

## JANUARY 2010

*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.*

### DROUGHT UPDATE

There were significant rainfalls and flooding across western NSW in the new year period – see photos below courtesy of Myles Humphries, of the flooding in Gilgandra.

Nevertheless, the DPI declared in mid January that 82% of NSW was officially drought affected. The area classified as marginal was 14% and the area classified as satisfactory was 4%.

At this time last year the DPI figures for NSW were 53%, 19% and 28% respectively.



### NEW MEMBER COUNCIL

It's with great pleasure that we welcome Bombala Shire Council as our latest member Council. Membership is currently 94 out of 103 NSW local water utilities or 91%.

### JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/ LGSA WATER LOSS UPDATE

The extended 5 year program has attracted some new participating Councils taking the number up to 74. The pressure is now on the final run to the 30 June 2011 finish line.

The program and the estimated water savings target of 10GL per annum will be watched with interest by the Federal Government over the next 18 months. All queries should be directed to Program Manager Ian Maggs on 02 9242 4127 or visit [www.waterloss.lgsa.org.au](http://www.waterloss.lgsa.org.au)

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM & REVIEW UPDATE

There is no update to report this month. As yet the NSW Government response to the Inquiry has not been released.

The NSW Office of Water website continues to state: "[T]he NSW Government is expected to release its response to the Independent Inquiry Report in mid 2009."

### IPWEA EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN FINALISED

Thanks to the seven member councils who have sent in a total of nine nominations in Category 3 Innovation in Water and Wastewater. The winner and highly commended nominations will be announced at IPWEA Excellence Awards Dinner on Monday 17th May as part of the IPWEA (NSW Division) Annual Conference. Good luck to all the nominees.

### 4th ANNUAL WIOA NSW WATER INDUSTRY ENGINEERS AND OPERATORS CONFERENCE, 21 -22 APRIL, BATHURST

The Water Directorate is pleased to support this outstanding conference again. As part of this Conference we will be seeking nominations for the NSW Operator of the Year Award. A nomination form for this award will be mailed to members shortly. For further information and registration details see the WIOA website: [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)

### LAST CALL FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD - OZWATER'10, 8-10 MARCH, BRISBANE

As advised in the last newsletter, the Executive Committee is offering funding to assist a worthy water professional with up to 7 years experience from a member Council to attend OzWater '10. Nominations close by 5pm on 5 February 2010.

Nomination forms and more information are available from the news section of our website at [www.waterdirectorate.asn.au](http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au)

Ozwater'10 is Australia's National Water Conference and Exhibition and will be held in the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

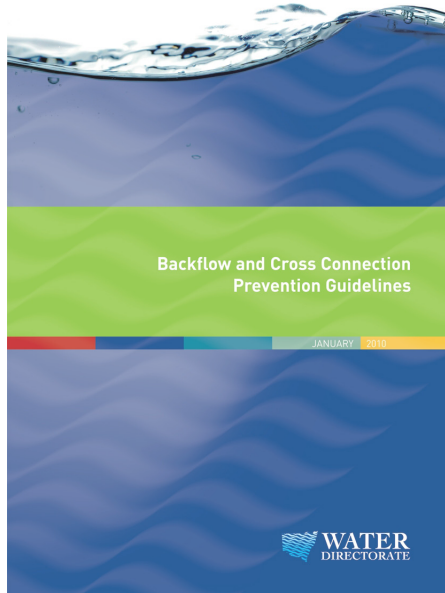
Presented by AWA, Ozwater'10 is the largest and most important annual gathering of water professionals and practitioners in the Southern Hemisphere. For more information see [www.ozwater10.com.au](http://www.ozwater10.com.au)

### 2nd ANNUAL WATER LEADERS CONGRESS 2010, 25-26 FEBRUARY, SYDNEY

The Water Directorate is pleased to support this second congress which provides a forum for discussion and knowledge sharing around the key

themes of water reform, security & leadership. Water Directorate Chair Stewart McLeod will be chairing part of the congress.

For more information click on the link on our website or go to [www.watercongress.infrastructurenewsonline.com.au/](http://www.watercongress.infrastructurenewsonline.com.au/)



## PUBLICATIONS UPDATE – REVISED BACKFLOW AND CROSS CONNECTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES

The second version of the Water Directorate's *Backflow and Cross Connection Prevention Guidelines* will be issued in the first week of February.

This document is a complete rewrite of the 2002 publication and addresses risk management of contamination of water supplies.

The main objectives of the Guidelines are to:

- raise awareness of the issues associated with backflow in water supply systems;
- provide the information necessary for water utilities to prepare appropriate policies and procedures for the management of backflow in their jurisdictions;
- ensure the Guidelines comply with current regulations.

Additional copies can be purchased by contacting Eloise Stanley at [estanley@waterdirectorate.asn.au](mailto:estanley@waterdirectorate.asn.au)

## LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 13-14 SEPT, ORANGE - CALL FOR PAPERS

What would you like to present or hear at the conference? Do you have a

relevant project or initiative that others would like to know about? The LGSA are looking for your input.

The annual conference provides Local Government with a broad range of information on water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities.

It is an opportunity for councillors, Local Government professionals, government representatives and the broader industry to tackle key water management issues from a Local Government perspective.

This year's conference is hosted by Orange City Council and will showcase the Blackmans Swamp Stormwater Harvesting Scheme as a new and innovative approach to augmenting water supply through capturing urban stormwater flows.

Delegates are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions for the conference program. In particular, papers are invited on the main topics planned for the conference:

- Water conservation, demand management and alternative water supply options for towns.
- Review of regulatory and institutional arrangement for local water utilities in regional NSW, particularly implementing regional water supply solutions to improve town water security.
- The outcomes on the NSW Government's Inquiry into Local Water Utilities.
- Increased water availability/ security in inland NSW – potential for inter-catchment transfers and inland water diversion.

What should your paper include?

- A brief outline of the issue/main focus of your paper/suggestion.
- The preferred format for its inclusion in the program ie. conference paper, presentation, display or workshop topic.
- Possible presenter/s and a brief bio (50 words maximum).
- The type of outcome that could be expected by conference delegates.

Please note that the LGSA do not accept presentations that are solely commercial in nature. Regularly updated information as well as the opportunity to subscribe to a conference email newsletter is available on the website [www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au](http://www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au)

[lgsa.org.au](http://lgsa.org.au) For further information please call Sascha Moege on 02 9242 4045 or [ascha.moege@lgsa.org.au](mailto:ascha.moege@lgsa.org.au). The closing date for submitting papers is 6 April 2010.

## IWES CARBON ACCOUNTING COURSE, 17-19 FEBRUARY 2010, SYDNEY

The aim of this course is to provide water industry practitioners with the skills and knowledge to 1) understand the risks posed by climate change to their organisation; 2) calculate their greenhouse gas footprint; and 3) assess and develop strategies for reducing their exposure to physical climate change risk.

This is a practical course with Australian case studies and "hands-on" sections. Visit the IWES website at [www.iwes.com.au](http://www.iwes.com.au) for further information about the course.

## EXECUTIVE MEETING AND AGM DATES IN 2010

Members are welcome to send issues for discussion or suggest projects to the Executive Committee. Any enquiries or issues should be emailed to Gary Mitchell, [gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au](mailto:gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au)

The Executive Committee meeting dates for 2010 are 4 March, 13 May, 8 July, 9 September and 11 November (including the AGM). A half day planning workshop will be held on Wednesday 10 November 2010.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer

© Copyright Water Directorate 2010

