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

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

**(Issue #282 -  24 March 2016)**

**1.**   **Operator of the Year Awards – Nominations now open!**

**2.   SEQ Conference & Technical Tour – Hervey Bay 13 & 14 April – Register Now!**

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

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**1.**   **Operator of the Year Awards – Nominations now open!**

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Nominations are now open for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards.  These awards will again recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry.   The award winners will be announced at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference Awards Night at the CQ University Sports Centre in Rockhampton on Thursday 2 June 2016.  The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.    Applications close on **1 May.**

The two categories available for nomination are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
	2. Operator of the Year Civil/All Rounder

The **Queensland Young Operator of the Year** winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group New Zealand conference in May 2017 and an individual trophy.

The **Operator of the Year (Civil / All Rounder)** winner will receive up to $1500 towards professional development opportunities such as attendance at other WIOA conferences, ***qldwater*** training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring councils and an individual trophy.

It’s easy to nominate - please visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.   More information on the Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition is available here:  <http://www.wioaconferences.org.au/qld.htm>

The awards aim to encourage outstanding operational performance of Queensland water industry employees, and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.   All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.

The WIOA Conference also hosts the Ixom Water of Origin final, where our Queensland Water Taste Test winner Barcaldine Regional Council takes on the New South Wales finalist (to be decided).    Queensland has beaten NSW for two years in a row with water from Richmond and Bundaberg beating NSW winners Orange and Bega Valley respectively.  This year’s Water of Origin winner then will go on the Australian Best Tasting Tap Water competition where the winning water has the opportunity to compete in the International Water Tasting competition to be held in the USA next year.

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**2.   SEQ Conference & Technical Tour – Hervey Bay 13 & 14 April – Register Now!**

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The SEQ Conference and Technical Tour is being held at beautiful Hervey Bay on 13 and 14 April 2016. Registrations close on 1 April - don’t miss out!

On Wednesday 13 April, Wide Bay Water Corporation is hosting a great Technical Tour showcasing their operation of the full lifecycle of assets. The tour will be visiting Lenthalls Dam in the catchment, Burgowan Water Treatment Plant, Nikenbah Wastewater Treatment Plant and Hebblewhite Reuse Farm.  Places on the tour are limited, please register promptly to secure your spot. The technical tour will be followed by an optional 2 course dinner and drinks, supported by Wide Bay Water Corporation.

The full day conference event on Thursday 14 April will be a great opportunity to network with your peers and hear some excellent technical presentations.   The Principal Sponsor for this event is Engineers Plus with supporting sponsorship by Bilfinger, Lonza Water Technologies, Royce Water Technologies and SPEL Environmental.  We would like to thank all sponsors for helping make this event possible.   Again in 2016, Dial Before You Dig are sponsoring our Water Connections Tour which includes regional events and Water Connections Week and IXOM are sponsoring the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test which includes support for all regional events.

Registrations received after 5 April, will incur a late fee of $50. The full conference program and registration form with further details is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2016_SEQ_Conference_Hervey_Bay).

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

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The Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy Branch of the Queensland Police Service builds communication networks with the Queensland water industry by providing information and guidance on counter terrorism issues and supports liaison with other Queensland and Commonwealth agencies in relation to emergency management. The latest information is available on our website <https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/Counter-terrorism>.

Members must log in first to access this information.

Please note these documents are provided on a confidential basis for ***qldwater*** member use only.

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