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

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

**(Issue #357 – 15 June 2018)**

**1.   Goondiwindi conference sponsorships closed, welcome new sponsors**

**2.   The 2018 *qldwater* Annual Forum, Gold Coast Turf Club, 5 and 6 September 2018**

**3.   *qldwater* welcomes new Affiliate Member Veolia Water**

**4.   QWRCIP Scholarships**

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**6.   Proposed New Reef Catchments Regulations**

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**1.   Goondiwindi conference sponsorships closed, welcome new sponsors**

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Thanks to the efforts of Trevor Seth and the team at Goondiwindi Regional Council we have filled all sponsorships for the mini-conference in Goondiwindi on 18 July, the first time ever…

360 Engineering joins us as the dinner sponsor for the 17th, kindly halving the bill!  Welcome as well to A1 Earthworks joining as a gold sponsor.

[Registrations are now open](https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/qldwater-swq-conference-goondiwindi/swq-conference), the speakers are all confirmed (aside from a few topic titles) and we are good to go.  Look forward to seeing you there.  Earlybird registrations close on 4 July.

Principal Sponsor - [Challenger Valves & Actuators Pty Ltd](http://www.challengervalves.com.au/)

Gold Sponsors - [Royce Water Technologies](http://www.roycewater.com.au/), [Aquatec Maxcon](https://www.aquatecmaxcon.com.au/) and [A1 Earthworks](https://a1earthworks.com.au/)

Silver Sponsor - [Aqseptence Group](https://www.aqseptence.com/en/)

Dinner Sponsor- [360 Engineering](http://360engineering.com.au/)

along with Water Connections Tour Sponsor [Dial Before You Dig](https://www.1100.com.au/) and [Ixom](http://www.ixom.com/) for the taste test (don’t forget samples).

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**2.   The 2018 *qldwater* Annual Forum, Gold Coast Turf Club, 5 and 6 September 2018**

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The date claimers were sent a while ago, the main venue has been booked and we are organising the program!  One confirmed sponsorship for the Vendor Showcase, and plenty still available.  Please contact Diana Kislitsyna (DKislitsyna@qldwater.com.au) if you are interested, it is a chance to network with, and get your brand in front of around 80-100 industry professionals, typically from 30+ councils/ utilities.

The approach at this year’s Forum will be slightly different but here are some highlights.  The call for registrations will go out with the draft program, hopefully in early July.  We anticipate a small increase to registration fees as we are dealing with a more expensive venue, however all sponsorships we can get will directly offset these fees:

*5 September*

* Morning – tour of Gold Coast sites – likely the Broadwater Parklands/ Commonwealth Games aquatic centre and Disaster Management Unit, both in Southport.  Hear about the significant infrastructure challenges posed for water and sewerage by a major event, the actual event logistics including physical and system security and what the Games legacy means for the Gold Coast.
* Afternoon – at Turf Club – some local presentations, the Ixom state water taste test, and vendor pitch session.
* Evening – Forum dinner.

*6 September*

o   Full day at the Turf Club.

o   Our Technical Reference Group has developed a range of themes, and there may be further tweaks as we approach speakers and panel participants.  As a cryptic teaser, we are looking at:

o             Data transforming the water sector

o             Strategic sector-wide investment

o             Regional innovation

o             Resource recovery and renewables

o             Catchment resilience in a changing environment

o             Understanding and exceeding customer expectations

o             Building jobs in a changing industry

o             Next Gen Water

o             Small, remote and nimble

More to follow soon!

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**3.   *qldwater welcomes* new Affiliate Member Veolia Water**

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[Veolia Water](http://www.veoliawatertechnologies.com.au/) has recently taken up Affiliate membership of ***qldwater***.

*Veolia Water Technologies provides water and wastewater treatment solutions to private and public sector organisations throughout Australasia, offering a complete range of services to design, build, operate, maintain, upgrade and manage water and wastewater treatment facilities and systems. Veolia also provides construction and maintenance services for water distribution and wastewater collection systems and refurbishment services for large parts of Australia's urban water networks and sewerage systems.*

We look forward to catching up with staff at upcoming events and opportunities to share stories.

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**4.   QWRCIP Scholarships**

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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:

o        1-2 days with an SEQ utility, spending time with a technical specialist, learning about specific equipment or implementation of programs of interest.

o        2 days at the ***qldwater*** Innovation Forum (5/6 September) comprising tours, presentations and workshops.

o        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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**5.   SWIM/SWIMLocal training**

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SWIM/SWIMLocal training.

Free SWIM and SWIMLocal training will be held in Cairns (2-3 July) and Brisbane (16-17 July). If you are interested in attending, or other training options, please contact David Scheltinga on dscheltinga@qldwater.com.au

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**6.   Proposed New Reef Catchments Regulations**

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Thank you to those who responded to the recent call for comments on the new Reef Regulations proposed by the Department of Environment and Science ([see eFlash 352](https://www.qldwater.com.au/e-flashes-2018)). The most common response  was concern that the problems identified in the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) had not been clearly addressed. The RIS underestimated the cost the regulations will impose on urban communities and overestimated the contribution of urban sources meaning the cost impact on towns with sewage treatment plants (STPs) may not be proportionate to risk. To assist in addressing this issue, the sector requested a partnership approach with the department, particularly in developing offsets to jointly prioritise water quality improvements in reef catchments.

The only reference to the urban sector in the RIS update was that the offsets framework has been abandoned which “reduces the cost of regulatory package by approximately $90 million (over 10 years) for agriculture and STPs”. It is not clear how this figure was calculated, particularly given the errors in the original cost estimates, nor what the real impacts will be for communities building new or augmented STPs in the future. More information is available in the collated response available [here](https://www.qldwater.com.au/ReviewDocuments).

Background

In November 2017 the Queensland Water Directorate (qldwater) collated information and input from across the urban water and sewerage sector in response to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection’s request for submissions on the Regulatory Impact Statement: Broadening and Enhancing Reef Protection. In May 2018 DES advised through an industry briefing (and a PowerPoint presentation) that the proposed regulations would continue with several changes. qldwater distributed this information to the urban water sector and submitted a collated response.

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

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**Future Cities, Smart Communities Summit**

**Innovation & Technology Showcase**

 *Wed 11 - Fri 13 July 2018*
*Convention Centre, Cairns*

The [2018 Summit](http://www.lgaq.asn.au/web/guest/future-cities-summit) will unpack what it means to be a smart city and smart community, how transportation and asset management can be done differently, how we engage with our citizens, and how governments can plan for the disruptors.