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

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

NB we had hoped to include the program and call for registrations for our Annual Forum in this edition, however we are resolving some issues with the events management software.  It should be resolved early next week.

**(Issue #360 – 13 July 2018)**

**1.   Critical Infrastructure Act 2018**

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**1.   Critical Infrastructure Act 2018**

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As previously advised (in eflash #349) *The Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018* commences on **Wednesday 11 July 2018.**

The Act has a built-in six-month grace period for reporting entities’ obligations to report ownership and operational information into the Register of Critical Infrastructure Assets.  This grace period ends on 11 January 2019.  The other provisions of the Act, including the information gathering and Ministerial Directions powers, apply from 11 July 2018.

The Act requires each water business with >100,000 property connections to:

* Keep a register of entities who have an interest, can exert control or operate water utility assets in relation to that water utility
* Undertake a risk assessment of critical infrastructure, notionally this is to assess foreign ownership but the legislation has a much broader wording ‘security risks’
* Issue directions to asset owners if the Minister is satisfied there is a risk of an act or omission that would be prejudicial to security.

The Act safeguards Australia's critical infrastructure and enhances the capability of the Critical Infrastructure Centre (full text of [the Act](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018A00029) and updated [Explanatory Memorandum](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017B00260/Explanatory%20Memorandum/Text) available by clicking on the links for each).  A range of fact sheets etc are available [here](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/national-security/critical-infrastructure-resilience).  The new [CIC web site](http://www.cicentre.gov.au/) is now live.

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**2.   Update on Telcos on Reservoirs, Regional Telecommunications Review**

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Eflash #346 included the last update provided on these matters.

* A “Carriers and Immunities” Round Table was convened by the Department of Communications and the Arts (DOCA) in Canberra on 7 June.  Aside from telecommunications industry representatives, other industries represented included water, roads, rail and building management.
* Many of the concerns raised by the water sector were echoed by other industries.
* The group agreed to establish another reference group, initially co-chaired by the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association and Australian Communications and Media Authority.  Its first teleconference was held on 10 July, and actions included:
	+ Establishment of a group to focus on solutions to enable telecommunications equipment to be powered off to allow property owners to deal with emergency situations and routine maintenance;
	+ Investigation into some specific legal interpretations to deal with issues around equipment of unknown origin;
	+ Data sharing on location of infrastructure;
	+ Development  of flowcharts/ other tools to assist in complaints processes and LAANs;
	+ Sharing of educational materials used by each industry.
* The next meeting is proposed for 20 August.

There have been a range of other activities and meetings including some investigations by Work Health and Safety Queensland into a Seqwater site with a significant number of current issues.  **It is possible that you will see a future request from us to provide information to Work Health and Safety on other potential sites of risk in Queensland.**

In addition, the “[Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee](http://rtirc.gov.au/)” has been holding a range of consultation meetings in NSW and Queensland over the last couple of weeks .  While the [issues under discussion](http://rtirc.gov.au/docs/rtirc-issues-paper-2018.PDF) are specifically dealing with planning future regional telecommunications services, some southern councils have taken the opportunity to use the consultation meetings to raise the profile of the risks associated with water infrastructure.  The Committee is accepting submissions via <http://rtirc.gov.au/consultation.html> up until Sunday 5 August.

Contact Dave Cameron for more information dcameron@qldwater.com.au or 07 3632 6854

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**3.   Bundaberg Conference – Last Call for Sponsors and new Tour Sponsor option**

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***qldwater's*** final regional conference for 2018 will be held in Bundaberg on Thursday 9 August 2018, with an optional tour and dinner on Wednesday 8 August.  Due to popular demand, the Rubyanna Wastewater Treatment Plant visit will be followed by an opportunity to visit the **Bundaberg Rum Distillery.**

**For only $1,000 plus GST, you can be the most popular person at the conference as the sponsor for this part of the Tour!** Visitors get to see the museum, distillery and learn about the process, and finish off with a chance to sample some top shelf product.  Places are limited.

As always, we acknowledge the kind support of Principal Event Sponsor Aqseptence Group, along with gold sponsors Royce Water Technologies and Aquatec Maxcon, Water Connections Tour Sponsor Dial Before You Dig and Taste Test Sponsor Ixom.

If you are interested in remaining sponsorships, please email Diana Kislitsyna at dkislitsyna@qldwater.com.au or Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au).

Registrations are now [open](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-seq-bundaberg/seq-conference)!

Please make sure to book your accommodation soon as the availability in Bundaberg is **limited.** We’ve negotiated discounted rates with Sugar Country Motor Inn (07 4111 1622) and Takalvan Motel (07 4132 6999).In order to access the discount you must book direct with the hotels and mention “Queensland Water”.

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**4.   Scholarships reminder**

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Are you an employee of a ***qldwater*** member organisation with fewer than 10,000 connections looking for a fantastic professional development opportunity?  In 2017, ***qldwater*** established a charitable venture to help address urban water and sewerage challenges facing small and remote communities.  The Queensland Water Regional Communities Innovations Program (QWRCIP) is administered under the auspices of ***qldwater*** with a steering committee made up of members of its Technical Reference Group.

QWRCIP is predominantly funded through proceeds from the “vendor pitch” session on Day 1 of the ***qldwater*** Annual Forum which will take place on 5 September on the Gold Coast. Last year, the winning pitch was presented by Rod Wellings from Royce Water – read more about Rod’s winning pitch [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/2017-vendor-pitch-winner).

What the scholarships cover:

Attendance in Brisbane for the week of 3 – 7 September to include:

* 1-2 days with an SEQ utility, spending time with a technical specialist, learning about specific equipment or implementation of programs of interest.
* 2 days at the ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum (5/6 September) comprising tours, presentations and workshops.
* Participation in the ***qldwater*** Technical Reference Group (7 September).

The 2017 scholarship winners, Geoff Rintoul and Nathan Litzow, participated in a range of professional development activities with QUU, Logan and City of Gold Coast. Nathan kindly provided feedback on the value of the scholarships in this blog post. <https://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwater-blog/qwrcip>

With strong support for the initiative in SEQ and a simple application process, you’d be crazy not to give it a go.

Up to 5 scholarships are available for 2018. Applications close on 31 July so don’t delay, download the application form [here](https://www.qldwater.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=229962&A=SearchResult&SearchID=128846046&ObjectID=229962&ObjectType=6.).

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

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1. WIOA Talks MENTORING IN THE WATER INDUSTRY – WEBINAR

JULY 19 @ 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

WIOA invites members to join us for a People & Culture webinar on Mentoring in the Water Industry

In this month’s webinar we will hear from the perspective of a mentor, a mentee and a program manager, on the opportunities and benefits that can be gained through mentoring schemes. Throughout the webinar there will be an opportunity to provide comments, via online chat and Q&A, on:

•             What makes a successful mentoring program?

•             What are the characteristics that make for a good mentor and mentee?

•             What are the  challenges and barriers to an industry-wide operator mentoring program?

Program:

Experiences as a mentee and program manager (Celeste Ward, Stantec, AWA YWP mentoring program)

Perspectives from a mentee (Ben Thwaites, SA Water, WaterRA mentoring program)

Perspectives from a mentor (Kathy Northcott, WIOA, University of Melbourne Engineering Student mentoring program)

2. The Queensland Police Service has released the latest security information which is 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.

Diana Kislitsyna

***qldwater*** (Queensland Water Directorate)

4/43-49 Sandgate Road, Albion Qld 4010

t:    07 3632 6850      e:   dkislitsyna@qldwater.com.au         w:  [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au/)

