

WATER DIRECTORATE news

FEBRUARY 2011

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/ LGSA WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

At the end of February there are just 4 months remaining in this program. The total water savings to date is approx 3,500 ML. An update on the total water saved through this program can be viewed on the 'meter' at www.waterloss.lgsa.org.au.

All participating Councils should be finalising their projects and paperwork to get reimbursed from the Federal Government funding before funding becomes inaccessible after June 30. Please direct all queries to Program Manager Ian Maggs on 02 9242 4127.

LAST CALL FOR WIOA COAGULATION / FLOCCULATION SEMINAR, WAGGA WAGGA, 16 MARCH

The content of this course aligns with the material contained in the WIOA Practical Guide of the same name.

The Water Directorate is pleased to co-badge and promote the seminar and Practical Guides. For registration details go to www.wioa.org.au.

LAST CALL FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL WIOA NSW WATER INDUSTRY ENGINEERS & OPERATORS CONFERENCE, NEWCASTLE, 30 - 31 MARCH

This year WIOA is holding their 5th Annual Conference at the Newcastle Jockey Club. The Executive Committee encourages all our members to consider attending this Conference. A registration brochure and WIOA information can be downloaded at www.wioa.org.au.

Nominations have now closed for the Water Directorate sponsored 2011 NSW Operator of the Year Award and we look forward to see who will receive the award at the 31 March Awards Dinner. The award aims to recognise excellent performance, initiative and all round attention to detail by an operator of a water

or wastewater treatment facility. The winner will join the WIOA delegation as a participant of the New Zealand Operators conference and study tour.

YOUNG ENGINEERS CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Water Directorate and AWA are again pleased to offer an award valued at up to \$3,200 to enable a worthy junior water professional from a member Council to attend OzWater '11 to be held in Adelaide on 9-11 May. Water professionals from member Councils with up to 7 years experience should consider nominating using the nomination form mailed out to water managers in this month's newsletter. The Water Directorate urges water managers to make junior staff aware of this opportunity. Nominations close on Friday 8 April 2011.

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA REPORT

In January, Infrastructure Australia released a two volume report entitled 'Review of Regional Water Quality & Security'. The report is essentially a vehicle for recommending that NSW and Qld LWUs should be amalgamated into catchment based, State owned regional water corporations.

The Water Directorate will make a submission refuting these recommendations and proving that the report is:

- not factual
- done without any substantive involvement or consultation with NSW practitioners, or the LGSA, or any of the Local Water Utilities in NSW themselves
- based on the premise that a stand alone water/sewerage corporation is a better management structure than a fully integrated business



unit within a local government council, when in fact the current structure is the one that ensures IWCM happens, a better urban plan evolves, stormwater drainage is not ignored as a source of water supply nor opportunities for WSUD are overlooked

- fails to acknowledge that NSW has a 25 year history of detailed benchmark reporting and gazetted Best Practice Management Guidelines that have already achieved what is suggested in the report.

The NSW Water Directorate and the Queensland Water Directorate are conferring keenly on this matter.

NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING FOR URBAN WATER PROJECT AND WORKSHOPS

Urban Water Managers responsible for planning long-term, sustainable, urban water supply options in cities and towns are invited to attend the NWC Integrated Resource Planning for Urban Water project workshops in Sydney or Canberra.

In 2007 the NWC, in partnership with WSAA, identified several important areas where nationally co-ordinated action would benefit the Australian urban water sector and progress commitments made under the National Water Initiative. The Integrated Resource Planning for Urban Water project forms an important component of work commissioned to address key water issues.

The project comprises a series of resource papers on various topics, two case studies, an updated 'Guide to demand management and integrated resource planning for urban water' as well as an upgraded demand forecasting and options model called the Integrated Supply-Demand Planning (iSDP) model.

The project complements the COAG urban water planning principles by offering practical guidance and contemporary tools to deliver sustainable water supplies in a changing climate.

The NWC and the Institute for Sustainable Futures are running a series of 1 day workshops held across Australia. The workshops

provide an opportunity for you to hear about contemporary national policy issues and direction for urban water planning and provide a demonstration of the suite of national resources and tools. The workshops are targeted at Urban Water Managers responsible for planning long-term, sustainable, urban water supply options in cities and towns.

The Canberra workshop venue is Old Parliament House, Members dining room 1 on 8 March from 11am to 4pm. The Sydney workshop venue is the Aerial Function Centre level 7, Building 10, 235 Jones Street Ultimo on 15 March from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Please contact Louise Boronyak, Project Coordinator at the ISF at UTS on 9514 4974 for more information about the workshops or the project.

WORLD WATER DAY 2011 – 22 MARCH

This event aims to bring together policy makers, scientists and eminent personalities to discuss how to address the challenges of degrading water quality around the world. The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March of each year as the World Day for Water. This year the theme will be Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge. If your organisation is planning an event to mark World Water Day 2011 and you want some information or campaign materials then check out www.worldwaterday.org

WATER QUALITY IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

An international research project is seeking information on the experience of Australian drinking water suppliers relating to extreme weather events. The project is funded by the US Water Research Foundation and is being undertaken in collaboration with the Water Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. Utilities (or other water managers) who have experienced extreme weather events are requested to complete an online survey describing their experiences,

observations and lessons learned.

The online survey consists of 12 open-ended questions. Responses will be kept confidential, and will not be shared outside the project team with identifying information. Access the survey from: www.surveymonkey.com/s/H3RB8RL. For further information contact Dr Stuart Khan, UNSW Water Research Centre, UNSW on 9385 5082 or s.khan@unsw.edu.au

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The new Executive Committee meets for the first time on 10 March and the first duty will be to elect a Chair for the next two years. The other meeting dates for 2011 are 18 May, 14 July, 8 September and 9-10 November.

Members are welcome to forward issues for discussion at these meetings.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
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