

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## JUNE 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.*

### **END OF THE JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/LGSA WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

At the end of June the program ceased. Fifty nine projects are now complete and the total water savings to date is approx 4,300ML. View the total water saved through this program on the 'meter' at [www.waterloss.lgsa.org.au](http://www.waterloss.lgsa.org.au). In addition to a large volume of water being saved, a lot of valuable knowledge has been gained through this program.

The final 34 projects have been submitted to the Federal Government Department, DSEWPaC, for signoff and we await transfer of funds of \$1.1M to pay the participating LWUs.

This funding will bring the total outlay for 59 projects to \$1.87M. The interim total water savings is 5.32GL per annum. The interim cost of water savings (total project cost / water savings) equates to \$1,135 per ML which is expected to improve slightly.

Readers are reminded that the end of this program is the culmination of events which commenced just over 6 years ago in May 2005 when National Water Commission representatives attended our Executive Committee meeting advising the details of the Australian Government Water Fund and seeking innovative submissions to the Water Smart Fund involving larger projects in excess of \$1M that generate substantial improvement.

A joint Water Directorate/LGSA submission was made on 30 June 2005 for a 4 year program which bundled 33 Councils together. Approval for the program and funding of \$7.387M was granted in March 2006 after minor tweaking of the submission. Approval to extend the WLMP by a further year to June 2011 was granted in 2010 by the Federal Government.

Similar recent efforts to seek Federal Government approval for a new WLMP to continue the momentum of the original were unsuccessful. Similar efforts to get the State Government to start a new WLMP to continue the success and momentum of the original WLMP are continuing.

Please direct all queries to Program Manager Ian Maggs on 02 9242 4127. Before the program winds down completely, on behalf of the Water Directorate and the Governance Committee, I thank the very dedicated and far travelled program team of Ian Maggs, Marko Petkovic and Melanie Werner who are well known to many LWU staff across the state.

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**

Membership fees are now due for 2011/12 and invoices will be sent out in July. The Executive Committee resolved that fees be increased by CPI in order to keep pace with inflation. In addition to technical support and networking opportunities with your peers in all 95 member Councils, technical publications will be delivered such as the Design of Fire Flows Guidelines (to be distributed in July) and the Land Acquisition Guidelines (planned to be released in September).

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER DIRECTORATE CONSTITUTION**

Thanks to all Councils that sent back their postal ballot in June for the amendments to the Water Directorate's constitution. The amendments have been approved by receiving a 75% response in the affirmative.

These minor amendments were necessary to comply with the new *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and Associations Incorporation

Regulation 2010 which commenced on 1 July 2010.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICE AWARD FOR LOCAL WATER UTILITIES NOW OPEN**

This new award was created by the Water Directorate in 2010 for our 95 member Councils and is part of the LGSA's Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards.

The inaugural winner of this category last year was Kyogle Council for the Kyogle IWCM Implementation Project.

Member Councils are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to promote and reward good work and good staff. Awards will be presented to winning Councils at a presentation ceremony and seminar to be held on the morning of Tuesday 29 November at a venue to be confirmed.

Entries are being received until COB 31 August. For more information go to [www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp](http://www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/511-environment-awards.asp)

### **IMPORTANT WTAN NETWORK MEETING FOR MID-COAST, NORTH COAST AND NEW ENGLAND REGIONS, 19 JULY**

The state-wide Water Training and Assessment Network (WTAN) has been established to increase the capacity of the water industry to provide high quality training and assessment for its workforce. Regional representatives are encouraged to attend the next meeting of the North Coast Water WTAN in Coffs Harbour on Tuesday 19 July from 11.00am – 2.00pm.

With the likely introduction of certification requirements for water industry operators in the next few years, each Council responsible for water and sewerage services will need to ensure their staff are adequately

trained and qualified. To help Councils identify their training requirements, the WTAN network has gained some funding from the NSW Department of Education and Communities to undertake a Training Needs Study of water employees on the Mid-Coast, North Coast and New England regions of Councils. This work will commence in August.

It is important that a representative from each Council in this region attends this meeting so you can contribute to discussions about the purpose, design and outputs from this study. For further information about the WTAN network or to confirm your attendance at this July meeting, please contact the Project Manager, Jennifer James on 9499 3168 or email [jjames@psitab.com.au](mailto:jjames@psitab.com.au)

### **LAST CALL FOR WATER AUSTRALIA SUMMIT 2011, SYDNEY, 20-21 JULY, DARLING HARBOUR**

Water Directorate member Council staff are entitled to attend at a discount of \$895+GST and if 3 book from same organisation, the 4th is free. Please contact Shahida Sweeney on 8923 8027 or go to [www.halledit.com.au/water2011](http://www.halledit.com.au/water2011)

### **SYDNEY WATERAID BALL 2011, OVERSEAS PASSENGER TERMINAL, CIRCULAR QUAY, 3 SEPTEMBER**

WaterAid invites you to Sydney's FIRST WaterAid Ball. WaterAid is a leading, international, NGO dedicated to helping the world's poorest communities get access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Join WaterAid for this special night and help change lives forever.

To join 500 water industry colleagues, book online at [www.sydneywateraidball.com.au](http://www.sydneywateraidball.com.au) at this worthy black tie event. You will enjoy famous Sydney Harbour views and a sumptuous, five star menu created by Matt Moran of Aria.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2011 are 14 July, 8 September and 9-10 November. Members are welcome to forward issues for discussion at these meetings.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR AWARDED PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL IN QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST**

In June, Water Directorate Chair Stewart McLeod was the worthy recipient of the prestigious Public Service Medal for his outstanding contribution to local government and public works engineering in NSW.

Stewart has created and led powerful regional groupings of local councils in areas of critical engineering concern to their communities. Through his involvement in these and numerous other representative bodies, Stewart has substantially contributed to policy and technical direction in the areas of water supply and sewerage management in NSW, and was an integral part of a number of state government initiatives helping to establish best practice strategies in these fields.

Few would be aware of the extent of Stewart's achievements and dedication to serving the public across rural and regional NSW. Stewart was a co-founder of the Water Directorate in 1997, has been its Chair since 2006 and has also been the Deputy Chair since 2006 of the Governance Committee of the innovative and successful Joint Water Loss Management Program.

Stewart is the Country Group Chair of the Dubbo Group of Engineers Australia since 1997 and has served engineers across a huge slice of northwest NSW. Stewart is also a Board member of the IPWEA (NSW Division) since 2009.

In 2008 Stewart championed the formation of the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance (LMWUA) consisting of 8 member Councils to ensure the achievement of long term sustainability and State Government mandated Best Practice. Stewart is a Board Member on the Alliance, and a member of the Technical Committee which runs the Alliance.

Congratulations to Stewart for serving NSW with distinction over such a long period of time.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
June 2011  
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