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

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

**(Issue #193 - 22 February 2013)**

1. **30 Year Strategy Discussion Paper Forums**
2. **Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test SEQ Final – We Have a Winner!**

**3.   Online Library of National, State and Regional / Local Standard Drawings**

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**1.   30 Year Strategy Discussion Paper Forums**

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As part of the public consultation process on the *Queensland water sector: a 30 year strategy discussion paper*, the Department of Energy and Water Supply are conducting a series of forums.

The aim of the forums is to provide information on the discussion paper and to encourage discussion on the proposed water sector vision, discussion paper themes and on the way forward.

If you would like to be attend one of the below forums please register your interest by emailing waterstrategy@dews.qld.gov.au. Responses are required by the RSVP due dates mentioned below.

Forum details are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Date and Time** | **RSVP** |
| **Mount Isa** | Tuesday 05 March 2013Time: (TBC) | 26 February 2013 |
| **Mackay** | Thursday 07 March 2013Time: 10am – 1.00pm | 28 February 2013 |
| **Brisbane** | Monday 25 March 2013Time: 9.00am – 12.00pm | 08 March 2013 |
| **Brisbane** | Wednesday 27 March 2013Time: 10.30am – 1.30pm | 08 March 2013 |

For further information on the forums please visit the Department of Energy and Water Supply’s website at [www.dews.qld.gov.au](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au)

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**2.   Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test SEQ Final – We Have a Winner!**

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Two weeks ago the town was under water, but yesterday Bundaberg’s Lover’s Walk Scheme was selected as the best tasting tap water in the South East Queensland regional final of the Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test.

The competition was judged by conference attendees as part of the Queensland Water Directorate’s water connections tour, and kindly hosted by Gympie Regional Council.

Utilities that battled it out in the first semi-final included Bundaberg Regional Council, Gympie Regional Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Unitywater and Wide Bay Water/ Fraser Coast Regional Council.

***qldwater*** CEO Dave Cameron said he was pleased that utilities from a number flood-affected communities had still been able to enter samples in the test.

“There was only a whisker between each of the top rated samples from Bundaberg, Maroochy, Monto and Gympie supplies but I thought all of the samples were up there. This year we took a different approach with over 30 people participating in the test itself.  The result is a great reflection of the pride that all of the entering organisations take in providing a quality product to their communities 24/7, especially following the devastation in the region this year,” Mr Cameron said.

The event provided an opportunity for South East Queensland Water Service Providers to share water management information, and ways of responding to flood events proved to be a strong theme.

“The experience councils like Gympie have in dealing with flood events is invaluable and our members’ willingness to share these experiences is a core strength of our industry.  Congratulations to Bundaberg and thanks again to all of our sponsors and speakers for the event,” Mr Cameron said.

Other Regional Conferences and Taste Tests this year include Toowoomba on 17/18 April (SWQ), Townsville on 3 May (NQ), Cooktown on 15 May (FNQ), Longreach on 27 June (WQ) and Rockhampton on 1 August (CQ).   For more information please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Taste_Test>.

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**3.   Online Library of National, State and Regional / Local Standard Drawings**

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IPWEA State Divisions and AUS-SPEC recently held the inaugural meeting of the IPWEA Standard Drawings Strategic Committee to undertake a project to offer a set of industry peer-reviewed Standard Drawings that link into the AUS-SPEC/NATSPEC specifications.

The aim is to grow the source of drawings available to members and industry and will provide three levels of drawings:  National, State, and Regional/Local (the ones that only apply to a particular Council or region).

Assistance is needed to gather as many drawings as possible from across Australia.   Visit the [IPWEA Standard Drawings website](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/eselect/52871)  and follow the prompts to submit your drawings (in PDF format). There are several categories under which to upload your drawings including Roads, Drainage, Water, Sewer, Environmental, General and Landscaping.

The closing date for the upload of drawings is 4 April 2013.   The aim of this initiative is to imbed the IPWEA Standard Drawings into planning policies in Councils across Australia through the inclusion into AUS-SPEC/NATSPEC.  For further details or more information, please contact Suzanna Barnes-Gillard at IPWEAQ on 07 3632 6810 or email SBarnes-Gillard@ipweaq.asn.au.

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