

APRIL 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.

NSW WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT SHOW THAT NSW LWUs ARE NATIONAL LEADERS

Sam Samra, Senior Manager, Water Utility Performance, NSW Office of Water, reported at the two monthly LGNSW & NOW Liaison meeting that the new Minister for Lands and Water has approved release of the *2013-14 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report*.

The report shows that NSW LWUs continue to lead the way in providing safe and affordable services for regional NSW, based on the latest annual report card on water supply and sewerage performance.

The *2013-14 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report* outlines the performance of the LWUs and clearly shows that NSW LWUs are national leaders.

The water supply median typical residential bill is now lower than the National median and all the reported results for the other Australian states and the capital city utilities, except for Melbourne and country Victoria.

The increase in the water supply and sewerage median typical residential bill has been limited to 19% in real terms over the past 19 years.

The report also indicates that the average annual residential water use has fallen from 330kL to 173kL per connected property. This is a reduction of over 48% over the past 23 years.

Water main breaks have remained much lower than all the other Australian states and the capital city utilities, indicating good asset condition.

The report also shows that all of the NSW utilities are achieving full cost

recovery for water supply and 95% are achieving full cost recovery for sewerage.

Implementation of the 19 planning, pricing, and management requirements of the NSW Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Framework is now 90%, compared to 46% nine years ago. This report demonstrates the effective partnership between the NSW Government and Local Councils in meeting community needs for water supply and sewerage services to regional NSW.

A copy of the report will be provided to all NSW LWUs and can be accessed online at the NSW Office of Water website at www.water.nsw.gov.au

Item courtesy of Office of Water.

AWA/WATER DIRECTORATE OZWATER'15 ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Water Directorate is pleased to announce that Rebecca Borwell of MidCoast Water won the AWA/Water Directorate Ozwater'15 Attendance Award this year.

Rebecca graduated from Newcastle University in 2014 as a Civil and Environmental Engineer and currently she works as a Graduate Engineer at MidCoast Water.

Rebecca will attend the Ozwater'15 from 12-14 May to be held at the newly expanded Adelaide Convention Centre. She will attend the Young Professionals workshop and breakfast as well as take a tour to the Adelaide Desalination Park.

As a Phd student, Rebecca noted in her nomination that "attending Ozwater will also provide inspiration for my continued studies which focus on the development software that aims to provide a useful tool

in the design of water sensitive developments and infrastructure with respect to water resource management."

The OzWater Attendance Award aims to assist a worthy engineer with up to 7 years' experience from a Water Directorate member council to attend Ozwater. The Water Directorate will provide \$2,000 towards the cost of travel and accommodation and AWA will provide a conference registration also valued at approx \$1,650.

Six highly qualified water industry professionals nominated for the award this year. The nominees were judged on their applications and assessment of the engineering, environmental and professional benefits to themselves and their councils from attending this peak water conference.

Congratulations to Rebecca for winning this award. We look forward to hearing about your experiences from this year's Ozwater'15 in the near future. Unsuccessful nominees are strongly encouraged to renominate for this award next year.

ANCOLD INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN DAM OWNERS FORUM 2015, BRISBANE, 28-29 MAY

The ANCOLD Organising Committee invites you to join them for the inaugural ANCOLD Australian Dam Owners Forum taking place from the 28 - 29 May in Brisbane. The Forum is an exciting opportunity for delegates to network and share knowledge in all areas of small and large dam ownership and management; and is open to all industry stakeholders to attend.

The two day program will include a full day informative program and forum dinner on the 28 May 2015 and a post forum tour on the 29 May 2015.

For more information on this exciting event please visit www.ancolddamowners.com.au. The full day program has an exciting line up of national speakers. To view the forum program go to ancolddamowners.com.au/program/.

On 29 May you can also join like-minded professionals on a tour of local Brisbane dams and gain behind the scenes insights to their operations.

Tour highlights include a visit to SunWater Hydraulics Laboratory for demonstration of physical models of Burdekin Falls Dam, Paradise Dam and Boondoomba Dam and a visit to Wivenhoe Dam.

For more information about the post Forum tour and other social functions please go to ancolddamowners.com.au/social-program/.

18TH INTERNATIONAL RIVERSYMPIOSIUM HEALTHY RIVERS - HEALTHY ECONOMIES, BRISBANE, 21-24 SEPTEMBER

Abstract submissions close on 25 May and Earlybird registration & RiverExpo bookings close 30th June.

For the flyer go to www.icewarm.com.au/userfiles/File/2015/2015%20Riversymposium%20Program-3.pdf.

For the program go to riversymposium.com/program-2014/ and to register riversymposium.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Registration-Form.pdf.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop gave an address at WaterAid's "WASH, women and girls" event at Parliament House on 25 March 2015.

Ms Bishop outlined safe water, sanitation and hygiene as critical to her Government's efforts in addressing the needs of women and girls in the Pacific.

"The impact of lack of access to clean water and safe sanitation is perhaps greatest on women and girls.

Clean water and safe sanitation underpin almost everything else we are trying to achieve. Investing in community-based sanitation and hygiene programs is one of the most effective ways to improve the health, self-esteem, education prospects for girls and women."

WaterAid Papua New Guinea's Health Advocacy Advisor Norma Sagom and Catarina de Albuquerque, Vice-Chair of Sanitation and Water for All, also presented at the forum.

The Foreign Minister congratulated WaterAid on:

"[t]he work it has been doing over the past ten years. Your collaborative partnership and innovative approach has been making a difference to the lives of our neighbours and strengthening our region to deliver the prosperity and stability that we need. Long may your good work endure."

For the media release go to www.wateraid.org/au/news/news/foreign-minister-underlines-water-and-sanitation-as-critical.

Item courtesy of WaterAid.

The Water Directorate encourages our 97 member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members and to support their vision. Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's newsletter by going to www.wateraid.org.au.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- IPWEA CivEnEx, premier exhibition for civil works, open space management, construction and infrastructure, Eastern Creek, 20-21 May
- 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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2014 are:

- 16 July
- 10 September
- 11,12 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer

April 2015

© Copyright Water Directorate

