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

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

**(Issue #238 - 27 August 2014)**

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**2.   Water Supply Services Legislation Act 2014 – Clarification of Changes**

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**1.   Expert panel to help deliver on the *WaterQ* vision for Queensland**

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Some of Australia’s leading water experts will work together to help deliver the vision of *WaterQ*: *a 30-year strategy for Queensland’s water sector*.  ***qldwater*** is pleased to have direct involvement in delivering the *WaterQ* mission, with Rob Fearon being appointed as a member of the panel.

Announcing the make-up of the promised Water Expert Panel last week, Water Supply Minister Mark McArdle said the panel would develop a 100 day plan outlining ways in which innovation, research and development could benefit families, businesses, industry and farmers across Queensland.

“In working to achieve this vision the expert panel will challenge the accepted norms by questioning what we already do and why we do it,” Mr McArdle said. “The expert panel’s work will be about identifying on-the-ground solutions to help strengthen and grow the water sector,” he said.

Information on *WaterQ* is available at [www.dews.qld.gov.au](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au) or by phoning 13 QGOV (13 7468).

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**2.   Water Supply Services Legislation Act 2014 – Clarification of Changes**

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LGAQ has received several enquiries from members concerning changes made to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 as part of the Water Supply Services Legislation Act 2014 which took effect in May.  In particular there has been some confusion over sections 138 including the removal of section 139 and section 140.

Section 138 refers to guidelines for rate notice or account for supply of water to residential properties. Inadvertently as a result of changes in government departments, with the Department of Energy and Water Supply now having overall responsibility for the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2000 the guidelines were removed from their web site.

Currently these guidelines are being updated by the department, but in the interim councils are advised to use the following version of these guidelines:

* [Guidelines for issuing a rate notice or account for the supply of water to residential premises](http://www.lgaq.asn.au/documents/10136/98699/Guideline_rate_notices_DEHFINAL%2011%202%2010.pdf) (For water service providers outside south-east Queensland or a designation region)
* [Residential water bills](http://www.lgaq.asn.au/documents/10136/98699/Residential%20water%20Billing%20info%20sheet_130710.pdf) (Information for water service providers who deliver a retail service outside south east Queensland (SEQ))

For further clarity concerning actual billing and separate water notices

* s138 applies only to the actual bill – rates notice or separate water account – and doesn't require information at the time of meter reading.
* S140 applies only to actual bills or accounts for sub-metered premises - and has the effect that the provider should read and report on each meter in the bill – not via a separate meter reading notice.

Further information concerning the reforms is available on the Department of Energy and Water Supplies [website](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au/policies-initiatives/water-sector-reform/regulatory-reform) or by [contacting](http://www.dews.qld.gov.au/our-department/contact-us) the Department on 13 74 68.

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**3.   Trility joins *qldwater* as Affiliate Member**

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Trility has also become the first private company to join ***qldwater*** as an Affiliate Member from August 2014.   ***qldwater*** CEO Dave Cameron thanked Trility for its support.

“The membership and sponsorship from Trility reflects their growing involvement in our initiatives including events and skills programs.  While our focus has and will always remain on our core members, private sector financial support and strategic engagement are crucial to maintaining services in a challenging funding environment,” Mr Cameron said.

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

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* WSAA Member Alert #1 - **Real Loss Component Analysis WRF Report.**  A new [Asset Management announcement](https://members.wsaa.asn.au/AssetManagement/Lists/AM%20Announcements) has been added to the WSAAsite.​In anticipation of water loss control becoming a higher priority for utilities, WRF [project #4372](http://enews.waterrfnews.org/q/u1GNyR339tF-3zscK1jQ-aYIe3Yvwph5r7_xc7uemlh1EIOG4q9DQvwTG) aims to help the water community design efficient and sustainable real water loss control programs. This project is now complete and includes a research report, two excel based tools, and a Webcast summarizing the results and providing users a live demonstration of one of the tools.
* WSAA Member Alert #2 – Mechanical, Electrical and SCADA enthusiasts should register their attendance at the MES9 Network Meeting in Melbourne on 11 and 12 September.  The theme is Maintenance Efficiency and more information is available [here](http://www.eventgate.com.au/Event/1444/MES-Workshop-9).

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