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

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

**(Issue #333 – 20 September 2017)**

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**1.   Highlights from the *qldwater* Annual Forum 6-7 September**

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It was a big week and impossible to thank everyone who contributed in a short e-flash, but we will follow up with future articles on specific subjects.

* Around 90 people attended the forum over two days; thanks once again to Royce Water Technologies, Lonza, Aqseptence Group, Water Research Australia and Hydramet for their support of the event, along with Ixom and Dial Before You Dig.
* QUU’s excellent tour of Brisbane’s water and sewerage infrastructure was well received with the Spring Hill Reservoir and Eagle Farm Pump Station highlights.  Ken Vaheesan’s presentation at the pump station illustrated just how critical a piece of infrastructure it is, and Col Hester’s seemingly infinite knowledge of the history of the region made for another great session.  We were thrilled to see Col awarded AWA’s Water Professional of the Year on the Friday evening.
* The Vendor Showcase was a bit of fun and has given us some good ideas for next year, with thanks to Aqseptence, Antec and Royce Water Technologies.  Congratulations to Rod Wellings from Royce for taking out the prize for the best pitch; we will work with Rod to develop some articles to promote the range of technologies Royce offers for the sector.
* Livingstone Shire Council was a popular winner for the Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test, just pipping the Tugun desalination plant sample.
* Keynote presentations from the Boston Consulting Group and Isle Utilities did a great job of provoking thought on industry continuous improvement and reform.  Chris Andrews from Ventia helped steer participants through the challenges of automated metering solutions, while Damian Batstone did a great job of presenting a range of innovative solutions for resource recovery, supported by the economic analysis on which were most likely to be viable.
* Both DEWS and DEHP contributed significantly to the regulator sessions (as well as other reference group meetings during the week) and our member representatives provided a number of “beefy” case studies to simulate discussion.  The most commended presentations included Greg Hoffman’s analysis of ratepayer surveys and how to elevate the profile of water and sewerage to improve investment, and Andrew Connor’s handling of the challenging “collateral damage” topic.
* Both Geoff Rintoul and Nathan Litzow demonstrated that they were worthy recipients of the QWRCIP scholarships.  Kudos to QUU, Logan and City of Gold Coast for making people available to help with their professional development at a challenging time of year.
* While we acknowledge our management of question time following panel discussions can be improved, the workshop session over drinks designed to provoke some thought around some of the financial sustainability and asset management challenges for the sector was spirited and interesting.

Visit our Annual Forum [webpage](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2017_Annual_Forum) to view photographs and the presentations provided on the day (members must log in to access the presentations).  A separate log in will be sent to the Forum attendees.

On behalf of the ***qldwater*** Technical Reference Group, thanks again to all who were able to make the time to participate.  The group met on the Friday and we have more than enough topics for workshops and other events in 2018, including an expanded DEHP discussion, future governance of the sector, buried infrastructure and the infrastructure “cliff,” automated metering and system leakage as well as cybersecurity.  Discussions have commenced with City of Gold Coast in hosting our 2018 forum to look at W&S challenges arising from hosting the Commonwealth Games… if they’ve recovered by then.

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**2.   Sewerage and Water Environmental Advisory Panel**

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The ***qldwater*** ERA 63 Expert Group which has been meeting regularly for several years to provide advice on environmental management and regulation of STPs and sewage pump stations has been formalised as an Advisory Panel for ***qldwater***. The group, renamed the Sewerage and Water Environmental Advisory Panel (SWEAP) has formed a Terms of Reference and elected a Chair (Mark Vis, Tablelands Regional Council) and Deputy Chair (Cameron Jackson, QUU).

The group will hold two meetings in Brisbane each year with interim teleconferences as needed. It has regular representation from four SEQ service providers, several Great Barrier Reef councils and service providers from regional Queensland.

At their recent meeting, the SWEAP discussed a range of issues including presentations from the compliance and policy sections of DEHP, and from DSITI. The following topics were discussed:

* clarification of EHP compliance processes including use of TEPs,
* standard conditions for sewage pumping stations and the Code of Practice (see below)
* proposed EHP changes to End of Waste Codes and waste-related ERAs,
* the new EHP water quality offsets policy,
* Great Barrier Reef water quality policy development,
* chlorine discharge requirements,
* review of the EHP Monitoring and Sampling Manual.

For further information on any of these issues or the SWEAP group, contact Rob Fearon (rfearon@qldwater.com.au, 0428 300 208).

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**3.   Gladstone Water and Wastewater Interest Day**

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***qldwater***,in conjunction with Gladstone Regional Council is hosting a Water and Wastewater Interest Day in Gladstone on Wednesday 29 November.   The Interest Day will provide an opportunity for water and wastewater managers, engineers, supervisors and operators to get together to share information and successes experienced by Central Queensland Councils.    The program for the day runs from 8.30 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. and includes breakfast, morning tea, harbour cruise and lunch.

Registration for the Water Interest Day is complimentary, with the costs being covered by sponsors.   We are seeking further sponsors to help support this event with sponsors being offered the opportunity for positive brand recognition and direct, informal exposure to decision makers in local government.

More information on the event including sponsorship opportunities is available in the events section of our [website](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Events), or by contacting Lindsay Stafford on (07) 4970 0700 or WaterEnquiries@gladstone.qld.gov.au.

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**4.   Draft Report to National Water Reform Inquiry**

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The Productivity Commission has released its draft report for the National Water Reform Inquiry which is available for public consultation and input. Members are encouraged to consider an individual written response to the Commission by Thursday 19 October or to raise issues for consideration in ***qldwater’s*** submission to Dave Cameron or Rob Fearon by Monday 9 October.

The draft, as expected, seeks to continue national reform in the urban water sector, includes a focus on economic regulation and challenges facing regional and remote service providers.

The final report is expected to be handed to the Australian Government by 31 December.  A [public hearing](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform/public-hearings) will be held in Brisbane on 19 October.

The draft report and information on making a submission is available here: <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/water-reform/draft>

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**5.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS ANNOUCEMENTS**

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* The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) issues a bi-monthly update on standards and codes.  The most recent newsletter is available [here](http://waterservicesassociationofaustralia.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/j/69462604E1D22AAE2540EF23F30FEDED/51F1D31EE3B5A5E762AF25ACF5E3F0AC).  It includes Standards Australia committee updates, technical notes out for consultation and progress on the development of codes.  A reminder, members of ***qldwater***​ with less than 20,000 water supply connections are entitled to a 50% discount on WSAA codes.
* The WIOA Queensland Advisory Group will be holding a Water Interest Day in Cairns on October 6, which will include an optional Trility – Barefoot Bowls for Charity networking opportunity that will be held in the in the afternoon. WIOA members and their guests are invited to enjoy this networking opportunity and a relaxed game of bowls.  Further information is available on the [WIOA website](http://wioa.org.au/event/fnq-water-interest-day-charity-bowls/).
* The Queensland Police Service has released its latest Industry Advisory Bulletin which is now available in the members area of our [website](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism).  The information contained in the QPS documents may be viewed and circulated internally, however it should not be provided to the public / media or forwarded to external third parties.  Members must log in first to access this document.

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