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

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

**(Issue #251 - 17 February 2015)**

1. **New Ministers Announced**

**2.   STP operator certification discussion paper – member feedback welcome**

1. **“Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Workshop” with Steve Hrudey - SOLD OUT!**
2. **QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**1.   New Ministers Announced**

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Many will already have seen Premier Palaszczuk’s announcement of the new Cabinet over the weekend, but the full ministry list is available [here](http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2015/2/15/queenslands-new-cabinet-focusses-on-jobs) for those who haven’t.  LGAQ will be making representations to the new government and ***qldwater*** will attend briefings with relevant departments as opportunities arise.

While there have not been major changes to portfolios (some exceptions including separation of “training and skills” from “education”) the new government has followed through with its pre-election commitment to significantly reduce the size of the ministry leading to some unusual groupings or responsibility.  The new Minister for Energy and Water Supply, Mark Bailey MP, is also responsible for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports.

[Other media reports](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/palaszczuk-says-new-cabinet-is-the-best-possible-team-for-queensland-20150215-13ffno.html) note the appointment of a new Director General for the Department of Premier and Cabinet and advise that other Directors General will re-apply for their positions and be selected based on merit.

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**2.   STP operator certification discussion paper – member feedback welcome**

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In April 2014, the Queensland Water Skills Partnership Industry Leaders Group (ILG) identified the investigation of options for a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Operator certification framework as a priority activity.  This builds on the work to date in contributing to the development and testing of a draft national framework for drinking water operations published in 2012.  Put simply, the STP Operator certification framework seeks to set minimum standards for training, education and professional development for various industry roles with a view to improving consistency, portability of skills, access to professional development and career paths for these critical staff.  It will help employers manage risks around their environmental duty with greater confidence.

[This discussion document](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_185943/STP_operator_certification_discussion_paper_-_feedback_welcome) represents the result of industry meetings to set parameters for a framework, critically consider how to classify the operation of treatment systems (both complexity and risk) and map job requirements to available training and education.

The Water Skills Partnership now seeks initial feedback from, industry, training providers and regulators on this discussion paper by Friday 13 March 2015.  ***qldwater*** will then aim to:

* use the results to develop a draft framework document (published end-March);
* seek final industry feedback on the draft;
* present a final draft for review and approval by the Water Skills Partnership’s Industry Leaders Group in May 2015, with the document to be formally published shortly thereafter.  Part of the reason for this projected final publication date is the review of the National Water Training Package – a new version with significant changes is being drafted, its content is important to be referenced in this document, however it is unlikely to be finalised before mid-2015.

There are no current plans to develop a national approach however there is interest from other States.  Once completed, the final framework will be presented as an industry-developed standard, with recognition sought from the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.  It has been developed to be as simple as possible - with the clear expectation that it will be adopted on a voluntary basis and should under no circumstances be referenced in a regulatory context.

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**3.  “Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Workshop” with Steve Hrudey - SOLD OUT!**

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The “Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Workshop” with Steve Hrudey coming up this Friday is now fully booked.  Apologies, no further registrations will be accepted.

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

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* IPWEA are conducting Levels of Service & Community Engagement Workshops in Brisbane on 25 February and Cairns on 26 February aimed towards asset professionals, engineers, technical officers and community engagement practitioners.   For more information please [click here.](http://www.ipwea.org/Go.aspx?MicrositeGroupTypeRouteDesignKey=c650931e-6904-464d-80cc-2c48df735859&NavigationKey=4a81131a-c200-4b74-b6f1-660e8455d9f8%23sthash.g1VzCUPa.dpuf %20)

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