

MAY 2015

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.

OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE OF THE WATER INDUSTRY WORKFORCE IN NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Further to items in the Water Directorate's July, August & September 2014 newsletters, I advise that the NSW Public Service ITAB has completed its report on the survey of employment of operators in all NSW LWUs.

The Water Directorate funded project was carried out in conjunction with a national survey and enabled a customised survey to be used to collect data from all NSW councils on the number of employees in the water occupations defined in the Australian Water Occupations Framework (AWOF).

AWOF defines 28 generic water occupations and will enable organisations to compare roles nationally and establish water-specific occupational codes in future ABS censuses.

The water industry sought to quantify the number of workers nationally

in water industry occupations. This research aims to build a case for revision of the misleading ANZSCO codes to better represent the water industry.

The NSW survey also included questions on employee training and professional development needs to help inform coordinating activities.

Key findings from the report were presented at the WIOA conference in Orange in March. These included:

- Employment in NSW councils is estimated to be 1,957 in 28 occupations across 102 NSW LWUs including Essential Water and Hawkesbury City Council.
- Employment in other NSW and national water employers is estimated to be 4,915 excluding Hunter Water, many Qld councils and private contractors.

I thank our member councils for participating in the survey. The report will be distributed to the WTAN network and will be put on the Water Directorate website in June.

WATER DIRECTORATE'S NEXT PUBLICATION

In mid-June we plan to distribute a copy of a new publication titled *Easement Guidelines*. This document will complement the *Land Matters Guidelines* and similarly this new guideline is co-funded and jointly produced with the IPWEA (NSW Division) Roads and Transport Directorate.

WATER NSW

The Water NSW Bill 2014 (NSW) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly last year.

The objectives of the Bill were to:

- provide for State Water Corporation (SWC) to become Water NSW;

abolish the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) and transfer its functions to Water NSW;

- repeal the *Sydney Water Catchment Management Act 1998* No. 171 (NSW) and *State Water Corporation Act 2004* No. 40 (NSW) and re-enact their provisions, with some modifications, in a consolidated form; provide for certain regulatory functions under the proposed Act to be exercised by a regulatory authority.

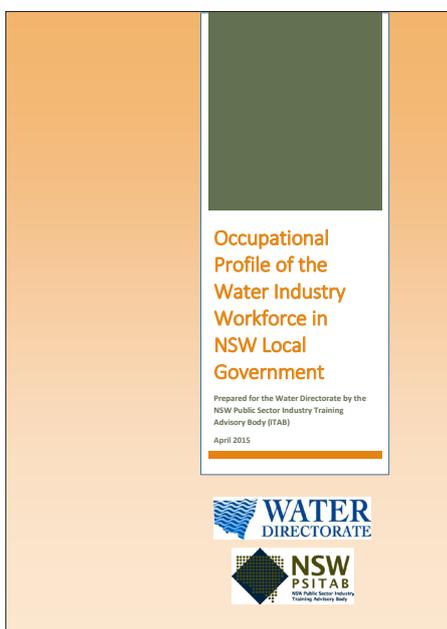
The Bill also proposed to make consequential amendments to at least 24 other pieces of legislation. Water NSW is now responsible for managing raw water supply across the State. Water NSW has brought together the Sydney Catchment Authority and State Water and aims to deliver the most efficient service to customers and the community.

Water NSW is now responsible for developing infrastructure solutions for improved water supply and reliability, protecting water quality in its designated catchments, catchment protection in the Greater Sydney drinking water catchments, asset management, and flood operations and mitigation.

Water NSW will continue to deliver on stringent NSW Government water quality standards and catchment protection for the Sydney drinking water catchment.

AWA/WATER DIRECTORATE OZWATER'15 ATTENDANCE AWARD

In May, Rebecca Borwell from MidCoast Water attended Ozwater'15 and the Young Professionals workshop in Adelaide as a result of winning the AWA/Water Directorate Ozwater'15





Rebecca Borwell from MidCoast Water receives her OzWater'15 Conference Attendance Award certificate from Gary Mitchell, Executive Officer, Water Directorate and Jonathan McKeown, Chief Executive, AWA.

Attendance Award. Congratulations to Rebecca for winning this award and we look forward to reading her report about Ozwater'15 in the near future.

It is once again pleasing to provide this great opportunity to a young water professional from a NSW LWU.

IWES GOLD COAST 2015, 13-17 JULY 2015

The program incorporates a wide range, and number, of course offerings for professionals to choose from - including the established and highly regarded courses:

- Principles of Wastewater Treatment
- Design of Biological and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Processes
- Energy Efficiency for Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Design and Operation of Membrane Systems
- Drinking Water Treatment - Principles, Practice and Applications
- Best Practice Drinking Water Quality Management
- Recycled Water Management
- Principles of Hydraulic Engineering and Open Channel Flow
- Coal Seam Gas Water Management
- Odour Assessment and Management
- Contaminated Site Assessment and Remediation
- Corrosion and Odour Management in Sewers
- Introduction to Coastal Processes and Coastal Engineering

- Process Modelling for Water Treatment Professionals

To access the full program, including venue details and speaker profiles go to iwes.com.au/main.

COUNTRY TOWNS WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM

The current CTWS&S Program will end on 30 June 2017. A replacement Program has been announced for backlog projects and details are being finalised by Infrastructure NSW.

The eligibility criteria and funding criteria are the same as for the outgoing CTWS&S Program with the additional requirement that each project must demonstrate a Benefit-Cost Ratio of 1 or more.

This is a requirement under the Restart NSW funding programs. LWUs with eligible projects will be contacted by Infrastructure NSW.

In keeping with a requirement of the NSW Government's response to Infrastructure NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy, a Benefit-Cost analysis of the CTWS&S Program was done with a result of 1.54 achieved.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- IPWEA Australasia International Public Works Conference, Rotorua NZ, 7-11 June
- LGNSW Water Management Conference, Bowral, 24 -26 August
- IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference and Excellence Awards, Terrigal, 14-16 October

WELCOME TO MICHAEL CLARK

In May, Michael Clark joined the Water Directorate staff as Project Officer. Michael has a research and project management background and will be a valuable asset in assisting us to undertake additional future projects.

If members would like to contact Michael please call him on 8267 3009 or email mclark@waterdirectorate.asn.au

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2015 are:

- 16 July
- 10 September
- 11,12 November

A vacancy exists on the Executive Committee representing the New England Region. If you are a senior water manager from a member council in the New England group of LWUs then please consider undertaking this role and contact me on 8267 3010.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
May 2015
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