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

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

**(Issue #345 – 9 March 2018)**

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**1.   Call for Papers – WQ Conference & Water Taste Test, Cloncurry 18 May**

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The ***qldwater*** Western Queensland Conference will be held in Cloncurry on Friday 18 May 2018 and is being sponsored by Royce Water Technologies, Aquatec Maxcon and Aqseptence Group.

We are calling for Western Queensland relevant technical and other presentations to fill 20 minute slots.  ***qldwater*** conferences are an informal opportunity for networking, updates on what’s impacting Queensland’s water and sewerage service providers,

and technical presentations.

We are particularly interested to hear about interesting projects and technical presentations from members, or organisations that can co-present relevant case studies with members. We aim to make the process as easy as possible: you only need to provide us with a brief outline now and a PowerPoint on the day if accepted.

The conference is being preceded by a Technical Tour to the Cloncurry Water Treatment Plant on the afternoon of Thursday 17 May, following by an optional dinner.  Further information and registration will be available soon.

If you are interested in presenting at this event, please email Heather Gold at hgold@qldwater.com.au.

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**2.   Date Claimer – SCADA & Cyber Security Workshop, Thursday 31 May**

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The ***qldwater*** Technical Reference Group is hosting a SCADA and control systems, and cyber security workshop on Thursday 31 May.   This TRG workshop will provide a great opportunity for both information sharing and influencing policy and is open to ***qldwater*** members and non-members.

The full day workshop will be held in Brisbane.  Further details and agenda will be available soon.

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**3.   Water Skills Partnership Skills Forum - Report**

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More than 50 water industry operators and managers from across Queensland gathered in Brisbane recently for the inaugural Water Skills Partnership Skills Forum hosted by ***qldwater***. The forum included presentations from industry experts about critical workforce and skills issues facing the Queensland water industry and provided opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing across organisations. The group agreed that recruitment and retention of staff along with an ageing workforce are critical issues.

Certification continues to be a high priority and the forum included presentations to the first dual-certified operators in Queensland. Tools for measuring and communicating the value of ongoing skills development were discussed along with strategies to ensure the appropriate skilling of contractors. The Water Skills Partnership group will consider these issues and develop initiatives for ***qldwater*** to help address them. Following the success of this first event, the forum will be held annually.

For more information about the Water Skills Partnership contact Carlie Sargent at ***qldwater*** - csargent@qldwater.com.au.

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**4.   Update on new water quality offsets policy**

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As reporting in [e-Flash 344](http://www.qldwater.com.au/e-flashes-2018) the Department of Environment and Science (DES) are developing an updated draft of the Point Source Water Quality Offsets Policy. The latest draft of the document was released yesterday and is available on our website:  [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/ReviewDocuments).

The new draft has been substantially updated and addresses a number of the issues listed in our industry [submission](http://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=234017) on 10th October which expressed strong support from sewerage service providers for a practical policy that will increase options for environmental protection. However, there are still issues to be clarified and a workshop with DES will be held to discuss the new draft as follows.

**Offsets Policy Workshop**

**9:30-12:30, Wednesday 28 March - Great Barrier Reef Room, Level 3,  400 George St.** To attend, please RSVP to rfearon@qldwater.com.au by 23rd March.

**Alternative Teleconference**

***qldwater*** will also convene a teleconference for service providers unable to attend the workshop in Brisbane, **2:00-3:30 on 23rd March**. To express interest in the teleconference or receive an email copy of the report please email ‘Offset Teleconference” to rfearon@qldwater.com.au.

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**5.   Toowoomba Regional Council – International Taste Test**

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After winning the Australia wide Best of the Best Water Taste Test, Toowoomba Regional Council’s Mt Kynoch Scheme water took part in the International Water Taste Test held in the USA on 24 February.

The municipal tap water category was a battle of champions with water from Clearbrook, British Columbia, Canada being declared the winner.

The Berkeley Springs International Taste Test is the longest running and largest water tasting in the world and we again congratulate Toowoomba Regional Council for making it to the final. The next International Competition is being held on 23 February 2019 and we hope to see another Queensland entry taking part.

Read the full news story featured in the Toowoomba Chronicle - <https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/toowoombas-water-falls-short-international-comp/3348155/>

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**6.  Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction**

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The popular course "Monitoring and Optimisation of Activated Sludge and Nutrient Reduction" presented by A/Prof Helen Stratton and Peter Griffiths is being offered again this year through pH Water Consultants.  The course will be held 2nd to 6th July 2018 on the Sunshine Coast.  Regular presenters, Helen and Peter, have been delivering activated sludge training courses for the past 21 years.

The course presents the latest research findings and developments in optimisation and trouble-shooting of activated sludge processes.  Registration is now open at [www.pHwater.com.au](http://www.phwater.com.au/).   Delegates who attend and successfully complete the assessment items for the course can receive RPL towards their Cert III or IV.

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

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The Queensland Police Service has released the latest Security Forecast and Advisory Bulletin which are now available in the members area of our website -  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/Counter-terrorism>.   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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**This message may be passed on to interested individuals and organisations.**

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