

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## DECEMBER 2014

*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.*

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish a peaceful and safe festive season to all member council staff and to all readers of this newsletter. Best wishes for a prosperous 2015.

### **NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2015 AND 2016**

First, congratulations and thanks to the previous Executive Committee which met 13 times over the past two year term. The 2013-14 Executive Committee successfully published seven water management documents, partly funded one WIOA operator guide, facilitated 3 workshops and 4 water managers' forums, and sponsored 7 awards for member councils and individuals.

The biennial election process for Executive Committee representatives in 2015-16 was recently completed and General Managers were required to vote in one of nine regional groups.

Following the nomination and election process two new representatives have joined the Executive Committee and 15 have returned. Another four representatives from the previous committee have also retired.

Thanks to all the nominees and congratulations to the all those who were successful in forming the Executive Committee for 2015-16. There is still one vacant position on the Executive Committee for the New England region and nominations are welcome.

The two new members elected to the Executive Committee are Bruce Logan from Tamworth Regional

Council and Graham Gordon from Griffith City Council. The returning members include Jeff Sharp, Stewart McLeod, Wayne Beatty, Wayne Franklin, Greg McDonald, Russell Deans, Brendan Guiney, Tony Holmes, Jason Ip, Heinz Kausche, Brett Corven, Alan Fletcher, Jim Collins, Kerrie Murphy and David Oxenham.

The retiring members are Doug Hill, David Tull, David Steller and David Webb. A special thanks to inaugural Executive Committee members Stewart McLeod and Doug Hill. After 16 years of continuous service Stewart is staying on and Doug is stepping down.

Special thanks also to Stewart and Doug's respective councils – Dubbo City and Tamworth Regional for their ongoing support.

### **NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2015 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR**

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award which 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 2015.

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 2015 (dates and tour program being confirmed at present).

A nomination form can be downloaded from the Water Directorate [website](#).

### **2015 WIOA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, ORANGE, 25 – 26 MARCH**

The 9th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference will be held in Orange at the PCYC. Contact George Wall for the details on 03 5821 6744 or go to the [website](#) for more details.

The conference program and registration details are now available and a Delegate Registration form is included with this month's hardcopy newsletter mail out.

The popular Orica 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 entries from as many LWUs as possible.

### **NEW PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Executive Committee is keen to hear from our members regarding any new project suggestions that you should be considered. Please email your strategic project suggestions to [gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au](mailto:gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au).

Your suggestions will be considered at the Planning Meeting in March 2015

## **LGNSW EXCELLENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS**

LGNSW's Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise outstanding achievements in managing and protecting the environment.

These awards were initiated in 1998, are held annually and are open to all councils in NSW. In 2014 the Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor the Water Conservation Award category for the first time.

The winner of Division B in the Water Conservation Award category is Manly Council. The runner up in Division C is Hurstville City Council and the winner of Division C is Blacktown City Council.

Congratulations to Blacktown City Council for being the overall winner for the Blacktown Showground Precinct Water Sensitive Urban Design Redevelopment. For more details go to [www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/environment-awards](http://www.lgnsw.org.au/events-training/environment-awards).

## **GOVERNMENT SKILLS AUSTRALIA SURVEY PROJECT UPDATE**

The NSW Public Sector ITAB and GSA have customised a survey for the Water Directorate that is collecting data from NSW councils on the number of employees in the water occupations defined in the Australian Water Occupations Framework (AWOF).

The survey also includes questions on employee training and professional development needs to help inform brokering activities.

Jennifer James, the Executive Officer of the NSW Public Sector ITAB, has been engaged as the Water Directorate's Project Consultant and she participated in national teleconferences with GSA and industry representatives to draft and finalise questions for the national survey and a customised survey for Water Directorate members.

An introductory email about the survey was sent to all Water Directorate members on 30 October. The survey was emailed on 7 November with the AWOF document that describes each of

the 28 occupational titles and job roles. The closing date of the survey was 26 November 2014.

As of COB on 10 November, 14 councils had completed the survey and 7 had commenced the survey. These councils were: Lockhart, Central Tablelands Water, Cabonne, Eurobodalla, Griffith, Riverina Water, Richmond Valley, Gundagai, Gwydir, Coffs Harbour, Bombala, Tumbarumba, Yass, Warren. Commenced Survey: Walgett, Armidale Dumaresq, Walcha, Kempsey, Young, Muswellbrook, Moree Plains.

Reminder emails and calls will be made to non-respondent councils in late December.

## **OPERATING TIMES FOR NSW HEALTH LABORATORIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD**

The three NSW Health laboratories that provide testing for the NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program will be closed over the Christmas period. Urgent samples can be accepted during this time:

- NSW FASS (NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service, formerly DAL) Closed 25 December until 5 January. Full service recommences Monday 5 January.
- Greater Murray Water Testing Laboratory (Wagga) Closed 23 December until 5 January. Full service recommences Monday 5 January.
- Pathology North (Lismore) Closed 25 Dec until 5 January. Full service recommences Monday 5 January.

Contact your local Public Health Unit to request laboratory testing in case of emergencies during this period.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2015**

The new Executive Committee will meet for the first time on 4, 5 March 2015 and the first duty will be to elect a Chair for the next two years.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer

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