

WATER DIRECTORATE news

JANUARY 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to 2015. As the Water Directorate reflects back over 16 years of providing technical advice on water matters to our member councils, we also look forward to working again with you.

WATER DIRECTORATE AND WSAA SIGN MOU

In late December the Water Directorate and WSAA signed an MOU establishing opportunities for enhancing the value to members of both organisations and reinforcing the commitment to work together as we advocate for the water industry. WSAA supports the urban water industry and provides a national voice.

The agreement provides discounted access to WSAA Codes and Standards by 50% for Water Directorate member councils with 20,000 property connections or less. The MOU also provides access to

participate in WSAA subscription projects.

Water Directorate member councils with more than 20,000 property connections should contact Jaimie Hicks, Customer Development Manager on jaimie.hicks@wsaa.asn.au to discuss individual membership of WSAA.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2015 AWA Water Innovation Forum, Sydney, 18-19 March
- 9th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition, Orange, 25-26 March
- AWA Ozwater'15, International Water Conference and Trade Exhibition, Adelaide, 12-14 May
- IPWEA CivEnEx, premier exhibition for civil works, open space management, construction & infrastructure, Eastern Creek, 20-21 May

- IPWEA Australasia International Public Works Conference, Rotorua NZ, 7-11 June
- LGNSW Water Management Conference, an August date, venue and theme to be announced in early 2015
- IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference and Excellence Awards, Terrigal, 14-16 October

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE FOR THE NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

The Water Directorate sponsored award recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. Managers of NSW operators who have the abovementioned qualities are urged to nominate their staff by 20 February.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 9th Annual WIOA Conference on 26 March 2015 in Orange - see also next item. In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend the Water Industry Operations Group (WIOG) New Zealand conference in Blenheim from 6-8 May 2015. As in previous years there will be a tour of a number of water and wastewater treatment systems from 1-9 May.

For a nomination form go to www.waterdirectorate.asn.au and click on the relevant news item.

2015 WIOA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, ORANGE, 25 - 26 MARCH

Following the successful staging of the event in 2014, the 9th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry



Gary Mitchell, Executive Officer, Water Directorate and Adam Lovell, Executive Director, WSAA sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations.

Engineers & Operators Conference will be held again in the Orange PCYC. Contact George Wall for the details on 03 5821 6744 or go to www.wioaconferences.org.au/documents/NSW2015.



The popular Water Taste Test will be held again in 2015. To find out which Council has the best tasting water in NSW, please send your water samples to the conference with your delegates. The test is a fun way of promoting friendly rivalry and we look forward to getting taste test entries from as many LWUs as possible.

NSW HEALTH SUPPORTS WATER FLUORIDATION AS A SAFE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURE TO HELP PREVENT DENTAL DECAY

This newsletter has provided useful advice on fluoridation on several occasions. The following additional information was received recently from NSW Health for distribution to LWUs.

In September 2013, the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, announced \$7.5M in funding to support the implementation and expansion of water fluoridation. In her statement the Minister noted that communities across NSW benefit greatly from fluoridated water and councils play an important role in delivering this service. A subsidy of up to 100% of capital costs is available to water utilities that seek to implement or expand fluoridation.

The NSW Health Water Unit has the responsibility for assisting water utilities in managing drinking water

fluoridation, and will be working with utilities to expand fluoridation coverage in NSW. The Water Unit will also continue to manage fluoride reporting for existing plants.

Please contact Josh Tickell at the Water Unit on (02) 9391 9939 or email waterqual@doh.health.nsw.gov.au or your local Public Health Unit, with any enquiries about expanding fluoridation coverage, reporting, issues with existing plants and equipment, or dealing with public enquiries.

Further information is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/fluoridation.aspx

IWES SYDNEY 2015 SHORT COURSES FOR ENVIRONMENT PROFESSIONALS

IWES Sydney 2015 will take place throughout the week of 16-20 February, with an extensive program of 9 courses in water and wastewater management.

To see course information and to download the brochure and registration form go to iwes.com.au/pdf/final%20Sydney%20bro%20low.pdf. For more information please contact IWES on 1800 000 404 or info@iwes.com.au.

The program includes:

- Principles of Wastewater Treatment
- BNR
- Design and Operation of Membrane Systems
- Drinking Water Treatment – Principles, Practice and Applications
- Best Practice Drinking Water Quality Mgt
- Recycled Water Mgt
- Asset Planning – A Practical Introduction
- Chemical Contaminants in Water
- Anaerobic Digestion

UPDATE TO THE 2011 AUSTRALIAN DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES

The NHMRC has released an update to the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines as part of its rolling revision of the guidelines. The

update includes revised chemical Fact Sheets on chloral hydrate, monochloramine and chlorine.

Changes include a boil water advice sheet and a very useful section on the different types of disinfection processes. For further information go to <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/search>

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2015 WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA OZWATER AWARD

The winner of this award will attend Ozwater'15 in Adelaide from 12-14 May. The award comprises one full registration to Ozwater'15 valued at \$1,690 courtesy of AWA as well as travel and accommodation expenses to \$2,000 excl. GST provided by the Water Directorate.

A nomination form is enclosed with the hardcopy version of this newsletter mailed to LWUs or go to the website at www.waterdirectorate.asn.au. Closing date for nominations is 2 April.

NSW HEADS OF WATER AWARDS GALA DINNER FRIDAY 20 MARCH

The NSW Heads of Water Gala Dinner is normally held in August but in 2015 it has been moved and combined with the AWA NSW Branch Water Awards to bring together industry leaders and water professionals for an evening of networking and to celebrate the achievements of your peers and colleagues. To register go to www.awa.asn.au/EventDetail.aspx?id=4294979759

NEW PROJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MARCH

Please email your strategic project suggestions to gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au. Meeting dates for 2015 are:

- 4,5 March
- 7 May
- 16 July
- 10 September
- 11,12 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
© Copyright January 2015