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

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

**(Issue #369 – 13 September 2018)**

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**1.   Australian Water Association Awards**

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One of our busiest weeks of the year was finished off with the AWA Gala Dinner on 7 September and recognition through two awards.  Despite a few historical finalists, this is actually the first time the Directorate has been successful in winning an award.

The [**Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program**](https://twitter.com/AustralianWater/status/1038020348195889152) received the Program Innovation – over 250,000 users award, nominated through the program sponsor, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.  In accepting, David Wiskar, Executive Director Policy acknowledged the efforts of LGAQ and ***qldwater*** and all contributing councils and staff in championing regional collaboration for the sector.

[QWRAP](https://www.qldwater.com.au/QWRAP) has been in place since 2011 and with thanks to the sustained efforts of LGAQ and participating councils, has received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy for a further four years commencing 1 July 2018.  The grant provides financial support for only the five most mature regions which has created uncertainty about the future of efforts being built in North and Central Queensland, and growing interest in North-West Queensland.  ***qldwater*** will continue to support activities in these locations and advocate for inclusion in the broader program.

The ongoing funding was supported in part by an independent review of the QWRAP by Deloitte Access Economics. The review concluded that “QWRAP represents a potentially effective mechanism to develop regional economies of scale to realise the four dimensions of water security, reliability of supply, water quality and appropriate water pricing.”  It suggested that benefits from the program to date are likely to range from $1.9 million to $4.0 million, but also noted significant data gaps in benefit data suggesting a much higher return on investment.

**Dr Rob Fearon** was recognised with the AWA Regional Service Award acknowledging his pivotal role with QWRAP, along with many years additional service to the sector.

Starting with ***qldwater*** in 2006 as CEO and now as Director, Innovation Partnerships, Rob’s enthusiasm for promoting and developing the industry are well known and demonstrated by his support for programs and projects which ultimately improve the capacity of our members.  His strategic foresight, technical understanding, and policy and government experience are core to the success of the Directorate.

Rob was keen to share the success with our team, and key stakeholders including our TRG, members and the LGAQ.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients and nominees, including ***qldwater*** member organisations which featured in 8 of the 10 awards.

The list of winners and a photo are available [here](http://www.awa.asn.au/AWA_MBRR/Publications/Latest_News/Queensland_kicks_off_the_water_award_season.aspx).  Rob managed to miss the photo being distracted by a call of nature followed by someone serving beer.  [This one](https://twitter.com/AustralianWater/status/1038020348195889152) was prepared earlier, and thanks to Arron Hieatt for organising [this one](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DmfPj5VU8AAQkrK.jpg).

Check out our [blog post](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/awa-awards) for more information about the awards.

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**2.  *qldwater* Annual Forum Wrap**

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The Annual Forum held on 5 – 6 September at the Gold Coast Turf Club had a great turnout, bringing together around 100 water industry professionals representing a wide range of councils, utilities, industry and government agencies. Feedback has been really positive with a number of constructive suggestions to make the 2019 event even better.  Key suggestions which have been reinforced by TRG include guides for presenters, some break-out sessions on particular technical topics, and better media management.

Congratulations to Mackay Regional Council which won the 2018 Ixom Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test, just managing to oust the 2017 winners, Livingstone Shire Council. We received some good media coverage, including this clip on [9 News Gold Coast](https://twitter.com/9NewsGoldCoast/status/1037305786467155968).  Check out the [qldwaterontap Twitter page](https://twitter.com/qldwaterontap) and our [blog](https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/2018-BOTB) for a few more media pics and information.

Further congratulations to Rob Dexter from DCM Process Control who narrowly pipped Rod Wellings for the most favoured vendor pitch.  We will work with Rob on some promotion for his company as part of the prize.

Thanks in particular to our hosts, City of Gold Coast, event sponsors Royce Water Technologies and Tracwater as well as longstanding taste test and Water Connections Tour sponsors Ixom and Dial Before You Dig, and scholarship recipient hosts Unitywater, QUU, and Logan City Council/ Logan Water Infrastructure Alliance.

There were no prizes for the best presentation, but based on the feedback forms, Kris Pardoe-Matthews’ talk entitled “Planning, implementation and execution of CoGC's water quality management strategy for the Commonwealth Games period” would have been hard to beat.

We’ve posted some photos of the event at <https://qldwater.smugmug.com/>

Most invited guests to this event get something out of it as well but there are a few we’d specifically like to acknowledge in the more “public” eflash environment – our two dinner speakers from Lion Beer – Ian Roberts and Gary Faulkner, but also two councillors – Cr David Schefe from Maranoa travelling for the day to participate in a spirited sector investment panel session, and Cr Anne Maddern from Fraser Coast who has gone above and beyond to gather opinions and represent our member’s interests around biosolids and the proposed End of Waste Code.

Presentations will be available within the next week or so with an email notification to delegates once they are on the web site.

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**3.  Public Health Regulation 2018**

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The Public Health Regulation 2005 has been remade as the [Public Health Regulation 2018](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/sl-2018-0117). The 2018 Regulation commenced on 1 September 2018.  The amendments “should not result in any day to day operational changes for drinking water service providers despite the 2018 Regulation looking quite different.”

The Queensland Health Water Unit has prepared two summaries of the changes relating to [drinking](https://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_243929/Drinking_Water_Provisions_PH_Reg_2018) and [recycled water](https://www.qldwater.com.au/_literature_243930/Recycled_Water_Provisions_PH_Reg_2018) provisions.

The recycled water summary notes that Queensland Health has recommenced work on the guideline proposed for recycled water schemes that do not require a RWMP.

If you have any questions please contact the Water Unit via the [waterquality@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:waterquality@health.qld.gov.au) email account.

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**4.   QUICK LINKS – ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**1. WIOA Webinar –Biosolids and residuals beneficial reuse**

WIOA invites members to join us for a technical webinar on the War on Waste – Biosolids and residuals beneficial reuse

In this month’s webinar we will talk about the challenges water utilities face in dealing with biosolids and water treatment residuals. Historically these have been considered a waste product of treatment with a significant cost impost due to storage, handling and disposal. However, this need not be to case. In our “War on Waste” webinar this month our speakers will cover local, national and international perspectives on the beneficial reuse of biosolids and residuals. They will talk about development of national and international quality standards for biosolids, as well as how to work with state regulatory frameworks to promote positive uses and avoid landfilling.

**DETAILS**

Date: September 17

Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

VENUE Online

For more information contact Kathy Northcott ([kathy@wioa.org.au](mailto:kathy@wioa.org.au))

Or go to the webpage to register: <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/wioatalkswow/>

**2.  WaterAid Trivia Night**

WaterAid supporters from across the water industry and further afield will once again ‘get their geek on’ and battle it out to take home the coveted WaterAid Trivia Trophy, and to help raise funds for those in need, helping people in developing communities gain access to a toilet, safe water and sanitation.

**WaterAid Trivia Night will be held at The Fox Hotel, South Brisbane on Friday 9th November, from 6pm - 9pm.**

[**Register your team of 8 here**](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wateraid-trivia-night-tickets-49683582934) and get ready for a fun night of trivia, networking and fundraising! Your ticket also includes delicious canapés and access to a private bar.

There are also a number of sponsorship opportunities available.

**Learn more about WaterAid, and the impact you can make at:**[**https://www.wateraid.org/au/what-we-do**](https://www.wateraid.org/au/what-we-do)