

WATER DIRECTORATE news

JUNE 2013

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.

BUILDING IN THE VICINITY OF SEWER MAINS GUIDELINES

In June the Water Directorate's newest publication was distributed to our 97 member Councils. This publication was compiled by Wyong Shire Council and peer reviewed by the Sewer Subcommittee to produce another very practical guideline for NSW LWUs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW UPDATE

In June the Water Directorate made a submission to the Independent Local Government Review (ILGR) Panel in response to its report *Future Directions for NSW Local Government, Twenty Essential Steps*.

The Water Directorate supports the ILGR Panel's finding that local government should retain its current responsibilities for water supply and sewerage and believes that LWUs are performing very well following the introduction of the NSW Office of Water's *Best Practice Water Supply and Sewerage Management Guidelines*.

The Water Directorate supports a flexible approach to delivering services based on a range of organisational models. High level advocacy and technical support is currently provided on a state-wide basis through the Water Directorate.

The Water Directorate, as the peak industry body for LWUs, strongly requests representation on the proposed Local Government Development Board.

The Water Directorate also welcomes the opportunity to meet with the ILGR Panel to ensure that the provision of water and sewer services is strengthened through the local government reform process.

A full copy of our submission is available on our website under Latest News. The

ILGR panel is expected to present its final recommendations in September.

NSW WINS THE INAUGURAL STATE OF ORIGIN WATER TASTE TEST

Did you know that on the same day as the first NRL State of Origin match, the blues beat the maroons in another big interstate matchup?

A highlight of WIOA's 38th Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop and Exhibition on the Gold Coast was the inaugural State of Origin Water Taste Test.

The State of Origin Taste Test was conducted under strict rules during the day on Wednesday, 5 June and the winner was announced that night at the conference dinner in the half time break of the screening of Origin 1.

This year's NSW Water Taste Test winner, Mid Coast Water, bravely ventured deep into cane toad territory and came out victorious against the reigning Queensland Water Taste Test winner,

Burdekin Shire. The NSW Water Directorate was officially presented the winning trophy on behalf of all NSW LWUs.

Congratulations to Mid Coast Water representatives who revealed that their 'secret weapon' to being the inaugural State of Origin Water Taste Test winners is their new Bootawa Water Treatment Plant!

WATERAID

Please consider the fine work that WaterAid does in transforming lives by improving access to safe water hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. Go to www.wateraid.org.au and click on Get Involved.

IWES SHORT COURSES, GOLD COAST, 15-19 JULY

IWES Gold Coast 2013 will take place throughout the week of 15-19 July. This year's program incorporates a wide range of course offerings



Gary Mitchell, NSW Water Directorate, accepts the NSW State of Origin Water Taste Test Award on behalf of NSW Local Water Utilities from George Wall, WIOA.

for professionals to choose from including the following established and highly regarded courses:

- Principles of Wastewater Treatment
- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Design of Biological and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Processes
- Drinking Water Treatment: Principles, Practice and Applications
- Coal Seam Gas Water Management

The program also features the addition of new courses to meet the ongoing changes and developments within the industry, such as:

- Energy Efficient Wastewater Treatment
- Design and Operation of Membrane Systems in Municipal, Mining and Industrial Applications
- Landfills: Planning, Design and Management
- Principles of Carbon Management

You can access the full program, including venue details and speaker profiles by going to www.m2news.com.au/handshake/link.php?n=15171&t=109929203

INTERNATIONAL WATERCENTRE MASTER OF INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT (MIWM) SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN

Every year, IWC offers full-tuition scholarships for entry in the Master of Integrated Water Management program.

Applications are currently open until 1 October 2013 for domestic students.

IWC is offering full-tuition scholarships to candidates who are accepted in the Master of Integrated Water Management (MIWM) commencing in Semester 1, 2014.

Several scholarships will be awarded to applicants who clearly demonstrate potential to become water leaders of the future.

For details go to: www.watercentre.org/scholarships.

INTERNATIONAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM, BRISBANE, 23-26 SEPTEMBER

The 16th International Riversymposium provides an opportunity to look at the linkages that rivers provide to water-energy-food.

It will also allow dialogue to continue and build the knowledge base and capacity to inform policy decisions that must include trade-offs between river basin protection and sustainable water, energy and food security.

Registrations now open at www.riversymposium.com

CALL FOR PAPERS NOW OPEN FOR OZWATER'14 - AUSTRALIA'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION.

The Australian Water Association is calling for abstract submissions worldwide to present at its premier international event, Ozwater'14 in Brisbane next year.

AWA invites water professionals and anyone with an interest in water, to submit an extended abstract that presents a challenging and practical perspective on any of the conference themes.

Use the Ozwater'14 platform to build your corporate profile with peers and potential clients across all sectors of the water and related industries and share your experiences globally.

Lead the way with your industry knowledge and submit your abstract now.

WIAC WATER TRAINING PACKAGE (NWP07) - CAPACITY, CAPABILITIES & CHALLENGES"

At a Water Industry Advisory Committee (WIAC) meeting in June, the *Water Training Package (NWP07) - Capacity, Capabilities & Challenges* report was discussed.

The report outlines the findings of a research project to investigate the current uptake of the Water Training Package (NWP07) and identify the key issues associated with the training package and its delivery within the water industry.

This report is intended to provide a starting point for further research. At WIAC's request, this report was made available via the Water Directorate website in the Latest News section.

LIBRARY OF WATER DIRECTORATE PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE FOR MEMBERS

A reminder that the new Water Directorate website provides a free library of all our technical documents for members to download via the members' area.

Recently all member councils were emailed a user name and password to access the members' area. Please contact estanley@waterdirectorate.asn.au if you need those details again.

Member councils are also invited to upload documents and policies to the members' area to share with your colleagues in the local government water industry.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2013 are:

- 11 July
- 19 September
- 6 and 7 November

The Executive Committee thank our 97 member Councils for their support over the 2012/13 financial year. We look forward to providing newsletters, water advice, technical publications, submissions, awards, discussion forums, workshops and networking opportunities in 2013/14.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
June 2013
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