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

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

**(Issue #232 – 17 June 2014)**

1. **Survey on Health-Based Targets for Microbial Safety in ADWG**
2. **Rockhampton Wins Central Queensland Water Taste Test**
3. **Public Event 19 June “Would you drink recycled water?”**

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**1.   Survey on Health-Based Targets for Microbial Safety in ADWG**

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The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is responsible for developing evidence-based health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and governments. The Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) provides expert advice to NHMRC on public health issues related to drinking water quality. The major role of WQAC is the rolling review of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

The WQAC has developed a stakeholder discussion paper on the possible introduction of health-based targets for microbial safety (HBTs) in the ADWG and NHMRC is seeking your input on this important aspect of drinking water safety. The aim of the paper is to outline issues associated with HBTs within an Australian context and pose questions regarding the possible options and impacts.

This scoping exercise is in the form of a survey, which will accompany the stakeholder discussion paper, and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Targeted input is being sought from water utilities, water associations and directorates, water regulators, health agencies, local governments, and water research organisations.

It is anticipated that the survey will take place from July 2014. The survey and analysis of results will be conducted by an external contractor, ORIMA Research. By opting to participate in the survey, you are providing your agreement for NHMRC to forward your contact details to ORIMA Research who will contact you directly to distribute the stakeholder discussion paper and survey.

To register your interest in participating in the survey, please email (water@nhmrc.gov.au).  If you are a Queensland Water Directorate member intending to complete this survey please advise hgold@qldwater.com.au

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**2.   Rockhampton Wins Central Queensland Water Taste Test**

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Rockhampton Regional Council reclaimed the title of top drop in Central Queensland with attendees at the Queensland Water Directorate’s regional conference in Gladstone, giving it top scores in the Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test on Friday, 13 June 2014.

Water from the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant was selected as the best tasting tap water in the Central Queensland region, trumping water samples from Gladstone Regional Council, Banana Shire Council and Central Highlands Regional Council. Rockhampton’s Glenmore Water Treatment Plant also won the CQ title in 2012, but was ousted by Gladstone Regional Council’s Springs Road Water Treatment Plant in Agnes Water last year.

The remaining regional events in 2014 include the NQ event at Mackay on 29 July, the WQ event at Mount Isa on 21 August and the FNQ event at Innisfail on 11 September.  For further information please visit our website <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Mini-Conferences>

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**3.   Public Event 19 June “Would you drink recycled water?”**

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Would you drink recycled water? The Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) is hosting a community event this Thursday evening, 19 June from 6 - 8pm at the Queensland State Library in Brisbane.  Join our audience to participate with the panel members as they explore options for a sustainable and secure water supply for South East Queenslanders, whilst capitalising on the infrastructure and treatment plants that already exist, but are not currently in operation.  There’s even an opportunity for the audience to drink some recycled water.

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) released their report on [‘Drinking water through recycling’](http://www.atse.org.au/atse/activity/water/reports/content/activity/water-content/drinking-water-through-recycling.aspx) in October 2013. This report discusses the benefits and costs of supplying recycled water directly to the drinking water distribution system. This meeting takes the form of brief introductions to these questions by an expert panel followed by a facilitated discussion with the audience and panel members.

More information on the event and to register, [visit the ATSE website](https://www.atse.org.au/content/events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=1406SQLDP&WebsiteKey=4cdd947a-8770-43bb-afc9-f1a6bda66382).    Please direct any queries to events@awmc.uq.edu.au

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