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

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

**(Issue #247 – 19 December 2014)**

**1. Amendments to the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation**

**2. Updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**

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**1. Amendments to the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation**

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A few weeks ago a ***qldwater*** member advised of a concern with a reference to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 in SPER which appeared to be incorrect.  When we raised the matter with DEWS, we were advised that it was an error and a result of amendments made earlier this year to the WS (S&R) Act.  SPER has now been amended  - details [here](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/SLS/2014/14SL323.pdf).

The issue relates to service provider water restrictions and the penalties for breaching those restrictions.  SPER provides for 3 penalty units for a standard fine, and defers to higher maximum penalties (S43 of the WS (S&R) Act) in the event the matter is dealt with by a court.

For practical purposes, any members with written policies which deal with restrictions and penalties may need to update those policies as a result of the amendment.  Where references have been made to SPER Schedule 1 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act S43(3), the reference needs to be changed to S43(5).

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**2. Updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has released an update to the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines as part of its rolling revision of the guidelines. The recent update includes revised chemical Fact Sheets on chloral hydrate, monochloramine and chlorine.

Further information is available on the [NHMRC website](http://nhmrccommunications.cmail1.com/t/r-l-cdkuhdk-iiukjhlijy-t/).

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