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

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

**(Issue #259 -  3 June 2015)**

**1.   Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill meter installation provisions pass WITH AMENDMENTS**

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**3.   WQ Water Taste Test - Barcaldine 15 June**

**4.   Training Workshop & NQ Water Taste Test – Ingham 23 June**

**5.   IPWEA Queensland Excellence Awards 2015**

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**1.   Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill meter installation provisions pass WITH AMENDMENTS**

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The proposed changes to meter installation legislation passed parliament last night.  The transcript is available [here](https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/hansard/2015/2015_06_02_DAILY.pdf).  The matter received direct attention in yesterday’s Courier Mail.

Parliament heard from the Treasurer, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and unusually all representatives of the Finance and Administration Committee (the word “meter” appears 132 times in the transcript).  The government has continued to justify its position on the basis that the amendments which now see licensed plumbers installing meters will remove any risk to public health and safety posed by unlicensed installers.  The concerns about access to plumbers in regional and remote locations prosecuted by LGAQ have essentially been disregarded citing public safety as the primary concern overriding any other arguments.  Numerous inaccuracies were re-presented, along with some new – for example the assumption that all customer complaints relating to meters are due to installation, rather than other failures or general maintenance issues.

The ***qldwater*** submission to the Committee which included our position paper drafted in February was quoted on numerous occasions, in particular the paragraph:

*“The policy objective clearly supports the re-establishment of a protected market for plumbers for work which is more appropriately managed by water service providers. It has been developed under the false premise of improvement to public safety. By adopting this position, the Queensland Government is ignoring industry best practice in Australia and internationally.”*

LGAQ representations were also frequently quoted.

Towards the end of proceedings, Mr Knuth from the Katter Australia Party proposed an amendment to the 2 year transition period to 18 months.  This amendment was accepted:

(PITT) *“Those opposite need to understand that this is not just one view of one particular organisation; there are several views. They have made it very clear that they think the transition period is excessive. They anticipate that it should take no longer than six months to transition to an apprenticeship. We had a period of two years. We are happy to look at 18 months, and we will review that when the time arises. We will support the amendment.”*

In summary:

* We believe that from that time of assent (likely a couple of weeks), the transitionary period kicks in, meaning that service providers have 18 months to adjust practices so that licensed plumbers or enrolled apprentices operating under supervision are installing new meters.
* Maintenance and replacement of meters will be able to be performed by authorised persons who may include appropriately trained service provider staff, licensed plumbers or enrolled apprentices operating under supervision, depending on the service provider’s established practice.

For further information contact Dave Cameron, dcameron@qldwater.com.au, 0407761991.

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**2.   SWIM (your required annual water and sewerage data reporting) training reminder**

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This year ***qldwater*** will be transitioning to a new database method of uploading your annual water and sewerage data (called SWIM*Annual*). This change is occurring with the introduction of the new DEWS Key Performance Indicators this year, so we will be holding several free SWIM training sessions around the State. SWIM training days have now been confirmed for:

1.       Monday 15th June, Barcaldine (including Water Taste Test, see below)

2.       Monday 22nd June, Cloncurry

3.       Tuesday 23rd June, Brisbane

4.       Monday 29th June, Mackay

5.       Tuesday 30th June, Townsville

6.       Wednesday 1st July, Cairns

7.       Monday 6th July, Rockhampton

8.       Tuesday 7th July, Biloela

9.       Wednesday 8th July, Maryborough

10.   Monday 13th July, Roma

11.   Tuesday 14th July, Goondiwindi

If you would like to attend one of these days please contact David via email: dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au. If you would like to attend SWIM training but cannot make any of the above sessions please let David know and we will try and work out something for you.

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**3.   WQ Water  Taste Test – Barcaldine 15 June**

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The SWIM Training day to be held in Barcaldine on Monday 15 June will also include the WQ Final of the Best of the Best Water Taste Test.

Western Queensland water service providers eligible to enter the taste test are: 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.

Simply fill in the [entry form](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_187374/2015_Taste_Test_Entry_Form) and bring your sample along on the day. If you are not planning to attend the SWIM Training, but would like to enter a water sample to the taste test you can do so by arranging for 2 litres of your best drinking water to be delivered to the venue at 71 Ash Street, Barcaldine  Qld  4725.

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**4.   Training Workshop & NQ Water Taste Test – Ingham 23 June**

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***qldwater*** with Hinchinbrook Shire Council are holdingThe *Water Quality Awareness and Distribution System Management* training workshop in Ingham on Tuesday 23 June.   The workshop is presented by Peter Mosse (PhD) and the Water Industry Operators Association (WIOA) and over the last few years has a gained a great reputation.  It is a mature, practical training program targeted at all staff who play a role in distribution/ reticulation.

The workshop is also host to the North Queensland Final of the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test.  Water service providers in the north eligible to enter the taste test are: Burdekin Shire Council, Charters Towers Regional Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Mackay Regional Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Townsville Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council.

Simply fill in the [entry form](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_187374/2015_Taste_Test_Entry_Form) and bring your sample along on the day. If you are not planning to attend the training workshop but would like to enter a water sample to the taste test you can do so by arranging for 2 litres of your best drinking water to be delivered to the Tyto Precinct Conference Centre, 73-75 McIlwraith Street, Ingham by 9.00am on 23 June.

Registration to the workshop is $125.00 (GST Inclusive), 10% discount available for members of the Queensland Water Skills Partnership.

Further details and the registration form are available on our website [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water-quality-awareness-workshop).  If you would like further information, please contact me.

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**5.   IPWEA Queensland Excellence Awards 2015**

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Members are the eyes and ears of IPWEA Queensland - you know what’s happening in your local area and who is delivering great outcomes for your community, so we want your ideas of People or Projects that should be considered for the IPWEA Queensland Excellence Awards.

Visit the IPWEAQ website at [www.ipwea.org/queensland/excellenceawards](http://www.ipwea.org/queensland/excellenceawards) for details about the Award categories and to submit a nomination. For every suggestion you put forward, you’ll go into the draw to win a half-price registration to the State Conference in Mackay!

Nominations close at 5pm on **20 July 2015.** All queries are welcome to Carlie Sargent on 07 3632 6801 or CSargent@ipweaq.asn.au.

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