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

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

**(Issue #266 – 31 July 2015)**

**1**.   **Library of past Queensland Government Guidelines on *qldwater* Website**

**2.**   **SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test – Gold Coast 20 August**

**3.**   **The Lowdown on Grants for 2015**

**4.   Appointment of DGs Endorsed by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk**

**5.   Rainwater Harvesting and Backflow Prevention Consultation Documents**

**6.   Quick links – associated organisations events and announcements**

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**1**.   **Library of Past Queensland Government Guidelines on *qldwater* Website**

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***qldwater*** has for some time collected useful documents to host on our web site and we have recently added to the list a number of past regulatory guidelines and templates to support the development of internal asset management and other plans.

These documents have all been clearly marked as redundant.  We are grateful to the staff of the Water Planning and Regulation Division of DEWS who have sourced them for us.  Over time, we will build a better structure for the library by theme.

The new additions include all Total Management Plan documents, Guidelines for preparing a Drought Management Plan, System Leakage Management Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plan and Outdoor Water Use Conservation Plans. Further information together with these documents is here:   <http://www.qldwater.com.au/legislation_overview_2014>

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**2.**   **SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test – Gold Coast 20 August**

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A reminder that SEQ Conference and Water Taste Test being held at the Gold Coast on Thursday 20 August.   **Registrations close soon - please register to ensure your attendance.**

The conference is being hosted by City of Gold Coast and Smart Water Research Centre.  The sponsors for this event are Royce Water Technologies, Bilfinger Water Technologies and Hach Pacific.  This full day event will be a great opportunity to network with your peers, hear some technical presentations and participate in an excellent tour of the Gold Coast light rail project and its impacts on water and sewerage infrastructure, organised by Gold Coast Water.

The SEQ final of the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test will take place over lunch with the winner announced that afternoon.  There will be presentations and a workshop session around the theme of IT systems, challenges and different approaches.  The conference will be followed by an optional dinner at the Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club at Broadbeach.

The full conference program and registration form with further details is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2015_Water_Taste_Test_and_Conference_SEQ).

All ***qldwater*** regional conferences are supported by Dial Before You Dig.

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**3.**   **The Lowdown on Grants for 2015**

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The Local Government Association of Queensland have provided information on their website on applying for Grants for 2015. Grants are available for Environment, Community, Infrastructure, Roads and Transport and Disaster Management.

For information and links to access the information, visit the LGAQ website - <http://lgaq.asn.au/grants>

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**4.**   **Appointment of DGs Endorsed by Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk**

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Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk recently endorsed the recommendations of the independent recruitment panel on the appointment of a further six Directors-General.

The Directors-General appointed were:
• Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships: Clare O’Connor
• Department of State Development: Michael Schaumburg
• Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Beth Woods
• Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing: Tamara O’Shea
• Department of Natural Resources and Mines: James Purtill
• Department of Environment and Heritage Protection: Jon Black

**Jon** Black will continue in his role as Director-General, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, a role he has held since September 2013.  Prior to this, Jon led the Department of Energy and Water Supply.  We congratulate Jon and look forward to continuing our work with him in the future.

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**5.   Rainwater Harvesting and Backflow Prevention Consultation Documents**

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The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) is a Council of Australian Governments standards writing body that is responsible for the National Construction Code, which comprises the Building Code of Australia and the Plumbing Code of Australia.

The ABCB “Rainwater Harvesting and Reuse”, and “Backflow Prevention” consultation papers are the first and second in a series produced as part of the Board’s Plumb​ing Code Development Research Project. They are now available for comment on the ABCB website.  See: <http://www.abcb.gov.au/work-program/Plumbing%20Code%20Development%20and%20Research.aspx>

The Rainwater Harvesting and Reuse consultation paper draws upon current public policy, regulations and technical guidance publications relevant to rainwater harvesting and reuse in Australia, and is intended to inform any future deliberations with regard to identifying the possible need for a national approach.   The Backflow Prevention consultation paper is the outcome of research into existing requirements and provides recommendations for backflow prevention.

Feedback on both papers can be provided to hgold@qldwater.com.au  before COB on 14 August 2015.    ***qldwater*** will establish whether it will provide a full submission based on member feedback or advice to WSAA or others in support of theirs.  We are keen to ensure that the protections in the proposed code for backflow prevention into utility networks are adequate based on your experience.  While it is a technical publication, it is likely worth reinforcing that the power to mandate rainwater tanks should not be exercised without appropriate consultation with local communities.

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

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* The Australian Water Association and Arup have partnered to undertake a national survey of domestic water to ensure that Australia has a sustainable water future, available here - [www.australianwatersurvey.com.au](http://www.australianwatersurvey.com.au/).  The survey closes on 28 August. Results will be presented at the AWA [Policy Summit](http://www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294980288) on 7 October in Melbourne and will give an indication of what educational initiatives are needed to educate the public about the status of water in Australia.

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