**Queensland Water Skills e-Flash #69**

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

**(Issue #69 – 16 August 2018)**

1. Join us for the ***qldwater*** Annual Forum
2. Valuing Operator Competency – your input requested
3. Diploma of Water Industry Operations
4. Industry Skills Forums

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1. **Join us for the *qldwater* Annual Forum**

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This is your last chance to register at the discounted early-bird rate for the 2018 ***qldwater*** [Annual Forum](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-annual-forum-2018/annual-forum/Agenda) to be held on the Gold Coast, 5-6 September. The event is a great opportunity to network with 80-100 water industry professionals from across 30 or more councils/utilities and to hear from regulators and decision makers.

The forum starts on Wednesday 5 September with a technical tour of key Commonwealth Games sites and continues with the statewide [Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test](https://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Taste_Test) where delegates will have the opportunity to try water from around the state and decide on which sample will proceed to compete in the 2019 national taste test, and water of origin competition (and potentially further). The afternoon will include presentations from our generous hosts, City of Gold Coast, before the optional forum dinner in the evening.

Thursday 6 September will deliver a number of keynote and innovative presentations including a presentation by Associate Commissioner John Madden about the National Water Reform Inquiry Report. The focus of the day is on creating an environment that enables innovation and trialing new ideas to deliver the most efficient and cost-effective outcomes for customers. You can [view the full program online](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-annual-forum-2018/annual-forum/Agenda).

Earlybird registrations close tomorrow so [register online now](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qldwater-annual-forum-2018/forum-register/Site/Register) or contact Diana Kislitsyna on 3632 6850 or enquiry@qldwater.com.au for assistance with your registration. Further discounts apply for bookings of three or more delegates from one organisation.

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1. **Valuing Operator Competency – your input requested**

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***qldwater*** is providing input to a research project by Water Research Australia to better understand the value gained from Operator Certification and investment in programs to develop, support and continually grow operator competency. The outcomes of this study will provide useful input for the Water Skills Partnership to explore how best to overcome challenges associated with investment in skilling and training of operators.

The researchers are keen to gather broad input and invite you to complete a short survey (approximately 10 minutes):[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JKVTR3**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2JKVTR3)

Please take the time to respond, or alternatively, please forward this email to a colleague who is involved with frontline operator training and competency. If any of your operational services are managed by a third party it would be appreciated if you could forward this email with the link to the appropriate contact.

***qldwater*** will share the outcomes as the project progresses. Please contact Carlie Sargent on csargent@qldwater.com.au if you have any queries about the research or survey.

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1. **Diploma of Water Industry Operations**

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The review of the Diploma of Water Industry Operations is almost complete following a final meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) yesterday. All feedback from industry has been considered and the final draft will be considered by the Water Industry Reference Committee at its meeting next week. It’s expected the Diploma will be available for enrolments in early 2019.

Thanks to Brad Milfull of Logan City Council who has participated in the TAC for what has been a very lengthy review process and continued to represent the interests of the Queensland water industry. For more information about water industry training please contact Carlie Sargent on csargent@qldwater.com.au or 3632 6853.

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1. **Industry Skills Forums**

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Australian Industry Standards is hosting Industry Skills Forums across the country to explore current and future skills needs in the age of digital transformation.

The forum will be held in Brisbane on Tuesday 18 September and is open to anyone who is interested in participating. The forum will include industry-specific breakout sessions with an opportunity to discuss the challenges and possible solutions to skill shortages.

Please [register online](https://www.futureskilling.org.au/register/).

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