

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## OCTOBER 2014

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 100 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

### **YASS SHIRE COUNCIL WINS THE INNOVATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER AWARD AT IPWEA NSW CONFERENCE**

At the Gala Awards Dinner in October, the Water Directorate Excellence Award for Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater was presented to Yass Shire Council for the Yass Dam Upgrade Project. Due to severe water supply shortages during recent droughts the Yass Dam was raised to improve the capture capacity of the asset. The award was accepted by Simon Cassidy, Director of Operations.

The Highly Commended Award for Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater went to Shoalhaven City

Council for Kangaroo Valley Sewerage Scheme. Congratulations to both Yass Shire Council and Shoalhaven City Council.

This award is the longest running of the four awards that the Water Directorate sponsors throughout the year and was first presented in 2000.

### **LAST OPPORTUNITY TO HELP AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WATER INDUSTRY OCCUPATIONS**

A national survey currently being undertaken by Government Skills Australia (GSA) will be sent in November. The survey aims to

help the water industry count the number of employees in each of 28 water occupations as defined in the Australian Water Occupations Framework (AWOF) - <http://governmentskills.com.au/awof>). The survey will build an occupational profile of the water industry which can be used to establish water-specific occupational codes in future ABS censuses.

It is imperative that as many councils as possible participate in this national survey. The collection of more accurate employment data will help ensure the water industry is not overlooked, particularly in the development of policies on employment and training, immigration and infrastructure development.

The survey will take councils about 10 to 20 minutes. Please direct your questions to Jennifer James at the NSW Public Sector ITAB on 02 9499 3168 or to Sue Peisley at GSA on 08 8100 7426.

### **WATER DIRECTORATE PURCHASES THE LATEST WIOA PUBLICATION FOR EVERY MEMBER COUNCIL**

In October the Water Directorate purchased and distributed a copy to our financial member councils of WIOA's latest publication titled *Practical Guide to the Operation and Optimisation of Activated Sludge Plants*.

The Water Directorate is pleased to have purchased and distributed all seven WIOA publication to date for our financial member councils.

This latest Practical Guide was launched recently at WIOA's Bendigo conference. Extra copies are available from WIOA at \$44 including GST plus postage. An order form can be downloaded at [www.wioa.org.au/publications/](http://www.wioa.org.au/publications/)



Simon Cassidy, Director of Operations, Yass Valley Council accepting the IPWEA Engineering Excellence Award from Gary Mitchell, Executive Officer, Water Directorate

## **NSW BEST-PRACTICE SEMINARS, SYDNEY, ORANGE, COFFS HARBOUR AND WAGGA WAGGA, STARTING 20 NOVEMBER**

The inaugural series of best-practice seminars commence with a half day Overview Session recommended for Mayors, councillors, GMs and finance directors. The full seminars are recommended for engineering directors, water and sewerage managers, engineers and staff involved with urban water.

These seminars are structured as a forum for engaging urban water industry leaders in regional NSW for driving productivity improvement and continuing NSW leadership in developing and implementing appropriate, affordable and cost-effective water supply and sewerage services.

The seminars will also address the requirements of and the tools, systems and processes developed to achieve best practice. The Overview Session is free and includes lunch. The full 2-day seminar costs \$590 per person and includes lunch and dinner. It is strongly recommended that you attend these sessions by registering early. Please contact Roshan Iyadurai on [Roshan.Iyadura@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Roshan.Iyadura@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

## **WORLD TOILET DAY, WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER**

WaterAid is super excited to introduce its newest community fundraising event, Sanitation Superheroes, to be held for the first time on World Toilet Day on 19 November. Superheroes, just like toilets, save lives!

More than 2 billion people around the world do not have access to a safe, private toilet, and sadly, 1,400 children die each day from diarrhoeal diseases, related to unsafe water and poor sanitation.

On World Toilet Day, you can support WaterAid's work by dressing like a superhero for the day and raising money to help the world's poorest communities build toilets. Getting involved is easy! Go to <http://sanitationsuperheroes.org.au/> or email [superheroes@wateraid.org.au](mailto:superheroes@wateraid.org.au)

If you don't like to dress up, that's fine. You can still be a Sanitation Superhero on World Toilet Day by raising awareness for the 2.5 billion people living without a safe toilet.

The Water Directorate encourages our 97 member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their vision. Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's free eNewsletter by going to [www.wateraid.org.au](http://www.wateraid.org.au) and filling in your email address on the 'Stay In touch!' section. Water industry staff interested in donating to WaterAid Australia can do so on-line. Your donations will help achieve a world where everyone has access to safe water, effective sanitation and hygiene education.

## **NEW WATER NSW BILL**

The Water NSW Bill 2014 (NSW) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and received its second reading speech on 16 October.

According to the explanatory note, the objectives of the Bill are 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 proposes to make consequential amendments to at least 24 other pieces of legislation. Item courtesy SAI Global Water Newsfeeds.

## **AUSTRALIAN GROUNDWATER EXPLORER**

To celebrate National Water Week, the Bureau of Meteorology released the Australian Groundwater Explorer at Parliament House. Available from the Bureau's website, Explorer is a web mapping portal for visualising, analysing and downloading groundwater data. It is the first system to make Australian data publicly available at a national scale. The Explorer contains bore and bore-log information for over 800,000 sites, as well as contextual datasets for surface geology and sedimentary basins.

Interactive maps let you pan and zoom to particular locations, and selected information can be analysed and accessed as tables or graphs. Advanced search functionality allows you to combine multiple scenarios to search for bores based on their attributes, data availability and location.

Annual Review  
2013/2014



Providing regional water authorities with independent, expert advice, technical support, shared industry knowledge, increased efficiencies and long term planning



## **ANNUAL REVIEW**

In October the 2013/2014 Annual Review was distributed to General Managers and all key contacts in NSW LWUs and the local government water industry.

## **VET REFORM UPDATE**

The Australian Government Department of Industry is seeking feedback on the Youth Pilot Programmes Discussion Paper, due 14th November. Regions have been identified with high unemployment in each state/territory where the pilots will be targeted.

If you feel that you could be a potential employer for unemployed youth undertaking a Cert II in regional Australia please read the discussion paper and provide comment through the Department's Consultation Hub <https://consult.industry.gov.au/> and/or forward to your networks to do the same. Go to <http://vetreform.industry.gov.au/publication/industry-skills-fund-%E2%80%93-youth-pilot-programmes-discussion-paper>

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The remaining meeting dates are 12, 13 November to hold a Workshop, AGM and Executive Committee Meeting. All General Managers are welcome to attend the AGM on 13 November in Sydney or send a nominated council representative.