

# Sean Hinton

BSc MIWM

**BLIGH  
TANNER**

## Associate Director



Sean is a scientist with over 15 years' experience in the water industry. For most of his career Sean has worked for large water utilities, primarily in technical specialist and managerial roles. Sean's expertise is in water treatment, water chemistry and microbiology, public health risk assessment, water quality policy and guidelines, and legislative compliance.

Sean is an accredited auditor with Exemplar Global certification, as well as under South Australia's Safe Drinking Water Act 2011, and the NSW IPART Technical Services and Water Licencing Audit Panel. Sean's effectiveness as an auditor is strengthened by having worked both in industry, and in the Queensland Water Regulator's office.

Sean's background allows him to work effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, from Water Operator level (e.g. investigating process performance), up to Councillor and Board level (e.g. presenting on water safety risks and legislative obligations). He is an effective communicator, regularly facilitating risk assessment and training workshops for key clients, and has presented at a number of Australian Water Association conferences.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- + Water Treatment
- + Water quality management plan development
- + Risk assessment & facilitation of workshops
- + Disinfection management/conversion projects
- + Recycled water
- + Water quality monitoring
- + Development of operational procedures
- + Data analysis
- + Laboratory management
- + Audit and review

### QUALIFICATIONS

- + Master of IWM, University of Queensland
- + BSc, Griffith University
- + Cert II Water Industry Operations, Simmonds & Bristow
- + Exemplar Global qualified Drinking and Recycled Water Quality Management Systems Lead Auditor

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Key Project Experience

- + 'Water Matters' Total Water Cycle Management Plan - Unitywater
- + Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Support 2017-2024 - Gladstone Regional Council (**ongoing**)
- + Wamuran Recycled Water Irrigation Scheme - Unitywater
- + Drinking Water Management System Support for NSW Water Utilities - NSW Health
- + Drought Management Plan - Gympie Regional Council
- + Drinking Water Catchment Sanitary Surveys - Tamworth Regional Council
- + South Bank Pools Water Quality Management Plan - South Bank Corporation
- + Noosa North Shore Campground - Water Supply and Wastewater Options Study - Noosa Shire Council
- + Ultrafiltration Process Review - Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council

- + Gaseous Chlorine Facilities: Operations and Maintenance Manuals - Central Tablelands Water
- + Petrie Water Supply Upgrade - Unitywater
- + Agnes Water Desalination Plant: Multimedia Filtration Process Review - Gladstone Regional Council
- + LNG Processing Facility Water Risk Management Plan - Santos
- + Integrated Environmental Management System and Recycled Water Management Plan - Mount Isa City Council
- + Agnes Water Desalination Plant: Multimedia Filtration Process Review - Gladstone Regional Council

#### Drinking and/or Recycled Water Management Plans, Risk Assessments, and/or CCP Development

- + Unitywater
- + Gladstone Regional Council
- + Gympie Regional Council
- + Southern Downs Regional Council
- + Mount Isa City Council
- + Moree Plains Shire Council
- + Murweh Shire Council
- + Paroo Shire Council
- + Bulloo Shire Council

#### Water Quality Management System Regulatory Audits

- + Logan City Council
- + Queensland Urban Utilities (Gatton Recycled Water Scheme)
- + Flinders Shire Council
- + Quilpie Shire Council
- + Outback Regional Water Alliance (Barcaldine, Barcoo, Blackall Tambo, Boulia, Diamantina, Longreach, Winton)
- + McKinlay Shire Council
- + Murweh Shire Council (Charleville Recycled Water Scheme)
- + Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council

**Operational Procedure Development**

- + Southern Downs Regional Council
- + Gympie Regional Council
- + Mount Isa City Council
- + Tamworth Regional Council
- + Glen Innes Severn Council

**Other Project Experience**

- + Water Distribution System Operations & Maintenance Manuals - Mount Isa City Council
- + South Caboolture Dual Reticulation System Decommissioning Options - Unitywater
- + Recreational Water Risk Review - Gold Coast Wake Park
- + Regulatory Engagement Strategy for Maroochy Sun Central Recycled Water Scheme - Unitywater
- + Integrated Water Features Site Risk Management Plans - Logan City Council

**Training and Awareness Workshops**

- + Logan City Council (Sanitary Work Practices / "Aquacard")
- + Southern Downs Regional Council (DWQMP overview and obligations)
- + Gympie Regional Council (Sanitary Work Practices)
- + Gladstone Regional Council (Drinking Water Risk Management, Incident Reporting)

**AFFILIATIONS**

- + Member, Australian Water Association
- + Technical Panellist, Great Barrier Reef Foundation Reef Trust Partnership Technical Panel

**PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- + Lawrence, M. & Hinton, S. (2021) Back to the Future: Decentralised Alternative Water Supplies: A Case Study of Innovation vs. Regulation, Paper presented at Ozwater 2021, Adelaide, SA.
- + Hinton, S., Hamlyn-Harris, D. & Lawrence, M. (2020) Decentralised Alternative Water Supplies: Catchy Names Don't Guarantee Success, Paper presented at the Water New Zealand Conference 2020, Hamilton, New Zealand.
- + Lawrence, M. & Hinton, S. (2018) When is it time to act? Should we learn from others' mistakes?, Paper presented at the Australian Water Association Regional Conference QWater 2018, Cairns, QLD.
- + Lawrence, M. & Hinton, S. (2017) Health based targets, risk assessment, and the difficulty of communicating future options, Paper presented at the Australian Water Association Regional Conference QWater 2017, Mackay, QLD.
- + Hinton, S. & Palipana, S. (2016) Applying developing world technologies to a developed world: Inline chlorine tablet dosing system, Paper presented at the Australian Water Association Regional Conference QWater 2016, Tweed Heads, NSW.
- + Janke, B., Hinton, S. & McBride, S. (2015) Management challenges for drinking water breakpoint chlorination in SEQ, Paper presented at the Water Industry Operators Association Conference 2015, Toowoomba, QLD.
- + Hinton, S. (2014) How to increase confidence in drinking water safety: the benefits of dedicated sampling points, Paper presented at the Australian Water Association Regional Conference QWater 2014, Surfers Paradise, QLD.
- + McBride, S. & Hinton, S. (2013) Breakpoint conversion to free chlorine in a SEQ drinking water network: approach and management, Paper presented at the Australian Water Association Regional Conference QWater 2013, Twin Waters, QLD.

**CAREER PROFILE**

- + 2021 - Present  
Associate Director  
Bligh Tanner, Brisbane
- + 2018 - 2021  
Principal Scientist  
Bligh Tanner, Brisbane
- + 2017 - 2018  
Senior Scientist  
Bligh Tanner, Brisbane
- + 2016 - 2017  
Scientific Services Manager  
Unitywater, Caboolture
- + 2011 - 2015  
Water Quality Specialist  
Unitywater, Caboolture
- + 2011  
Senior Project Officer  
Dept. of Energy & Water Supply,  
Brisbane
- + 2009 - 2011  
Product Quality Technical Officer  
Gold Coast Water, Nerang
- + 2008 - 2009  
Laboratory Chemistry Supervisor  
Simmonds & Bristow, Brisbane
- + 2006 - 2008  
Graduate Scientist  
Simmonds & Bristow, Brisbane