**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #66**

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

**(Issue #66 – 23 May 2018)**

1. Your feedback invited about Skilling and Training
2. National Water Training Package Qualification Reviews
3. WIOA Queensland Conference – Logan, 6-7 June

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1. **Your feedback invited about Skilling and Training**

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***qldwater*** has been invited through our existing contract with the Queensland Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) to provide advice to Jobs Queensland about the likely skilling and training needs for the water industry for the next three to five years.

We have engaged with members of the Water Skills Partnership Group to gather input and referred to data published in previous ***qldwater*** [Workforce Composition Snapshot Reports](https://www.qldwater.com.au/Skills_Workforce_Resources_and_Publications). A draft report has been submitted to Jobs Queensland but we are keen for additional input to inform our final report. We know the industry faces a number of workforce challenges, particularly an ageing workforce, increasing technological advancements, legislative reform, issues attracting and retaining staff and competition from other industries and we invite your input about those.

Your response to the following questions would be most helpful in informing our recommendations:

* What issues do you face recruiting and retaining staff?
* Are there any demographic or regional factors impacting your workforce?
* What skills will be needed for the workforce of the future?
* How will digital disruption impact your workforce?
* Do you experience any issues with training and skilling?
* Could you suggest any possible strategies to support you in overcoming workforce challenges?

Please reply to this email with your responses or you can [complete our quick online survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HV2PGSY). **We would appreciate as much input as possible and will have a prize draw from all responses received by COB Tuesday 29 May**.

Contact [Carlie Sargent](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au) on 3632 6853 for more information.

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1. **National Water Training Package Qualification Reviews**

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The Australian Industry and Skills Committee has approved for reviews to be carried out of the following qualifications from the National Water Training Package:

* NWP20115 Certificate II in Water Industry Operations
* NWP30215 Certificate III in Water Industry Operations
* NWP30315 Certificate III in Water Industry Treatment

A Technical Advisory Committee will be set up to provide input to the review. ***qldwater*** will be represented on the TAC and will also submit nominations for other TAC members (noting that a limited number from Queensland are likely to be accepted). If anyone is interested in being on the TAC or being included on an email distribution list to provide feedback as opportunities arise please contact [Carlie Sargent](mailto:csargent@qldwater.com.au).

The Water Industry Reference Committee (Water IRC) is also developing “Skill Sets” for inclusion in the National Water Training Package. A Skill Set is a group of units of competency, rather than a full qualification and it is expected there will be around eight, grouping common water or wastewater/ recycled water processes.

***qldwater*** maintains a position on the Water IRC and is providing input to the development of the Skill Sets. It is expected they will be ready for review in August and available in early 2019. Once established, the Skill Sets will allow us to negotiate with the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training to establish funding support. This will be advantageous in the ongoing growth of the Operator Certification programs.

As part of the review of the Diploma of Water Industry Operations, “Hydrography Surveying” has been approved for inclusion as a new occupational stream. ***qldwater*** recently hosted a briefing to RTOs so they can be ready to deliver the revised Diploma when the review is completed, likely to be later this year or early 2019.

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1. **WIOA Queensland Conference - Logan, 6-7 June**

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We invite you and your operators to join ***qldwater*** in attending the [Water Industry Operators Association of Queensland Conference](http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld/) (WIOA) to be held in Logan on 6-7 June.

***qldwater*** is again heavily involved in the event which will feature a great trade display and range of presentations as well as the Water of Origin Taste Test and Game 1 on the big screen. There’s also the Live Mains Tapping competition and presentation to winners of the ***qldwater*** sponsored Queensland Young Operator of the Year and Operator of the Year (Civil/Allrounder) awards.

There is an excellent technical program including David Brooker’s keynote on Aligning Organisational Strategy and Operational Performance – a similar theme to his great presentation at our Skills Forum in February and ***qldwater's*** David Scheltinga & Lutra’s Maseina Koneferenisi’s presentation on our partnership to develop dashboards functionality for SWIMLocal and other Lutra products.

We encourage you to consider nominating some of your operators to attend and come and say hi to the ***qldwater*** team at booth number 31 (with some prizes on offer of course)!

For more information or to register visit the conference website: <http://wioaconferences.org.au/qld/>.

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

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