council

There are currently 32 subscribers to the Queensland Water Skills Partnership. To get involved, contact Michelle Hill on mhill@qldwater.com.au.

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**6.      Water Industry Training Opportunities and Events**

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**Training Workshop - Media Filter, coagulation, flocculation and jar testing – 10th and 11th September (Mundubbera)**

North Burnett Regional Council are hosting a Media Filter, coagulation, flocculation and jar testing training workshop in Mundubbera in September presented by Peter Mosse PhD. This is a practical training workshop onsite at the Mundubbera water treatment plant. The cost is $650 for the full 2 day registration, or $150 just for the ½ day theory only. All attendees will receive two workbooks/manuals – Practical Guide to the Operation and Optimisation of Media Filters and Practical Guide to the Optimisation of Chemical Dosing, Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification. For further information or to register for the event (limited numbers) please contact Michelle Hill on mhill@qldwater.com.au

**Online Interactive Training Tools -  Water Sampling and Chlorination**

A project funded by the Department of Local Government and Planning in collaboration with James Cook University has developed two online interactive training tools for the water industry – water sampling and chlorination.

The training modules are based on an interactive and game-based virtual training platform. You can access the online courses here - <http://www.acutefutures.com.au/>.

**DelftX Water XSeries**

EdX offers interactive online classes from the world’s best universities. You can now register for the three courses that make up the Water XSeries: Water & Climate starts on August 26, Introduction to Drinking Water Treatment starts on October 28 and Introduction to the Treatment of Urban Sewage in January 2015. The last two courses cover the material of last year’s course “Introduction to Water Treatment”, but this year you can earn two, ID-verified, certificates. Further information - <https://www.edx.org/school/delftx>.

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

To **add your name** to the distribution list, email “subscribe” to skills@qldwater.com.au

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