

WATER DIRECTORATE news

JANUARY 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.

FLOODS

January 2011 will be long remembered for record rainfall and record floods in eastern Australia. Sadly many communities have been devastated by the deadly floods and recovery efforts will take many months at great personal and financial cost. This set of extreme events demonstrates the ironic forces of nature and resulting change of priorities.

JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/ LGSA WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

At the end of January there are just 5 months remaining in this program. Understandably, the January flooding may delay the delivery of some projects. The total water savings to date is approx 3,370 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.

NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2011 NOMINATIONS, 5TH WIOA ENGINEERS & OPERATORS CONFERENCE, NEWCASTLE JOCKEY CLUB, 30 & 31 MARCH

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor the NSW Operator of the Year Award as it recognises 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 trip and study tour of various water and wastewater treatment plants. The prize includes air fares, accommodation and a set of trophies.

A criteria and nomination form was mailed out last month and is also available on our website at www.waterdirectorate.asn.au

Nominations close on 4 March 2011. Please send nominations to Gary Mitchell by fax on 02 9283 5255 or gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au

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 2011.

Water professionals from member Councils with up to 7 years experience should consider nominating when the forms are made available in February.

IPWEA (NSW DIV) ONE DAY FORUM, PYRMONT, 17 MAY

The IPWEA's 1 Day Forum in 2011 will include a Water Directorate 'forum' with the Road Safety 'forum' and the Roads and Transport Congress.

It is hoped that the NSW Premier will open the event and that the Minister for Water will address the water component of the event.

The Water Directorate forum will include presentations, discussion forum and panel. More details about this event will be reported in the February newsletter.

WIOA COAGULATION / FLOCCULATION SEMINAR, 16 MARCH, WAGGA WAGGA

The registration form and proposed program has been mailed out with this newsletter. Like other WIOA seminars, the content aligns with the material contained in the WIOA Practical Guide of the same name. The Water Directorate is pleased to co-badge and promote this seminar to assist upskilling NSW operations staff. The Water Directorate considers WIOA technical training to be worthwhile, practical and affordable.

FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE WATER TRAINING & ASSESSMENT NETWORK

In January, WTAN's first newsletter was distributed. WTAN's specific role is to build the capacity of the water industry workforce to train and assess their staff. This will require the creation of closer partnerships between RTOs and Councils and increasing the number of people in industry who will be able to train and assess, particularly if certification of water operators is introduced in about 2013.

Following meetings last November, the format of the next round of regional meetings in February and March will include an industry component followed by discussions with other parties such as training providers and state govt representatives. One critical need is for industry to identify what their training needs are.

The next meeting dates are:

- Orange, Tues 22 Feb, 10:00am-2:00pm
- Sydney, Thurs 24 February, 10:00am-12:30pm

- Coffs Harbour, Wed 9 Mar, 11:00am-2:30pm
- Wagga Wagga, Thurs 10 Mar, 11:00am-2:30pm
- Batemans Bay, Tues 15 Mar, 9:30am-1:00pm

For more information please contact Jennifer James, Executive Officer, NSW Public Sector ITAB on 02 9499 3168.

CALL FOR PAPERS – 2011 LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, GRAFTON, 14 -16 SEPTEMBER

The Associations are calling for papers for the LGSA Water Management Conference being hosted by Clarence Valley Council in Grafton later this year.

The LGSA Water Management Conference is an annual event providing Local Government with a broad range of information on water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities. Papers are invited on the main topics planned including:

- Regional water supply solutions.
- Review of regulatory and institutional arrangement for local water utilities in regional NSW, particularly implementing regional water supply solutions to improve town water security.
- Interaction between natural resource management, water quality and water supply and sewerage services.

Information about the conference is available on the conference website at www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au. Papers should be emailed to Sascha Moege, Senior Policy Officer, sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au by the 15 April closing date.

NEW EXEMPTION REGIME FOR WICA - INVITATION TO INFORMATION SESSIONS, SYDNEY, 23 FEBRUARY

IPART will be holding half day information sessions on WICA and the recent changes to the exemptions under this licensing regime. The sessions will provide an overview of the water licensing and access regimes. In particular, the sessions will focus on:

- What is the WIC Act? What is a WICA licence?
- The three stages of the licensing process
- Lessons learnt from 2 years of implementation of WICA
- Who was exempt from licensing, and who is now? Why did it change?
- What is required after you get a licence?

The information session is on Wednesday 23 Feb, at 8.30am–1.00pm at the Wesley Conference Centre, Smith Room, 220 Pitt St, Sydney.

In March, regional NSW meetings will be held depending on the response to the first session. Session locations will be determined by availability of facilities and numbers of respondents in an area.

Please register your interest if you are unable to attend the above session, including regional areas where you prefer to attend sessions. For more information on the sessions or the licensing regime, please contact Carly Price on 9113 7732 or email carly_price@ipart.nsw.gov.au or Narelle Berry on 9113 7722 or email narelle_berry@ipart.nsw.gov.au

To confirm attendance or to register interest in attending later sessions in Sydney or regionally, please contact

Emma Smith on 9290-8472 or email emma_smith@ipart.nsw.gov.au by no later than 9 February with the following details:

- name
- position
- organisation
- address
- email
- ph number and
- preferred session location.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR 2011 DIARY

- WIOA Engineers & Operators Conference, Newcastle, 30-31 March
- AWA Ozwater, Adelaide, 9-11 May
- IPWEA (NSW Division), 1 Day Forum and Excellence Awards, Sydney, 17 May
- IPWEA (National) International Public Works Conference, Canberra, 21-25 August
- LGSA Water Management Conference, Grafton, 14-16 September

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 & 0 November.

Members are welcome to forward issues for discussion at these meetings to garymitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
January 2011
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