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

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

**(Issue #278 – January 2016)**

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**1.   Welcome to 2016**

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Greetings to all members and stakeholders – wishing you the best for a successful 2016.

We are mostly back on deck except for Heather who is fighting a recurring infection and may be off work for a further 4-6 weeks.  Please direct any inquiries to Dave Cameron or Michelle Hill.

Our first Technical Reference Group meeting will be held towards the end of February reviewing quite a few discussion papers, fact sheets and other project outputs.  We are working through web site changes now which will see a number of redundant pages removed, a general refresh and hopefully soon a new compiled resource library which will make it easier to find ***qldwater*** documents along with templates and other sample resources from members, and other useful materials we’ve been able to gather.  This includes select tender and other documentation advertised by members through LG Tender Box and QTenders – while these original sites retain a list of historical tenders, the documentation is not generally available and we will continue to gather, categorise and monitor use for a trial period.

Here are a couple of activities coming up, with more to be advised in future e-flashes:

-        DEWS (Water Supply Regulation) has convened its reference group to review mandatory KPIs and how they are reported.  The group will meet for the first time in mid-February.  We are also working through a number of SWIM enhancements.

-        The Advanced Water Management Centre at the University of Queensland is holding an Urban Water Forum in Brisbane on 25 February.  Details are available at <http://www.awmc.uq.edu.au/brisbane-urban-water-forum>.

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**2.   *qldwater* Events and Sponsors**

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We are pleased to announce initial details of our 2016 event program.  Keep an eye on the web site at <http://www.qldwater.com.au/events> for updates as they become available.

Important dates to note:

13-14 April – ***qldwater*** mini-conference in Hervey Bay hosted by Wide Bay Water Corporation

16-20 May – ***qldwater*** Water Connections Week – visiting Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island, Burdekin, Whitsunday and Mackay.

20 July – ***qldwater*** mini-conference in Townsville hosted by Townsville City Council (preceding the AWA North Queensland conference)

11 August – ***qldwater*** mini-conference in Emerald, hosted by Central Highlands Regional Council

14-15 September – ***qldwater*** state-wide taste test, infrastructure tour hosted by Seqwater and Innovation Forum.

There are of course a number of other events we will be supporting during the year including IPWEAQ, WIOA and LGAQ conferences.

Along with our Water Connections Tour sponsor in Dial Before You Dig and Taste Test sponsor Ixom, we are thrilled that Bilfinger Water Technologies has taken a silver sponsorship package for all 4 main events.  There are plenty of options still available for those interested, please contact mhill@qldwater.com.au for details.  Sponsorships have allowed us to successfully keep the registration fees for our events low for many years – meaning ***qldwater*** events are the best value networking and professional development available.

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**3.   Health Based Targets Update**

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Discussion over the introduction of Health Based Targets (HBTs) into the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) has been underway for several years.  HBTs are derived from quantitative definitions of microbial safety – pathogens are clearly recognised as the greatest risks to consumers and defining targets is an important risk management tool.

While there are different ways to approach setting targets, the proposed ADWG changes are based on World Health Organisation and other international approaches.

There are numerous resources available to find out more.

<http://www.waterra.com.au/publications/document-search/?download=539> links to a fact sheet produced by Water Research Australia which explains Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) – a way of measuring the population impact of a health problem.

<https://www.wsaa.asn.au/WSAAPublications/Documents/Health%20Based%20Targets%20Manual.pdf> links to the Water Services Association of Australia’s Manual for the Application of Health-Based Treatment Targets – as the title implies it is a practical guide to approaching risk assessments.  Applying the risk assessment, which considers raw water supplies, determines the treatment barriers necessary for a drinking water system.

Complete risk assessments will be expensive exercises.  Data gathering for source water assessments (especially for surface water) will be challenging for many service providers.

It is anticipated that HBTs will be introduced into the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines towards the end of 2016.  The Department of Energy and Water Supply will need to determine its regulatory approach, as the ADWG underpins Drinking Water Quality Management Plans (DWQMPs).  The Department has indicated that at this stage, the introduction of HBTs will influence the risk assessment process for DWQMPs.

It is important for service providers to be aware of the changes and consider the implications in plan reviews, and particularly design of monitoring programs.  ***qldwater***  will be looking to gather resources to assist members with Tier 1 (source water) assessments in particular and continuing discussions with the regulator to encourage implementation over time.

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**4.   Feedback on the Great Barrier Reef Taskforce Interim Report**

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Consultation on the [Great Barrier Reef Taskforce Interim Report](http://www.gbr.qld.gov.au/taskforce/interim-report/) is still open until 22 February. The Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce is seeking feedback on its Interim Report which sets out initial recommendations to the Queensland Government on how to deliver substantial reef water quality improvements. The Taskforce has made a range of conclusions and recommendations including what type of tools should be used and what the funding priorities should be and is seeking broad feedback and suggestions from all stakeholders. Comments can be provided by email or through an [online survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QLKH3K6) in writing to the following address:

Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Interim Report Consultation
Office of the Great Barrier Reef
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE  QLD  4001

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**5.   State Planning Policy State Interest Guideline – Energy and Water Supply**

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An [update to this guideline](http://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/guideline/spp/spp-guideline-energy-water-supply.pdf) has been published this month which includes:

* further background information for major electricity infrastructure, substations and bulk water supply infrastructure
* additional actions for how to appropriately integrate the policy in local planning instruments
* revised model codes and provisions for local planning instruments including the strategic framework, reconfiguring a lot code, regional infrastructure overlay code and operational works code
* addition of guidelines and technical resources with the supporting material
* amendments to reflect the current departmental name and date on the guideline
* additional explanation about the purpose and use of the model codes and provisions.

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