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

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

**(Issue #285 – 13 May 2016)**

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**1**.   ***qldwater* 2016 Innovation Forum – 14, 15 September – Date Claimer**

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On Wednesday 14 September and Thursday 15 September the Queensland Water Directorate (***qldwater***) will be hosting its third Innovation Forum.  Presented by our Technical Reference Group, this event is designed to provide an opportunity to showcase to peers and other key stakeholders and promote future innovation across the industry.  This year the event will be held in Brisbane.

On Wednesday 14 September delegates will take part in the Best of the Best Water Taste Test, followed by a tour of the Mt Crosby Westbank WTP hosted by Seqwater.   The full day program on Thursday 15 September will feature presentations and panel sessions, followed by dinner at the View Hotel, Hamilton.  The program will feature a strong emphasis on presentations by industry for industry and plenty of time for panel discussions.  If you are interested in presenting at the event, please contact us.  A call for papers will be advertised soon.  The AWA Gala Dinner is being held in Brisbane on Friday 16 September for attendees remaining in Brisbane after the event.

The Innovation Forum is made possible by the kind support of our sponsors Bilfinger Water Technologies and Lonza Water Technologies, together with our taste test sponsor, Ixom and our Water Connections Tour Sponsor, Dial Before You Dig.   Further sponsorship opportunities are available, please contact ***qldwater*** for more information 07 3632 6850 or email hgold@qldwater.com.au.

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**2.  Recent LGAQ Advocacy**

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The LGAQ has made representations to each major political party contesting the Federal election in July, but perhaps of more direct interest for ***qldwater*** members is its 2016-17 budget submission to the Queensland government .

The submission includes proposals to address a number of broad funding issues impacting councils, but the following is a brief summary of specific water and sewerage service inclusions:

* $200,000 per annum (with some co-investment) for three years to support a dedicated program to engage with councils to improve capacity and raise community awareness about using water wisely, as well as better assess and prepare for future water needs.
* $400,000 per annum for five years to support the implementation of a mandatory Certification Framework for drinking water operators.
* $500,000 to assist in building local government capability through an updated decision support tool and training course targeting planning, with new materials around coastal hazard adaptation, climate change and urban water quality management.

For further information, contact Arron Hieatt, Principal Advisor – Advocacy, on 07 3000 2237 or Arron\_Hieatt@lgaq.asn.au.

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**3.**   **ERA Standards Update – Public Consultation Reminder**

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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 web link above, or send your comments to rfearon@qldwater.com.au by Friday 13 May to be incorporated with comments from our ERA63 Expert Panel into a collated industry response.

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**4. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection updates**

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The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has recently released updates to Transitional Environmental Program (TEP) forms, guidelines and notices.

* [Transitional Environmental Program (TEPs) Guideline (EM1365)](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2425631/4b3d7fs65.pdf)
* [Program Notice (TEP) (EM668)](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2427338/4b3d7d87n.html)
* [Public Notice (TEPs) (EM1017)](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2427338/4b3d7d87n-1.html)
* [TEP Annual Return Approved Form (EM1463)](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2427338/4b3d7d87n-2.html)
* [TEP Content Approved Form (EM1364)](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2427338/4b3d7d87n-3.html)

The TEP Guideline and Public Notice documents have undergone substantial changes. Specifically, the TEP Guideline has been consolidated into one document, and is presented in a way that clarifies a customer’s responsibilities in relation to TEPs. The Public Notice document has been adapted into an approved form, which includes guidance on how it should be completed.

These documents, as well as other compliance guidelines, are available on the department’s [website](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2425632/4b3d7bwwy.html) or can be found by [searching the EM number](https://www.vision6.com.au/ch/33369/195m6/2425633/4b3d7r18.html) of each document, or by using the search term ‘compliance guidelines’

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

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The Counter-Terrorism Strategic Policy Branch of the Queensland Police Service provides information and guidance on counter terrorism issues and supports liaison with other Queensland and Commonwealth agencies in relation to emergency management. The latest Industry Advisory Bulletin: PBIED Indicators is available on our website <https://thequeenslandwaterdirectorate.worldsecuresystems.com/Counter-terrorism>.   Please note these documents are provided on a confidential basis for ***qldwater*** member use only.

Members must log in first to access this information.

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