**Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*)** ***e-*flash**

**Information for Water Industry Managers and Practitioners in the Queensland Water Industry**

**(Issue #104 – 6 January 2011)**

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1.       Flood Response

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Efforts to address issues arising from the floods have dominated much of the attention of the affected water industry and the State Government over the past weeks. The size of area affected varies depending on the source but includes Barcaldine, Central Highlands to Rockhampton south to Balonne, Goondiwindi and Western Downs (see e.g. <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1459177/UNSW-Satellite-images>) and the impacts have been acknowledged around the world (see <http://statements.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=73197>). More rain and delayed flood peaks are still expected in some towns. For the urban water industry the critical issues are an immediate response to maintaining (or in some cases recovering) infrastructure providing essential water and wastewater services, and the long-term recovery measures which will be slow and expensive.

The Queensland Government has been highly responsive to the flood crisis and has been supported strongly by LGAQ. A special Flood Recovery Cabinet Committee has been created with two groups reporting to it, namely the new Flood Recovery Taskforce (led by Major General Mick Slater) and the State Disaster Management Group. Further working groups will be established under this structure including the coordination of local disaster recovery committees chaired by the Deputy Premier. More information on this process will be provided as soon as possible.

Some councils are seeking assistance and many organisations are offering help, but this is best directed through coordinated approaches such as:

* Further general information is available online at [www.qld.gov.au/floods](http://www.qld.gov.au/floods).
* Assistance for councils affected by the floods from other local governments is being coordinated by LGAQ (contact Michael Dickinson at mailto:Michael\_Dickinson@lgaq.asn.au for more information).
* The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Queensland Division has offered to collate requests for assistance and offers of support from members nationally (contact Suzanna Barnes Gillard at sbarnes-gillard@ipweaq.asn.au for further information).
* The most likely form of assistance that will help the communities in need are donations to the Premier’s Flood Appeal which will be administered by the Red Cross. Donations can be made at most major banks, or via [www.qld.gov.au/floods](http://www.qld.gov.au/floods) or by phoning 1800 219 028. Please remember that the donation of goods is generally discouraged as it tends to cause more problems than it solves.
* Natural Disaster Relief & Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) are at the top of mind of many councils impacted by the flooding as they are the key mechanisms for gaining financial support from the Queensland & Australian Governments. Further information is available in the NDRRA section of LGOnline (<http://www.lgaq.asn.au/web/guest>).

For further information or assistance please contact Rob Fearon on 0428 300 208.

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2.       WSAA Sub-Metering Code of Practice

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The National Framework for Urban Water Metering was jointly developed by the National Measurement Institute and Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) and published on 27 May 2010. The Framework defines why the urban water industry should meter and a number of ‘codes of practice’ under the framework will define what needs to be addressed in each of the key urban water areas of responsibility. The first code to be developed is the Sub-Metering Code of Practice, the first draft of which is now available for public review and feedback.

Sub-metering is extensively used in multi-occupancy developments such as Strata Title and Community Title. A national Code will provide high level and consistent requirements for the practical application and use of sub-metering and its adoption may have significant impact on the design requirements for internal water services and metering within these types of developments.

This may impact Queensland Service Providers in particular because of legislation that came into effect in January 2008 (see e-Flash 41) that required sub-meters for most multi-unit developments (i.e. high rises, gated communities, shopping centres). At this time a ***qldwater*** technical policy was developed (available to members at [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=28&Itemid=81) under downloads/templates and guidelines). This document has been provided to WSAA for information as many members may have developed internal sub-metering policies using this document as a foundation.

WSAA are inviting feedback from water industry stakeholders to review the draft national code (see [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=185&Itemid=34) /main menu/water issues) particularly with respect to

possible impacts on local regulations and council policy. Comments can be returned on the associated template directly to Mike Busetti, WSAA’s Metering Program Manager at mike.Busetti@wsaa.asn.au. Alternatively, responses forwarded to ***qldwater*** (hgold@qldwater.com.au) will be incorporated into a general industry response if received by **Friday 11th February**.  If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Mike on 0419 875 763 or Rob Fearon (0428 300 208).

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3.       New Handbook Encourages Water Sensitive Cities

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The Department of Environment and Resource Management has released the Toward a Water Sensitive Future handbook to assist urban planners and water managers to adopt a holistic and sustainable approach to managing urban water in their communities.

The handbook provides a stepped process for developing innovative solutions to urban water challenges based on three fundamental, integrated components:

* diverse sources of supply
* healthy waterways and ecosystems
* informed and supportive communities.

The handbook includes case studies, many from Queensland communities, which demonstrate what can be achieved on different scales and how challenges have been overcome.

Expanded versions and more detailed analyses of the case studies are available in a companion publication—Sustainable Water Management for Cities Research Report.

The handbook and report can be accessed from the department’s website at [www.derm.qld.gov.au/waterwise](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/waterwise).

If you have any queries on any of the above please contact ***qldwater*** on 07 3252 4701.

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