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

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

**(Issue #236 – 5 August 2014)**

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**1.   New Regulatory Framework for Sewage Pumping Stations**

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Regulation to avoid environmental impacts of overflows from pumping stations has been in place since 2009 and the industry has been working with the State regulator since then to design fit-for-purpose rules to mitigate overflows and avoid environmental harm. Significant changes have been made to the rules over the past few years (see <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Default.aspx?PageID=6945688&A=SearchResult&SearchID=36612301&ObjectID=6945688&ObjectType=1> ), and the industry is currently transitioning from rigid and sometimes unachievable ‘Standard Conditions’ to a more outcome-focussed Industry Code of Practice (CoP). This change was suggested by the Regulator itself (see eFlash#222 <http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=159003>) and extensive consultation in the first half of 2014 resulted in an overwhelming response from the urban water industry to transition to a Code of Practice.

***qldwater*** is now forming a steering group under the existing ERA 63 Expert Panel to provide advice and review development of the new CoP working collaboratively with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Several councils raised concerns during the consultation period the need for an outcomes-based approach that reflects needs of a wide range of communities of different size. The steering group will ensure perspectives of different service providers will be reflected in the final document.

More information on Codes of Practice is available on the ***qldwater*** website at <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Default.aspx?PageID=6945688&A=SearchResult&SearchID=36612301&ObjectID=6945688&ObjectType=1> ) and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection provides an information sheet (<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/era/developing-codes-of-practice-em1121.pdf>) and template (<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/era/code-of-practice-template-em1050.doc> ).

There will be a number of opportunities for industry members to provide input to the new CoP as it is developed over the next six months. Progress will be summarised on the ***qldwater*** web page and through regular eFlashes inviting industry feedback on draft versions of the document. In addition, all members are able to provide nominations for the expert panel developing the Code.  If you wish to provide comments or nominate to be involved in the development process, please contact enquiry@qldwater.com.au or ring Rob Fearon on 0428 300 208.

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**2.   *qldwater* WQ Regional Conference/ Taste Test Final Program – Mount Isa 21 August**

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Registrations are open for the Western Queensland Water Conference and the Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test being held in Mount Isa on Thursday 21 August.  This conference is being hosted by Mount Isa City Regional Council and is sponsored by Orica Australia and SPEL Environmental.

There is a great line-up of speakers presenting on topics of interest in the region and this promises to be a valuable networking event for our members.  The final program is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2014_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_WQ_Mount_Isa).

Don’t forget to bring a water sample and enter the Best of the Best Water Taste Test!    The taste test is open to Barcaldine Regional Council, Barcoo Shire Council, Blackall-Tambo Regional Council, Boulia Shire Council, Burke Shire Council, Cloncurry Shire Council, Croydon Shire Council, Diamantina Shire Council, Etheridge Shire Council, Flinders Shire Council, Longreach Regional Council, McKinlay Shire Council, Mornington Shire Council, Mount Isa City Council, Richmond Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

Sponsorships are still available for this conference.  Please contact Heather Gold (hgold@qldwater.com.au or 3632 6850) for more information.

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**3.   Water and Sewerage Advisory Group: Expressions of Interest**

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LGAQ are seeking expressions of interest from experienced professionals and elected members with interest and involvement in water and sewerage infrastructure issues to become a member of the Water and Sewerage Advisory Group.

Members of the group will provide advice about policy development and prioritisation of advocacy efforts for work involving water and sewerage issues undertaken by the Advocacy team.  Applicants with sound practice and expertise in water and sewerage infrastructure issues related policy are encouraged to apply.

The Water Sewerage Advisory Group (WSAG) will be made up of between 8 and 12 members representing a spread of geographical locations, a range of council size and capacity, a mixture of elected members and council officers, and input from professional industry bodies where appropriate.  The Chair will be drawn from the Group and will be established by consensus for a term of 12 months.

The Group will meet at least three times a year, with meetings to be held in Brisbane or at other locations by consensus.  Out-of-session communications will occur as needed, typically through teleconferencing or email. A Terms of Reference for the Group will be finalised at the first meeting.

Members of the Group will be required to cover their own travel and related expenses.  A small subsidy may be provided in exceptional cases at the discretion of the LGAQ's General Manager - Advocacy, Greg Hoffman.
 **Background**
Advisory Groups generally consist of a balanced representation of local government councillors, local government officers and representatives of relevant professional associations.  The principal role of Advisory Groups is to facilitate the identification of issues to be considered, provide technical advice (where relevant) and ensure direct local government input into the policy development process.  The WSAG is replacing the Strategic Water Reference Group, and previous members of the former group are asked to reapply if interested.
 **Applications and further information**
Interested parties are requested to submit a covering letter outlining their interest and a brief resume via email to Arron Hieatt, Senior Advisor - Water and Sewerage Infrastructure by **COB Friday, 29 August 2014**.  Please note, any questions about the group should be addressed to Simone Talbot, Manager - Advocacy on 1300 542 700.

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**4.   Water Approval Process – QUU Information Sessions – Brisbane August 6**

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On 1 July Queensland Urban Utilities became the assessment manager responsible for the water and sewerage aspects of development in its service territory across the Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and Somerset local government areas.

QUU have extended a invitation for Development Industry customers to attend an Information Session on the new Water Approval Process this Wednesday August 6.

Queensland Urban Utilities is running these sessions in response to queries from industry following the introduction of the Water Approval Process on 1 July 2014. Further sessions will be running later in August and September.

The sessions will consist of a brief presentation followed by Q&As on the end-to-end Water Approval Process including:

* How to lodge a connection application for a Water Approval
* Suggestions on how to coordinate the Water Approval Process with your development assessment and plumbing applications
* The new development assessment process.

**LOCATION Queensland Urban Utilities**

15 Green Square Close, Fortitude Valley

Registration – Level 2

(Car parking is available at Secure Parking – Valley Metro, Alfred St, Fortitude Valley)

**DATE Wednesday, 6 August 2014**

Session 1 8:00 - 9:00am

Session 2 9:30 - 10:30am

Session 3 11:00am -12:00

Further queries and RSVPs should be directed to Anna Scott at Queensland Urban Utilities on 07 3855 6651 or anna.scott@urbanutilities.com.au

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**5.   Local Buy – Engineering Consultancy Services Contract**

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Local Buy is refreshing the Engineering Consultancy Services Contract (BUS 226-0212).

If you are aware of Engineering Consultants who would add value to this Local Buy arrangement, please advise them of this request for tender.

Current Suppliers will not need to respond, unless they wish to increase the number of engineering categories in which they are registered.

The Request for Tender notice was advertised on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 online at LG Tenderbox, and also in the Courier Mail, and regional newspapers in Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Toowoomba.

Tender documentation will be available for downloading from 9.00am on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 at [www.lgtenderbox.com.au](http://www.lgtenderbox.com.au) – follow the URL link to access  APET 360PRO**.**

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEST Tuesday, 26th August 2014.

No Pre-Tender Briefing sessions will be held for this Request for Tender.  Tenderers should contact Pat McCormack at Local Buy pmccormack@localbuy.net.au  if they require further information.

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**6.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**QPS Counter Terrorism Newsletter/ Forecast**

A new newsletter/forecast from the QPS Counter Terrorism group is available on the website in the secure members section at <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism>. You must log in to access this document.

For further information please contact the QPS at Counter.Terrorism@police.qld.gov.au.

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