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

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

**(Issue #327 – 17 July 2017)**

**1.   *qldwater* Annual Forum program and call for registrations**

**2.   Draft Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy 2017**

**3.   Proposed changes to Federal Telecommunications Legislation submission**

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**1.   *qldwater* Annual Forum program and call for registrations**

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While we are still finalising some details, we are pleased to announce that the detailed Annual Forum (“no pain, no gain”) program is available now [here](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/annual-forum-2017/annual-forum/Agenda).  The Forum is in Brisbane on 6/7 September and we have secured a series of excellent speakers and workshop topics.

Highlights include:

-        The historical tour of some of Brisbane’s sewerage infrastructure

-        The Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test

-        The inaugural “Vendor Pitch” session

-        Keynotes from the energy sector and Isle Utilities

-        Strong participation in DEWS and DEHP sessions including presentations from each Director General

Thanks once again to our event sponsors Aqseptance, Lonza and Royce.  There are plenty of sponsorship opportunities available; contact Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au) if you are interested in supporting this event which is likely to attract around 100 delegates including representatives from over 20 Queensland utilities.

Earlybird [registrations](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/annual-forum-2017/annual-forum/ExtraContent/ContentPage?page=1) close on 25 August.  There will be a one bus limit placed on the numbers able to attend the tour on the morning of 6 September, so get in early to avoid disappointment.

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**2.   Draft Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy 2017**

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The [Draft Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/water/monitoring/documents/draft-point-source-water-quality-offsets-policy.pdf) is an update of the 2014 policy called *Flexible options for managing point source emissions: A voluntary market-based mechanism for nutrient management*. The purpose of the policy is to offer an alternative investment option for regulated point source operators to manage their water emission requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, while improving water quality.

As per eflash #313, ***qldwater*** provided an initial submission at the request of the department and it appears that some of the requests relayed from members have been adopted in the draft.  Members are welcome (and encouraged) to submit a response on the draft policy, with details available [here](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/water/monitoring/point-source-water-quality-offsets/index.html).  Consultation closes on 30 September.

***qldwater*** will collate an industry-wide submission with input from members, particularly our ERA 63 reference group.  Should you wish to participate in this process, please contact Rob Fearon (rfearon@qldwater.com.au).  The last day to receive this input will be 15 September.

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**3.   Proposed changes to Federal Telecommunications Legislation submission**

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The federal government has released a series of “possible amendments to telecommunications carriers powers and immunities.”

<https://www.communications.gov.au/have-your-say/consultation-possible-amendments-telecommunications-carrier-powers-and-immunities>

This information has been forwarded to various key ***qldwater*** reference groups and a copy of our submission, which has been lodged today, is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=233152).

The proposed changes appear to have been written to strengthen telecommunications providers’ ability to install additional and larger equipment on existing sites, and reduce required notification times.  There is limited consideration of the impacts on maintaining safe drinking water supplies and worker safety.  The recently released 3rd Party Infrastructure on Water Supply Reservoir Guidelines (Volumes [1](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_229899/3rd_Party_Infrastructure_on_Water_Supply_Reservoir_Guidelines_Volume_1) and [2](http://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_229901/3rd_Party_Infrastructure_on_Water_Supply_Reservoirs_Guidelines_Volume_2)) will be appended to the submission.

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