

WATER DIRECTORATE news

DECEMBER 2013

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.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ADVICE TO NSW LOCAL WATER UTILITIES

The Water Directorate convened its inaugural meeting on 18 December 1998 following 18 months of planning and gathering support. The Water Directorate is a voluntary association of councils and county councils that operate water and/or sewer businesses in regional NSW and commenced with 50 paid member Councils. Today there are 98 member Councils or 96% representation.

Over the past 15 years we have:

- convened 94 Executive Committee meetings
- facilitated 11 water management forums at LGSA/LGNSW Water conferences
- facilitated 13 water management streams and forums at IPWEA conferences
- distributed 175 monthly newsletters
- presented 14 excellence awards at IPWEA conferences
- presented 10 conference attendance awards to young water professionals
- presented 2 environment best practice awards at LGSA conferences
- presented 7 Operator of the Year awards at WIOA conferences
- published 40 technical guidelines and manuals on a broad range of water issues as well as input into government publications.

As an association, the Water Directorate has harnessed the collective knowledge and experience of the hundreds of committed engineering staff spread across regional and remote NSW.

Thanks to all our member councils for your support and to the valuable

assistance from individuals via the discussion forum which is a very important networking and information sharing tool.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2014 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award again which recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. Managers of NSW operators who have the abovementioned qualities are urged to nominate their staff by 28 February.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 8th Annual WIOA Conference on 3 April 2014 in Orange - see also next item. In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend a New Zealand conference. Click [here](#) for the nomination form.

2014 WIOA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, ORANGE, 2 – 3 APRIL

The 8th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference will be held in Orange at the PCYC.

Paper abstract submissions have closed but operators are strongly encouraged to submit a Poster Paper to share your experiences and knowledge with your fellow operators. Posters need to be submitted by 28th February. Contact George Wall for the details on 03 5821 6744 or go to www.wioa.org.au

The conference program and registration details will be available soon. The Orica Water Taste Test will also be held again in 2014 .ter in NSW.

CIVENEX 2014, SYDNEY DRAGWAY, EASTERN CREEK, 14 – 15 MAY 2014

Visit www.civenex.com to register for Australia's premier Expo for public works and infrastructure. See the flyer enclosed with the hardcopy newsletter.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER NSW PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION

New requirements under the NSW Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Regulation 2012 mean that businesses providing drinking water to customers, as part of a commercial venture, need to develop and adhere to a 'quality assurance program' by 1 September 2014.

Under the new laws, these businesses are called 'private water suppliers'. Throughout NSW there are many businesses, such as caravan parks, school camps, tourist attractions and home based businesses that rely on private water supplies. The sources of these supplies can include groundwater, surface water and rainwater. The Public Health Act and Regulation do not apply to water supplies sourced from bottled and prepackaged water or water sourced from an entity such as an LWU.

Businesses which supply water may also need to comply with other laws. The supply of water 'fit for human consumption' (or potable water) is also a requirement of the Food Act 2003 and the Local Government (Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings) Regulation 2005.

A quality assurance program will help businesses protect the health of their customers by identifying and managing risks to their drinking water supply.

NSW Health has developed the NSW Private Water Supply Guidelines to assist businesses to meet the public health requirements of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. A quality assurance program template, the NSW Private Water Supply Guidelines and supporting information are available [here](#).

Some example quality assurance programs will also be available on

the NSW Health website, modelled on real private water supplies to help businesses in filling out their own quality assurance program.

Your quality assurance program should be kept in a place that is easily accessible to staff and a copy provided to your local Public Health Unit. The quality assurance program should be a living document, updated by you as required and used for record keeping. For more information please contact your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the [website](#).

OPERATING TIMES FOR NSW HEALTH LABORATORIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The three NSW Health laboratories that provide testing for the NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program will be closed for the following dates over the Christmas period. Urgent samples can be accepted during this time. Contact your local Public Health Unit to request laboratory testing in case of emergencies during this period.

NSW FASS (NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service, formerly DAL) Closed 24 December until 3 January. Full service recommences Monday 6 January 2014. Please submit microbiology samples to reach FASS by Thursday 19 December and chemistry samples by 16 December to allow time for them to be processed before Christmas.

Greater Murray Water Testing Laboratory (Wagga) Closed 25 December until 2 January 2014. Full service recommences Thursday 2 January 2014. Please submit samples by Monday 23 December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

Pathology North (Lismore) Closed 25 Dec until 2 January 2014. Full service recommences Thursday 2 January 2104. Please submit samples by Monday 23 December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

The 2014 labels were posted on Thursday 12 Dec 2013, addressed to the General Manager of each water utility. The labels are to be used from 1 January 2014, at which time any 2013 labels should be discarded.

LAST CALL FOR PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR IWC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The International WaterCentre (IWC) is offering partial scholarships of up to \$2,000 per semester for students who want to join the next intake of the integrated water management suite of postgraduate degrees offered through the University of Queensland and Griffith University.

Full time programs are available for international students and full-time or part-time/distance programs are available for domestic* students. Ten partial scholarships are available for the program starting 2014. For more information go to www.watercentre.org/ to apply for the scholarship by 31 January 2014 for domestic students.

PROBLEMS WITH PIPES – DRINKING WATER NETWORKS MASTER CLASS, SYDNEY, 18 – 19 FEBRUARY 2014

Delivering water to peoples' homes and businesses is a core service for water utilities, contracted service entities and local government instrumentalities. Maintaining the distribution system of pipes, pumping

stations and service points in optimal condition is the key to minimising breakages, equipment failure and customer complaints.

This Master Class focuses on what can go wrong with pipes and troubleshooting the problem. Issues to be covered in this Class include planning and design to address unstable geo-strata or acid sulphate soils, selection of materials to minimise corrosion, dealing with leaks, catastrophic failure, pressure management and smart metering systems.

For the full program visit the [AWA website](#).

UPDATED AUSTRALIAN DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES (2011) NOW AVAILABLE

As previewed in last month's newsletter, the NHMRC has released an update to the 2011 ADWG as part of its rolling revision of the guidelines. Further information is available on the NHMRC website www.nhmrc.gov.au.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish a peaceful and safe festive season to all member council staff and to all readers of this newsletter. Best wishes for a prosperous 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the Executive Committee which met seven times during 2013 and special thanks to David Byrne who retired from the Executive Committee during 2013 after serving for 15 years.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
December 2013

