

OCTOBER 2016

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to the 85 member Councils that have rejoined. Welcome back Wentworth Shire Council as a member in August and my apologies for overlooking to mention that good news.

After the June mergers, my calculations have the number of LWUs down from 102 to 89. Announced mergers of Orange/Blayney/Cabonne & Bathurst/Oberon are pending appeals and the number of LWUs might further reduce by 3 to 86. The Water Directorate anticipates membership in the order of 99%.

In 2016/17 we plan to distribute the following 7 technical publications:

- *Review of Dams Safety Bill 2015 new, done*
- *Water Entitlements Management Practical Guidelines new, done*
- *Drought Management Guidelines Update, planned to be released in November, see next item*
- *S64 Developer Guidelines Update*
- *Customer Service Plan new*
- *O&M Manual for SPSs Update*
- *O&M Manual for WPSs Update*

NEXT PUBLICATION: DROUGHT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES UPDATE

An updated version of our *Drought Management Guidelines 2003*, undertaken by HydroScience and WaterOz, is expected to be distributed in November.

2015/16 ANNUAL REVIEW

A copy of our Annual Review was sent out in October to General Managers and key contacts in NSW LWUs and the local government water industry.



WRAPUP FROM THE IPWEA (NSW) STATE CONFERENCE & EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Innovation was a strong keynote theme at the conference. It was my pleasant duty to present the aptly named Award for Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater at the Engineering Excellence Awards Dinner. Adrian Hofsteede (pictured with Gary) accepted the award on behalf of Eurobodalla Shire Council for their Kianga STP Condition Assessment project.

Eurobodalla SC's innovative approach enabled the oxidation ditch that processes sewage from three villages to be taken out of service for a period, emptied, cleaned and have a detailed condition

assessment carried out whilst still maintaining alternative sewage treatment by clever modification of an adjacent disused and undersized Pasveer Channel. Highly Commended went to Keith Appleby from Glen Innes Severn Council and to Ken Gouldthorp from MidCoast Water. The Water Directorate initiated this award in its first year of operations and has sponsored it since 2000.



The Water Directorate had a display booth for the first time to remind LWU staff of the breadth of our 50+ technical publications.



Congratulations to IPWEA (NSW) for a very successful conference at a great venue in the Hunter Valley. Thanks also to Jason Ip and Andrew Francis for presenting technical papers in the Water Directorate Stream.

'WATER - LIFE - GROWTH' NATIONAL WATER WEEK

National Water Week was held on 16-22 October. Each year, National Water Week makes a splash across Australia inspiring individuals, communities and organisations to work together to build community awareness and understanding around water issues and opportunities for growth and innovation.

This year's National Water Week's theme is 'Water - life - growth' encouraging sound water practices and investment in all the water sources. National Water Week provides an opportunity to remind ourselves and teach others that water must be used wisely if there is to be enough to meet the needs of our future generations. The week is also a celebration of innovation and water achievements that have and will contribute to Australia's sustainable future and economic prosperity.

WORLD TOILET DAY, WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER

Following on from National Water Week is the UN World Toilet Day. World Toilet Organisation was founded on 19 November 2001 and the inaugural World Toilet Summit was held on the same day, the first global summit of its kind. The need is recognised for an international day to draw global attention to the sanitation crisis – and so World Toilet Day was established on 19 November. World Toilet Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2013 as a day to raise awareness of the importance of sanitation.

A shocking one in three of the world's population do not have access to a safe and private toilet. The Water Directorate encourages our

member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their vision. WaterAid does great work by helping to transform lives in some of the world's poorest communities.

Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's free eNewsletter by going [to this website](#).

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2017 WIOA NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Managers who wish to reward their dedicated operators who do great work protecting public health are urged to nominate their staff by 10 February 2017 to be Operator of the Year.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 11th Annual WIOA Conference on 30 March 2017 at EPIC - the Exhibition Park in Canberra. In addition, the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend the Water Industry Operations Group (WIOG) New Zealand conference.

Attached is the [nomination form](#) that was mailed to member Councils with the hard copy of this newsletter.

CLOSURE OF AUSTRALIAN WATER RECYCLING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

From 1 October Don Begbie was engaged as Executive Officer (part-time) to assist the Board to wind up the AWRCE Ltd. Don may be contacted [on this email](#).

The AWRCE completed its obligations under the Funding Agreement with the Australian Govt in September. The Centre's Final Report together with all research outcomes are now available on the [Centre's legacy website](#).

SUBMISSION TO IPART RE GOVERNMENT RATING SYSTEM

In October the Water Directorate made a submission to the IPART's Review of the Local Govts. Thanks to Atom Consulting for collating comments from member Councils and preparing the submission.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2016 are:

- 9 November, Annual Planning Meeting
- 10 November, AGM
- 10 November, final Executive Committee Meeting for 2016 and for the two year term

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Please note that the current Executive Committee two year term will expire at the end of 2016 and we will be calling for nominations in December. General Managers of our member Councils will be asked to nominate senior Water and Sewer Managers to serve on the Executive Committee during 2017 and 2018. The coming term will be the Water Directorate's tenth two year term.

The Water Directorate uses nine of the IPWEA NSW regional groupings of Councils to draw 18 Executive Committee members from. Senior Water and Sewer managers who are interested in helping to produce strategic guidelines and manuals should consider this rewarding voluntary role.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
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Please note that the Water Directorate has been located since May at Suite 1202, L12, 32 Walker St, Nth Sydney, 2060. Phone numbers are 9188 4390 & 9188 4391.