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

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

**(Issue #218– 22 January 2014)**

**1.  Important dates - 2014**

**2.  Removal of Two Mandatory Environmental Plans**

**3.  *qldwater*****web site forum issues**

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**1.  Important dates - 2014**

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Happy New Year to all members and stakeholders.

In the coming weeks our [events page](http://www.qldwater.com.au/events) will be updated with all regional events (including calls for papers) and key meetings, but for now, here is a short list of the key ones for your diaries.

7 February 2014 – Technical Reference Group meeting Brisbane

**27 March 2014 – SEQ Regional Conference and Taste Test Bundaberg**

4 April 2014 – Technical Reference Group meeting Brisbane

12 May 2014 – Day 1 Water Connections Week Dalby

13 May 2014 – Day 2 Water Connections Week Roma

14 May 2014 – Day 3 Water Connections Week St George

15 May 2014 – Day 4 Water Connections Week Goondiwindi

**16 May 2014 – Day 5 Water Connections Week Warwick, SWQ Regional Conference and Taste Test**

**June 2014 (TBC) – CQ Regional Conference and Taste Test Gladstone**

20 June 2014 – Technical Reference Group meeting Brisbane

**29 July 2014 – NQ Regional Conference and Taste Test Mackay (aligned with AWA event)**

**21 August 2014 – WQ Regional Conference and Taste Test Mt Isa**

29 August 2014 – Technical Reference Group meeting Brisbane

**11 September 2014 – FNQ Regional Conference and Taste Test Innisfail**

**8-10 October 2014 – IPWEAQ State Conference including Taste Test Grand Final Caloundra**

28 November 2014 – Technical Reference Group meeting Brisbane

All members are invited to contribute topics for Technical Reference Group discussions, either by contacting Dave Cameron at dcameron@qldwater.com.au or 0407 761 991 or through one of our [TRG members](http://www.qldwater.com.au/TRG).

There are numerous upcoming project meetings for QWRAP, ERA63, operator certification and skills programs between now and the end of February.

We anticipate further announcements from our regulatory colleagues in the coming weeks in relation to the 30 Year Water Sector Strategy and legislative amendments, subject to Cabinet approval.

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**2.  Removal of Two Mandatory Environmental Plans**

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The requirement for the development and implementation of Total Water Cycle Management Plans for local governments with a population greater than 25,000 no longer exists under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009. We note that despite a long campaign lobbying against this particular requirement which was not implemented well outside of South East Queensland, ***qldwater*** strongly supports a whole-of-urban-water cycle approach to planning and management (integrated urban water cycle management or IUWCM). If you would like further information or contacts in developing or continuing implementation of this approach please contact Rob Fearon (rfearon@qldwater.com.au).

Second, mandatory environmental plans about trade waste management for those local governments that permit trade waste to enter their sewers has also been removed from the EPP (Water). In this case, ***qldwater*** argued unsuccessfully that these plans, which many members find useful, should be not be removed via the current rash of ‘green tape’ reduction. Appropriate trade waste management is essential for the operational, safety and environmental outcomes of the sector and appropriate plans and relationships with customers are essential. Trade waste plans will remain important for all service providers despite the regulatory change and requirements regarding trade waste under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act remain in place.

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**3.  *qldwater*****web site forum issues**

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Regrettably the [forum section](http://www.qldwater.com.au/ForumRetrieve.aspx?ForumID=529&NoTemplate=False) of our web site has been recently bombarded with spam resulting in a change to the way we manage it.

While it is theoretically possible to keep the pages open to all, the spam increases the risk that moderators will accidently delete something important.  As a result, all forum contributors will now require a ***qldwater*** login to post topics or reply to topics already posted.  The discussions can still be viewed without a login.

This does not preclude organisations or individuals other than ***qldwater*** members from contributing if they wish.  To apply for a login, please complete the registration form [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Membership_registration).

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