WATER DIRECTORATE
news

FEBRUARY 2017

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.

UNRESOLVED REGIONAL MERGERS OVERTURNED

In February the NSW Government announced that the last 2 proposed mergers affecting 4 to 5 regional Councils will no longer proceed. Councils that have already amalgamated will continue as merged entities.

RESTART NSW WATER SECURITY FOR REGIONS - REGIONAL WATER AND WASTE WATER BACKLOG PROGRAM

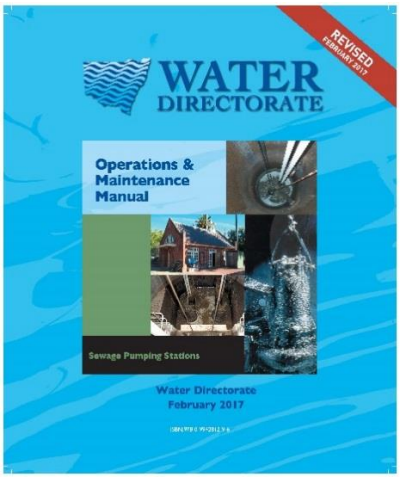
In February DPI Water and Infrastructure NSW held an industry briefing to build awareness for Restart NSW Water Security for Regions - Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program.

The Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog Program is a new capital works program managed by DPI Water.with $110 million committed to clear the backlog of projects in country towns. 32 Backlog projects have been approved. For more information LWUs should contact DPI Water's regional reps.

The Country Towns Water Supply & Sewerage Program commenced in 1996 and ends on 30 June 2017. The Country Towns Water Supply & Sewerage Program provided approx $1.23 billion in funding for regional water and waste water and delivered more than 450 projects in 20 years.

LATEST PUBLICATION: OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE MANUAL FOR SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS

In February a completely new version of our O&M Manual for Submersible SPSs, 2003 and our O&M Manual for Wet & Dry Well SPSs, 2004 was distributed to member Councils.



This new format publication simplifies two O&M Manuals into one; provides an update to reflect current practice and legislation; and also provides additional technical support material. Thanks to the Sewer Sub-committee members Jeff Sharp, Brendan Guiney, Graham Kennett and Graham Gordon for overseeing the review of the manuals.

Please note that for WH&S matters, please refer to the standalone WH&S O&M Manual, 2015. Additional copies of all Water Directorate publications are available free to member Councils by logging in and going to the Bookshop.

AUSTRALIAN STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE IS NOW OPEN

AWA would appreciate NSW LWUs' assistance in promoting this fantastic awards program to high schools in your local area, or to teachers or students you may have contact with. **Entries close Monday 20th March.**

The Australian Stockholm Junior Water Prize is an annual water science competition for high school students aged 15 - 20, and is a key part of the AWA National Awards program. The Australian winner, announced at Ozwater'17, goes on to compete internationally at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize during World Water Week in August. The student is awarded a fully-funded trip to Stockholm to participate in a week-long cultural exchange program with national winners from over 33 other nations.

Entering this award can create employment opportunities for the future allowing the winner to attend Ozwater'17 and World Water Week in Stockholm. Students must submit an abstract with a max of four pages plus graphs, charts and references, and a ten minute presentation to the judging panel via video conference. All details and resources, incl a flyer and information kit can be found on our website.
For more details contact Katie Trevor, Snr Events Manager.

WHO WILL BE THE 2017 WIOA NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR?
The winner of this prestigious award will be named and presented with a set of trophies at the 11th Annual WIOA Conference on 30 March at EPIC in Canberra. The winner will also join the WIOA tour group and attend the WIOG New Zealand conference.

To **register for the conference, visit this website.**

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR AWA HEADS OF WATER GALA DINNER, NSW AWARDS & FORUM, FRIDAY 10 MARCH, HILTON, SYDNEY
Three leading 'heads of water' will revive the Forum and bring perspective and insight to the key issues facing NSW. The Forum topic is *2020 and Beyond – Leading the Water Industry*.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THE ANCOLD DAM OPERATORS FORUM 2017, 22-23 MARCH, JINDABYNE
Don't miss the opportunity to join industry colleagues from Australia and NZ at this event. Check the **Forum website** regularly for updates.
The theme for the Forum is *Operating Dams, a Future of Innovation.*

LAST CHANCE TO WALK FOR WATER
WaterAid's annual fundraising event coincides with World Water Day on 22nd March. Workplaces can get involved by registering a team to complete the Walk for Water. Set a personal distance goal or walk 10,000 steps a day between 20 and 24 March, whilst raising money to help provide lifesaving safe water to the world's poorest people. Get fit and win prizes for the highest fundraising work-places. To register for free, **go to this website.**

CELEBRATE WORLD WATER DAY ON 22 MARCH
22 March each year is International World Water Day. WWD focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The theme in 2017 is Wastewater. It's a day to celebrate water and prepare for how we manage water in the future. WWD was officially assigned to 22 March in 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly. The official WWD event will be celebrated at the HQ of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

HAVE FUN FINDING OUT WHO PRODUCES THE BEST TASTING TAP WATER
Water providers in NSW & ACT are invited to enter the Ixom 2017 NSW & ACT Water Taste Test. **Please send your water samples to the conference with your delegates.** The next Water Taste Test will take place at the WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition at EPIC in Canberra on 29 & 30 March. Samples must be at the Exhibition Centre **by 4.00pm on 28 March** and providers must have a delegate who can provide sample details and accept the award if successful.

The winner will compete in the Water of Origin competition held at the WIOA Queensland Conference in Logan in June and represent NSW & ACT in the national competition to find Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water. **Make sure your water enters the Ixom 2017 NSW & ACT Water Taste Test.** For more details see **this website.**

NOMINATE FOR THE 2017 WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD
The winner will attend AWA's Ozwater'17 in Sydney from 16-18 May. The award comprises one full registration to Ozwater'17 valued at $1,845 courtesy of AWA as well as travel and accommodation expenses to $2,000 excl. GST provided by the Water Directorate. This award aims to promote young water industry professionals with less than 7 year's work experience. Nominations from final year graduates who are working in the local government water industry are also welcome. A **nomination form** is attached to this newsletter. **Closing date is 7 April.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The new Executive Committee's meeting dates for 2017 are:

- 9 March
- 11 May
- 13 July
- 14 September
- 8,9 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
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