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

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

**(Issue #284 – 29 April 2016)**

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**1.   Water Connections Week 16 to 20 May 2016**

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The annual ***qldwater*** [Water Connections Week](http://www.qldwater.com.au/Water_Connections_Week) Tour will be taking place from 16 to 20 May 2016, this time visiting our members in north Queensland.

The tour delegation this year includes representatives from the Department of Energy and Water Supply, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Department of Health, Local Government Association of Queensland and Queensland Water Directorate, who will be visiting:

**Day 1 – Monday 16 May 2016**

Hinchinbrook Shire Council visit (Ingham)

**Day 2 – Tuesday 17 May 2016**

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

**Day 3 – Wednesday 18 May 2016**

Townsville City Council

**Day 4 – Thursday 19 May 2016**

Burdekin Shire Council (Ayr)

Whitsunday Shire Council (Proserpine)

**Day 5 – Friday 20 May 2016**

Mackay Regional Council

A big thanks to Dial Before You Dig as returning sponsors for the Water Connections Tour again this year.

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**2. Model Contract Specification for Drinking Water Storage Cleaning and Condition Assessment by Divers**

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Dirty and poorly maintained drinking water storages have been implicated in waterborne disease outbreaks around the world. Water storages represent a potential site for recontamination of drinking water.

Storage of water in poorly maintained and managed storages can also have a significant adverse impact on the aesthetic quality of the water and can, by the nature of any accumulated sediments and the detention time, make it very difficult to maintain a satisfactory chlorine residual in the distribution system beyond the storage.   Accumulation of sediment in storages can result in sediment entering the distribution system leading to widespread customer dissatisfaction with dirty water and possibly the taste and odour of the water.

For these reasons it is essential in a modern water supply system, that drinking water storages are well maintained, with no access points for vermin or any possibility that run off from roof areas contaminated with bird faeces can enter the storage.

***qldwater*** has released our latest publication which provides guidance for the preparation of contract documentation for diving contractors, and evaluation of contractor performance.  This is now available on our website:  <http://www.qldwater.com.au/templates_guidelines>. Members must log in first to access this document.

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**3.**   **Operator of the Year Awards – Nominations must close Monday**

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Nominations are closing on Monday 2 May for the annual ***qldwater*** sponsored water industry operators’ awards.  The award winners will be announced at the WIOA Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Conference Awards Night at the CQ University Sports Centre in Rockhampton on Thursday 2 June 2016.  These awards will again recognise the achievements of operational staff employed in the Queensland water industry and will be presented to operators who showed excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail.  All employers are encouraged to nominate their operators for these awards.    Applications must close on **2 May.**

The two categories available for nomination are for:

* 1. Queensland Young Operator of the Year
	2. Operator of the Year Civil/All Rounder

The **Queensland Young Operator of the Year** winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to join the WIOA delegation on a tour of water and wastewater facilities in New Zealand as well as attending the Water Industry Operations Group New Zealand conference in May 2017 and an individual trophy.

The **Operator of the Year (Civil / All Rounder)** winner will receive up to $1500 towards professional development opportunities such as attendance at other WIOA conferences, ***qldwater*** training or for funding expenses for exchange opportunities at neighbouring councils and an individual trophy.

Visit <http://www.qldwater.com.au/qldwaterAwards> for more information, application form and to see previous winners.

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**4.**   **ERA Standards to be Updated**

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The Department of Environment and Heritage has advised that public consultation has commenced on some minor amendments to the 20 prescribed ERA standards, to reflect the requirements of the new offsets legislation. This includes the ERAs for STPs and pump stations. This is a separate process to the ongoing negotiations over an industry Code of Practice for Sewage Pump Stations and Networks.

More information is available at [www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/compliance-codes](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/compliance-codes) and as the Department has said “You will notice the ERA 63 Standard will look a bit different but the content is essentially the same and we consider these language changes as minor/administrative.

Note the changes are not retrospective”. If you wish to make comments on the proposed changes (which are due by 20 May) follow the instructions at the weblink above, or send your comments to rfearon@qldwater.com.au to be incorporated with comments from our ERA63 Expert Panel into a collated industry response.

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**5.**  **Effluent Irrigation Guidelines**

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Effluent irrigation guidelines are being developed by the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation and are apparently nearing completion. The Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils, QWRAP group have obtained a response from Minister for Environment, Steven Miles confirming there will be an opportunity for stakeholder input following the current internal review process. We will circulate a consultation draft as soon as it is released by the Department.

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

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The latest information from the Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy Branch of the Queensland Police Service is now available on our website <https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/Counter-terrorism>.

Members must log in first to access this information.

Please note these documents are provided on a confidential basis for ***qldwater*** member use only.

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