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

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

**(Issue #340 – 8 December 2017)**

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**1.   *qldwater* 2018 Events**

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Our draft calendar of events for 2018 has now been published. There will be three regional conference events during the year and the Annual Forum which is being held again in September. A few workshops are still to be finalised, but following TRG discussion last Friday:

* The regional Queensland industry governance workshop planned for 1 March will proceed but in the first instance will be limited to TRG representatives to work through a process for consideration by the broader ***qldwater*** membership
* An open workshop will be held on 31 May around the theme of SCADA and control systems, and cyber-security
* There is strong interest in the “infrastructure cliff” research underway and a workshop will be built into the Annual Forum program
* At this point, the proposed combined System Leakage/ Automated Metering workshop will be postponed until late in 2018 or early 2019.  Participants in the last workshops indicated that they would be keen to revisit the topics, but believed annually was too much.

Ixom Best of the Best Water Taste Tests are coming back to the regional events in Goondiwindi, Cloncurry and Bundaberg this year, with slightly changed rules.  Any ***qldwater*** member attending a regional event will be able to enter a sample in the competition for that location to compete for a regional prize with the entry proceeding to the state final, however other members may still compete in the state final.  We expect strong public interest in this year’s competition, on the back of Toowoomba’s national competition win and what we expect to be an excellent beer crafted from Livingstone Shire’s drop….

The 2018 regional events will again be relatively small-scale and informal with up to 50 delegates attending in each location.   For those who have attended in the past, the format will be similar with tours likely in each location and an optional dinner being held the night prior to each conference.  Calls for presentations will be issued closer to the events.

This year our Annual Forum will be held at the Gold Coast on 5 and 6 September, hosted in conjunction with the City of Gold Coast.  Day one of the event will include a Technical Tour visiting the Commonwealth Games infrastructure to have a look at some of the key infrastructure challenges faced when you need to cater for a rapid, short term population spike.  Those who attended the light rail tour organised a couple of years ago will have some appreciation of the enormity of not just having to divert and relocate assets to create a transport corridor down the middle of a major tourist strip, but also all the unforeseen challenges including stray current.  Day two includes presentations and panel sessions and normally attracts around 100 people.

Sponsorships are available for all events.  If you would like more information and a sponsorship information package please contact hgold@qldwater.com.au.  The sponsorship package is also available for download from our website, together with a complete listing of our events:  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Events_2018>.

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**2.   Resource Library Update**

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***qldwater*** members now have access to a range of electrical specifications supplied by Queensland Urban Utilities.  Long-term TRG member Ken Vaheesan arranged a presentation on the significant work to TRG last week which has generated significant enthusiasm.

The sample documents include drawings, equipment datasheets and technical specifications and can be found under the Member Sample Documents tab at <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Planning_Sewerage_Network>.

Profuse thanks to QUU for agreeing to share these resources with the broader industry.  Remember, ***qldwater*** exists to foster collaboration and reduce costs for members, and while the resource library is growing into a valuable resource, there remain plenty of gaps which could be filled by your good work.  Email us details any time, or if you are chasing a particular resource you think might exist elsewhere in Queensland, let us know.

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**3.   Infrastructure Australia – Reforming Urban Water Report**

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Infrastructure Australia’s “[Reforming Urban Water](http://infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/policy-publications/publications/files/Reforming_Urban_Water_Web_version.pdf)” report has been released with many media services picking up on the prediction that typical residential water and sewerage bills will more than double by 2040.

The report attributes the need for reform in the sector to:

* Meeting the needs of a growing population
* Improving resilience and managing the impacts of climate change
* Maintaining, renewing and replacing ageing infrastructure
* Reflecting changing community expectations
* Keeping services affordable for customers and minimising costs to taxpayers.

It retains IA’s desire for the Australian Government to establish an independent national body to deliver the reform plan, ultimately move to national regulation and private ownership of utilities.

Queensland receives particular attention for perceived weaknesses in economic regulation and pricing.  The report does not provide a lot of detail to support many of its other assertions including assessments of achievement against minimum standards and “best practice,” and the conduct of the consultation process is unclear.

***qldwater*** will provide a more detailed analysis after the release of the impending Productivity Commission study.

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**4.   Seqwater Bulk Water Price Investigation: Draft Report Published**

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The QCA has released a draft report on its investigation into bulk water prices for south east Queensland for 2018-21.   Prior to 2008, bulk water supply in SEQ was mostly a local council responsibility and prices varied between council areas. In 2008, the State Government took over responsibility for bulk water supply from local councils.

To reduce the impact of significant investments made in water, bulk water price adjustments were to be phased in over time to achieve a common bulk water price across SEQ councils.

While the State Government continues to determine the bulk water prices, since 2015 it has asked the QCA to recommend prices for the coming three-year period.  The latest draft report has been prepared ahead of the 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021 period.

The prices recommended in the final report may differ from prices in the draft report. The QCA must provide its final report to the State Government by 31 March 2018, and the Government will then decide bulk water prices after considering the final recommendations.  The QCA have published a two page [Fact Sheet](http://www.qca.org.au/getattachment/3c44c24e-334d-421f-a6ed-9deb36583a7b/Fact-sheet.aspx) on the draft report, including draft recommended price option tables for **treated** bulk water for the next three year period.

The QCA’s draft report has been submitted to the Government and has been published in full on the [QCA website](http://www.qca.org.au/water/urban-bulk-water/seq-bulk-water/in-progress/seqwater-bulk-water-prices-2018-21) so that interested parties can make submissions. Submissions are due by 31 January 2018 and can be made online at <qca.org.au/submissions>.

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**5.   Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2018**

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[Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize](http://www.awa.asn.au/asjwp) (ASJWP), the annual water science competition for high school students, is now open for 2018.

Proudly sponsored by Xylem, the winner of the Australian competition will be announced at [Ozwater’18](http://www.ozwater.org/) and will go on to compete internationally at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize during World Water Week in August. The student is awarded a fully-funded trip to Stockholm to participate in a week-long cultural exchange program with national winners from over 33 other nations.

For high school students, entering this award can create employment opportunities for the future, offers the chance to network with individuals across the globe and allows the winner to attend both Ozwater’18 in Brisbane and World Water Week in Stockholm. **Entries close Sunday 11 March 2018.**

The flyer information kit and nomination form can be found on the Australian Water Association website at [www.awa.asn.au/asjwp](http://www.awa.asn.au/asjwp).  For further details on the award please contact Katie Trevor via email:  ktrevor@awa.asn.au.

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

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The Queensland Police Service has released the latest Security bulletin which is now available in the members area of our website - <http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=235970>. 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 information.

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