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

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

**(Issue #281 -   10 March 2016)**

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**4.   Understanding what makes ponds effective in treating water – new report**

**5.   Goulburn Valley Water – International Water Tasting Silver Medal**

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**1.**   **SEQ Conference & Technical Tour – Hervey Bay 13 & 14 April – Register Now!**

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Registrations are now open for the SEQ Conference and Technical Tour being held at beautiful Hervey Bay on 13 and 14 April 2016.  On Wednesday 13 April Wide Bay Water Corporation is hosting a Technical Tour showcasing their operation of the full lifecycle of assets. The tour will be visiting Lenthalls Dam in the catchment, Burgowan Water Treatment Plant, Nikenbah Wastewater Treatment Plant and Hebblewhite Reuse Farm.  The technical tour will be followed by an optional 2 course dinner and drinks, supported by Wide Bay Water Corporation.

The full day conference event on Thursday 14 April will be a great opportunity to network with your peers and hear some excellent technical presentations.   The Principal Sponsor for this event is Engineers Plus with supporting sponsorship by Bilfinger, Lonza Water Technologies, Royce Water Technologies and SPEL Environmental.  We would like to thank all sponsors for helping make this event possible.   Again in 2016, Dial Before You Dig are sponsoring our Water Connections Tour which includes regional events and Water Connections Week and IXOM are sponsoring the Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test which includes support for all regional events.

**Please ensure you register promptly to secure your spot on the technical tour.**

The full conference program and registration form with further details is available [here](http://www.qldwater.com.au/2016_SEQ_Conference_Hervey_Bay).

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**2.   Building over Infrastructure Final Position Paper**

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Amendments to Mandatory Part 1.4 of the Queensland Development Code has been a long-standing issue impacting water and sewerage service providers in Queensland.  ***qldwater*** has compiled details of the issues in question which need to be addressed  in consultation with our members.  These, along with the history of amendments, are detailed in the *Building Over Infrastructure Services* Position Paper which was endorsed by the TRG at the February meeting.

This position paper has been forwarded to the new Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Hon Mick de Brenni, together with our letter expressing concern over amendments to the code.

Both our letter to the Minister and the position paper is available on the members area of our website: <http://www.qldwater.com.au/reports_position_papers> - members must  log in first to access these documents.  Please contact ***qldwater*** if you have difficulty logging in.

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**3.   Queensland’s Urban Potable Water & Sewerage Benchmarking Report – 2014/15**

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Queensland’s fifth water and sewerage benchmarking report has been completed using 2014/15 data and is available from the ***qldwater*** website – <http://www.qldwater.com.au/reporting>

The report provides data from 58 Service Providers across the State.

Benchmarking of Queensland’s water and sewerage data is important for the Queensland urban water industry as it allows competition by comparison and helps provide transparency for our communities.

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**4.   Understanding what makes ponds effective in treating water – new report**

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A hydrodynamic model to enable water engineers to better design and operate treatment ponds has been demonstrated as part of a project seeking to validate pond and lagoon treatment systems.  The project recognised the potential that ponds have to produce recycled water to offset potable uses and save energy costs.

Led by Griffith University, the Project aimed to provide regulators, decision makers, water managers and operators with information and tools to best design, operate and manage maturation ponds.

Research was conducted at several different locations including Maningrida and Ngukurr in the Northern Territory and Helidon in Southeast Queensland, The performance of the Helidon pond was modelled using the MIKE 3 software package to simulate overall pond hydrodynamics as well as pathogen removal. Results showed:

•             Pond length-to-width (L/W) ratio has a significant influence on pond treatment performance
•             The optimal maturation pond depth is suggested to be between 0.8 m and 1.2 m
•             Ponds with small L/W ratios (< 5) would likely benefit significantly from the addition of well-designed baffles
•             Both pond depth and pond length-to-width ratio have a more significant impact on maturation pond hydrodynamic and treatment efficiency than do inlet and outlet structures
•             It is highly beneficial for ponds to be oriented across rather than parallel to the prevailing wind directions to help prevent short-circuiting in un-baffled ponds and enhance circulation and vertical mixing in the pond.

The  Project’s Final Report is now published and available [here](http://www.australianwaterrecycling.com.au/research-publications.html).

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**5.Goulburn Valley Water - International Water Tasting Silver Medal**

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We congratulate Goulburn Valley Water who were awarded the silver medal at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting competition. The water from the Marysville Treatment Plant, which won the 2015 Ixom Victorian Water Taste Test and the 2015 Ixom Best Tap Water in Australia competitions last year was the silver award winning entry. A great achievement for Goulburn Valley Water and all staff involved.

Please click  [here](http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/media-releases/20162292165107.asp) for the media release from Goulburn Valley Water.

The media release from Berkeley Springs is available [here](http://berkeleyspringswatertasting.com/winners/).

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