

## JUNE 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.*

### \$1 BILLION SAFE & SECURE WATER PROGRAM

In June the NSW Government announced \$1 billion to fund local water infrastructure through the *Safe and Secure Water Program*. This new investment program, developed by DPI Water, is aimed at water and sewerage projects in regional NSW to ensure infrastructure meets contemporary standards for water security, public health and environmental and safety outcomes into the future.

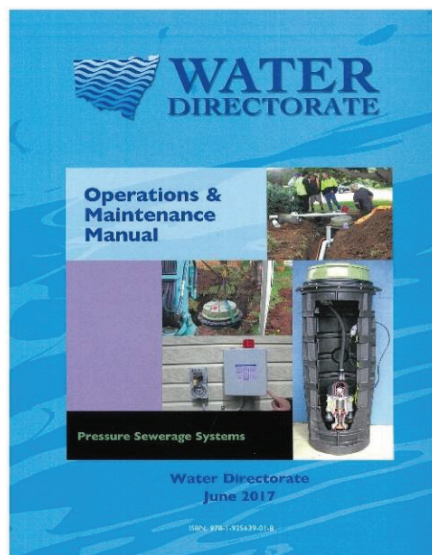
The program underpins the future sustainability of NSW regional economies and supports the 1.9 million people that live in more than 500 regional NSW communities. The program will provide co-funding to successful applicants such as local councils, water utilities, water corporations and prescribed dam owners for detailed planning and construction activities to install, augment or decommission water and sewerage infrastructure.

Focus areas will be initially identified using an innovative new catchment-wide framework, based on security of supply, health and infrastructure risks and emerging issues that can impact on supply and demand. This framework allows for a strategic and long-term approach and ensures the funding is targeted towards critical projects. The \$1 billion fund

includes an already announced \$500 million to construct a flagship Murray River to Broken Hill pipeline. For more information go to [this website](#).

### LATEST PUBLICATION: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL FOR PRESSURE SEWERAGE SYSTEMS

A new standalone publication arising from the update of our *Operations and Maintenance Manual for Sewer Reticulation 2003*, undertaken by Mike Brearley and Associates was distributed to member Councils at the end of June.



This publication was overseen by the Sewer Subcommittee and reflects the use of newer technology since our original manual was produced. All Water Directorate publications are available free to member Councils by logging in and going to the Bookshop.

### DR PAUL BYLEVELD RECOGNISED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Congratulations to Paul Byleveld on being named in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours List as a recipient of the Public Service Medal (PSM). Paul is well known and respected in the NSW local government water industry and was honoured for **outstanding public service to the development of improved water quality and public health in NSW**. It is very fitting that Paul's role particularly in establishing the Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program be acknowledged and he is also well known for his overseas humanitarian work.

The Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program is a very successful program that has been running for almost a decade and has been improving water supply and sewerage services in eligible Aboriginal communities in NSW. This program, which began in July 2008, is a joint initiative of the NSW Government and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and is managed by the NSW Office of Water.

Together, the NSW Government and the Land Council are investing more than \$200 million over a 25 year period to provide funding for the maintenance, operation and repair of water supply and sewerage systems in 61 eligible Aboriginal

communities. The program aims to raise the standard of service by engaging local water utilities with expertise and experience in the management of water supply and sewerage systems to take responsibility for the day-to-day operation and maintenance activities. Consultation is arranged between the local Aboriginal community, the local water utility, DPI Water and other interested stakeholders to examine the existing infrastructure and services and discuss what actions need to be taken to improve the service levels to the standard expected in the wider community.

Paul is Manager Water Unit, Environmental Health Branch in NSW Health and he has also participated in many international efforts to restore safe water supplies in humanitarian crises and natural disaster zones. Paul's PSM is well deserved.

#### **LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, DUBBO, 4-6 SEPTEMBER**

LGNSW Water Management Conference delegates are invited to register online via [this website](#). The conference presents a broad range of information from a Local Government perspective on water management. The 2017 conference will be co-hosted by LGNSW and Dubbo Regional Council and held at Dubbo RSL Memorial Club, 178 Brisbane St.

This year's program will include the popular Water Directorate Forum again on the afternoon of Day 1. The Forum is an opportunity to discuss any water issue that you choose with a panel of Water Directorate Executive Committee members. See you there. For more information

please contact Administration Officer, Communications and Events, Karen Rolls on 9242 4050 or [via her email](#).

#### **SAM SAMRA AWARD**

In the Water Directorate Forum last year at the LGNSW Water Management Conference at Broken Hill, delegates unanimously supported the suggestion that a memorial award be established following the tragic passing of Sam just 10 days before the conference.



It is pleasing to announce that through the assistance of LGNSW and DPI Water, awards will be presented at this year's conference dinner to the most improved LWU in each of four categories and to an overall most improved LWU based on NSW Water Supply & Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report data over a decade.

#### **2015-16 NSW WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

In June the latest report was released by DPI Water after approval by NSW Minister for Regional Water, the Hon. Niall Blair MLC. DPI Water promotes the continuing improvement of LWU performance through dedicated water and sewerage programs and proactive regulation as evidenced by the report's abundance of tables, graphs and indicators.

#### **MIDCOAST WATER TO INTEGRATE INTO MIDCOAST COUNCIL**

On 28 June NSW Minister for Environment, Local Government and Heritage, the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, approved the proposal to dissolve MidCoast Water and move its functions into MidCoast Council. His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of NSW has issued a proclamation that the proposal be implemented from 1 July.

#### **2017 ANCOLD CONFERENCE, WREST POINT CASINO, HOBART, 26-27 OCTOBER**

Early Bird Registration is open till 31 July. The event marks ANCOLD's 80th year and the theme is "Great Expectations for Ageing Dams". For all details visit [this website](#).

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- **LGNSW Water Management Conference**, Dubbo, 4-6 September
- **11th National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference**, Cairns, 4-7 September
- **ANCOLD Conference**, Hobart, 26-27 October
- **IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference and Excellence Awards**, Hunter Valley, 8-10 November

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

13 July

14 September

1,2 November **NOTE DATES CHANGED DUE TO CLASH WITH IPWEA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer

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