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

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

**(Issue #283 – 21 April 2016)**

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**1.   NQ Conference Townsville – 20 July 2016 – Call for Papers**

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The ***qldwater*** North Queensland Conference (supported by WIOA) will be held in Townsville on 20 July 2016 from 10:30 – 5:00 pm.  It is held in conjunction with the Australian Water Association’s North Queensland Conference which runs from July 21 to July 22.

We are calling for NQ relevant technical and other presentations to fill half hour slots.  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.

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

***qldwater*** conferences are an informal opportunity for networking, updates on what’s impacting Queensland’s water and sewerage service providers, and technical presentations.

We would like to thank our major sponsors – Dial Before You Dig and Ixom, and event silver sponsors Bilfinger Water Technologies, Lonza Water Treatment Technologies and Royce Water Technologies. We have one Principal Sponsorship remaining for this event. Please email hgold@qldwater.com.au to request a sponsorship pack.

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**2.   Member Advocacy Update**

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There have been a number of meetings in the last month and some more planned with key agency staff to progress long-standing member issues.  A brief update is provided below with more information to come as it is available.

**DHPW**

***QDC MP1.4 (Building Over Infrastructure)***

We received a response to the letter and position paper sent to Minister De Brenni this week detailing residual concerns with MP1.4 of the Queensland Development Code as currently in place.  A meeting was held on 19 April and the letter advises that the department will be required to report on outcomes.  It is clear that the Minister is paying attention to the matter and is seeking resolution.

The meeting (attended by Dave Cameron and Nick Smith from Queensland Urban Utilities) was cautiously positive.  The departmental representatives had some specific technical questions, but struggled to explain why some of the obvious problems had not been dealt with in the earlier consultation rounds.  We have been asked to send through proposed amendments, and the department has agreed to convene a stakeholder reference group to consider these and inform its decisions.

***Meters***

A Plumbing Industry Consultative Group (PICG meeting) was held on 31 March.  Master Plumbers Queensland and the Plumbers Union Queensland had tabled an item which sought to have meter maintenance and replacement made regulated plumbing work.

In short, ***qldwater*** has again provided extensive information to explain our members’ views and in this case, the costs associated with a possible state-wide mandate are clearly very large and would require a major body of work to properly quantify, with no demonstrable benefits.  Those advocating the change are yet to provide any evidence that there is a public health risk posed by current practices, and faced with this, neither DEWS nor DOH supports any change.  At this stage, there is nothing to suggest that there will be amendments, however PICG was advised last year that it would not be tabled again and the change in DHPW position has not been explained.  LGAQ has fully supported the ***qldwater*** position.

**DEHP**

There is no substantial news on progress of the Code of Practice for Sewage Pump Stations.  The matter is currently being reviewed by the DG prior to ministerial consideration, amidst a large number of other policy issues.  Rob Fearon and Dave Cameron will meet with the DG in May on a range of industry topics, including current compliance actions, skilling, and regulatory issues.

**DEWS**

Several meetings including around the broader water sector strategy, operator certification and reporting.  More will be reported in future, but for now it is worth noting that the Key Performance Indicator reference group established to examine current indicators and definitions has met several times.  It includes several council and larger utility representatives along with ***qldwater***, and is progressing well, with the department taking a considered and practical approach to addressing industry concerns with the KPI framework.

Please contact Dave Cameron (dcameron@qldwater.com.au, 0407761991 if you have any queries).

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**3.   SEQ Conference and Technical Tour Feedback**

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The first of the 2016 ***qldwater*** events took place successfully last week with the SEQ Conference and Technical Tour in Hervey Bay.

The Wide Bay Water Technical Tour to Lenthalls Dam in the catchment, Burgowan Water Treatment Plant, Nikenbah Wastewater Treatment Plant and Hebblewhite Reuse Farm was an interesting and informative trip for all attendees.  We received excellent feedback on both the tour and the conference, including the launch of our new WaSP Wars game of tactics and skill, which was won by Nerida Airs from South Burnett Regional Council.

We’d like to thank our event Principal Sponsor: Engineers Plus and our supporting sponsors: Bilfinger, Lonza Water Technologies, Royce Water Technologies and SPEL Environmental, as well as Dial Before You Dig and IXOM for helping make this event possible.

Our next event is taking place in Townsville on 20 July (see above).  Information on this and our other 2016 events are available on our website  - <http://www.qldwater.com.au/events>.

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**4.   Building our Regions Regional Infrastructure Funding**

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The $200 million Building our Regions Regional Infrastructure Fund is a targeted infrastructure program for local government projects. The primary purpose of the Building our Regions program is to provide funding for critical infrastructure in regional areas of the state, while also supporting jobs, fostering economic development and improving the liveability of regional communities. The program forms a key element of the Queensland Government's overarching economic strategy -*Working Queensland*.  Applications for Round 2 are now open.

There are four focused infrastructure funds under the program.  The three funds which are managed by the Department of State Development include:

[Regional Capital Fund](http://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/index.php/regional-development/building-our-regions/regional-capitals-fund?view=listcats) ($70 million over two years)

1. [Royalties for Resource Producing Communities Fund](http://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/index.php/regional-development/building-our-regions/royalties-resource-producing-communities?view=listcats) ($55 million over two years)
2. [Remote Communities Infrastructure Fund](http://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/index.php/regional-development/building-our-regions/remote-communities-infrastructure-fund?view=listcats) ($15 million over two years).

The fourth fund is the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS), which includes an additional $60 million in funding over two years. More information about TIDS is available at [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/).

Read more about [how to apply](http://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/regional-development/how-to-apply-building-our-regions.html).

For more information about the Building our Regions program call the program team on 07 3452 7377 or 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or contact your local [regional office](http://statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/contact-us/regional-contacts.html)

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**5.   Ozwater’16 – 10 to 12 May 2016**

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The Australian Water Association is hosting Ozwater'16 from 10 to 12 May at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre.   Ozwater is Australia’s premier water event. Bringing together over 3000 attendees, 200 exhibitors and 170 industry-leading speakers, Ozwater’16 promises to be the best yet. With a focus on the theme of **Water: for Liveable Communities and Sustainable Industries**, this year’s event is a must attend. We will explore topics including the development of water-sensitive cities, the outcomes of integrated water planning and the role of renewable energy in the Australian water sector, to name but a few.

With a dedicated stream on Governance, Regulation and Structure, a bespoke program for Young Water Professionals and a forum for our sector’s water leaders, Ozwater’16 offers professionals at all levels the opportunity to network, learn and explore cutting-edge ideas that will enable the water industry to tackle the unprecedented changes in climate, population and culture that we see in Australia and beyond.

With speakers from CSIRO, ClimateWorks, the Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence, the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities and the Institute for Sustainable Futures, as well as some impressive international keynotes, Ozwater’16 is the ultimate platform to explore cutting-edge work in the field of water sustainability.

Register online now! [www.ozwater.org](http://www.ozwater.org)

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

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The Smart Water Research Centre is conducting a three day Wastewater Treatment Pond Design Course.  The 3 Day Workshop runs from Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 May 2016.   For more details and registration please visit <http://www.smartwaterresearchcentre.com/education-and-training/>

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